THE DUCTILE IRON PIPE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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From its inception more than 85 years ago, the Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association (DIPRA) has provided accurate, reliable engineering information about Cast Iron–and now Ductile Iron–pipe to a wide variety of utility and consulting engineers.

Founded in 1915 as the Cast Iron Pipe Publicity Bureau, the organization's initial role was to promote the superior qualities of Cast Iron pipe through advertising programs. During the 1920's, the nature of the bureau's activities became increasingly technical and research-oriented, prompting a name change to the Cast Iron Pipe Research Association (CIPRA).

After Ductile Iron pipe had completely replaced Cast Iron pipe as the modern standard for pressure pipe, CIPRA became DIPRA in 1979. Today, the Association provides numerous services, including the Regional Engineer Program, a variety of brochures and publications, representation on standards-making committees, and technical research on a variety of topics, including corrosion, corrosion protection, and the design of Ductile Iron pipe.

Regional Engineer Program

A major addition to the Association occurred in the late 1950's when the first field representative–the forerunner of today's Regional Engineer–was hired. Today, DIPRA has 12 Regional Engineers throughout the United States and Canada, including experts in virtually every aspect of pipe design and pipeline engineering.

Each is a Professional Engineer and many joined DIPRA after years of experience with utilities or engineering consulting firms. All play a vital role in assisting pipe specifiers and users in the proper design and application of Ductile Iron pipe.

The Regional Engineers live in the area they serve so they can provide timely information and assistance to consulting engineers and utilities on specific design and installation questions, corrosion control, and the investigation of problems with pipe in service. They conduct soil surveys and stray current investigations, make technical presentations at utility, engineering, and student conference meetings, and play an active role in local water works associations.

Research

DIPRA's Birmingham Headquarters staff of engineers and researchers provides a variety of services, including supporting the Regional Engineer Program, participating in the development of Ductile Iron pipe standards, editing and publishing DIPRA brochures, magazines, and technical papers. DIPRA Headquarters engineers, who answer thousands of technical queries from utility and consulting engineers each year, have amassed a comprehensive library of research and technical information on Ductile Iron pipe.

DIPRA's Research Department has contributed much of the available data on corrosion, corrosion protection, thrust restraint, and the structural design of Ductile Iron pipe. This department coordinates field research at test sites throughout the United States and conducts numerous tests in the Birmingham laboratory. It also provides state-of-the-art laboratory assistance as back-up for the Regional Engineers' activities.

Standards Development

From the earliest days of standardization in the United States, DIPRA has played an active role in the development of voluntary consensus standards. Association representatives sit on the standards-making committees of AWWA, ASME, ASCE, ASTM, NACE, NFPA and ISO, ensuring that design and manufacturing standards for Ductile Iron pipe remain the most stringent and comprehensive in the industry.

Publications

The Association provides a variety of brochures, magazines, and technical papers, including the popular *Installation Guide for Ductile Iron Pipe*, a handy pocket reference used by installation and maintenance crews and inspectors, and the *Ductile Iron Pipe News*, an online magazine with news and features about the water works industry. DIPRA also offers numerous technical brochures and reports, and computer software programs at no charge to Ductile Iron pipe designers and users.

DIPRA Web Site

DIPRA's web site contains a wealth of information on Ductile Iron pipe that can be used to assist users and specifiers of Ductile Iron pipe. It contains general information on Ductile Iron pipe, contact information for DIPRA Regional Engineers, contact information for DIPRA Member Companies, and a section with frequently asked questions and answers. Additionally, most DIPRA literature is now available for download in the popular Adobe® Acrobat® PDF format, and the DIPRA Computer Programs are also available for direct download.

Call Us. We Want To Work With You.

We welcome consulting and utility engineers to take advantage of our many services. Contact your Regional Engineer if you have a problem or if you want to discuss what we have to offer. And you're welcome to contact our Birmingham Headquarters, 205 402-8700, at any time.

DIPRA MEMBER COMPANIES

American Cast Iron Pipe Company
P.O. Box 2727
Birmingham, Alabama 35202-2727

Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Company
183 Sitgreaves Street
Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865-3000

Canada Pipe Company, Ltd.
1757 Burlington Street East
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3R5 Canada

Clow Water Systems Company
P.O. Box 6001
Coshocton, Ohio 43812-6001

Griffin Pipe Products Co.
1400 Opus Place, Suite 700
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515-5707

McWane Cast Iron Pipe Company
1201 Vanderbilt Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35234

Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Company
P.O. Box 1219
Provo, Utah 84603-1219

United States Pipe and Foundry Company
P.O. Box 10406
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DUCTILE IRON PIPE
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DIPRA/12-02/PDF
Published 6-92
Revised 12-02