



Case Study Category: MPDW

Case Study Title: Water Pipe Management Practice Case Study for Philadelphia Water Department, Pennsylvania

Utility Name: Philadelphia Water Department

Case Study Abstract: The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) has the distinction of being one of the first water distribution systems in the country. The water distribution system started as the Fairmount Water Works, which began operations in 1815. Today, the PWD water distribution system serves approximately 1.5 million Philadelphia residents in an approximately 130–square-mile area. The PWD operates a total of approximately 3,300 miles of water mains that range in size from 6 to 93 inches in diameter. It should be noted that less than 2% of the main breaks in Philadelphia occur on water mains with a diameter of 16 inches or larger. Overall, 87% of the PWD’s water mains are CI as the majority of the City’s pipes were not installed until the mid-1960s. At this time, the introduction of DI was revolutionized. The PWD’s distribution crews are responsible for maintaining and repairing the City’s water distribution system. The miles of water pipe controlled and operated by PWD by material type are provided. The information presented in this case study is based on documents and presentations provided by PWD.

Case Study Link: <http://waterid.org/content/water-pipe-management-practice-case-study-philadelphia-water-department-pennsylvania>