

Project Brief

Howard County Pipe Strengthening



Baltimore, MD
2006



Howard County, MD receives one-third of its water supply by means of the Southwest Transmission Main, a 10-mile long pipeline ranging in size from 36 inches to 66 inches in diameter. In 2006, the County conducted a visual and electromagnetic inspection of 3000-ft. of its 36-inch pipe as a railroad was going to be built on top of it by CSX Transportation. Structural deficiencies in the pipe could result in a catastrophic failure of the planned railroad and the three existing parallel rail lines. It was found that 23 sections of the inspected 36-inch line had broken wires and were structurally unsound.

Feasibility studies showed that traditional remove-and-replace option for the distressed pipe sections would take 4 to 6 months. With Fibrwrap®, it could be performed in less than a month, at half the price of the traditional method. Construction of the railroad could not begin until the deficient pipe sections were fully structurally retrofitted. To meet the critical time constraints, Fibrwrap Construction began working on an aggressive 12 hours per day, 7 days per week work schedule. The project was completed in 23 days and within budget. Construction of the train track was begun within 2 days of the completion of the Fibrwrap® retrofit project.

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