July 21, 2020

Ductile iron pipe can be easily cut and direct-tapped in the field. Direct tapping takes advantage of the strength of durable, resilient Ductile iron pipe.

DIPRA has conducted tests on Ductile iron pipe and PVC pipe to compare how material strength and other factors affect the pipes when tapped. Take a look at these results from earlier tests:

1. Costs of equipment for direct service connections to PVC pipe exceed those for direct tapping Ductile iron pipe.
2. When following recommended practices, direct tapping PVC will take longer than direct tapping Ductile iron pipe.
3. Using recommended procedures, three out of eight direct taps in DR 14 PVC leaked at a pressure less than the maximum rated working pressure (200 psi), while 100 percent of the direct service connections on the Ductile iron pipe exhibited no leakage—even with more than 350 psi of pressure.*
4. Pull-out and cantilever tests showed direct taps in Ductile iron pipe exhibited greater strength and integrity than those made in PVC pipe.

*See p. 10, Direct Tapping of Ductile Iron Pipe vs. Polyvinyl Chloride Pipe brochure.

Check out our technical publications on Ductile iron pipe tapping here, and read FAQs on direct tapping here.

UESI Pipelines 2020 Conference, August 10–13

Join us for this year's virtual UESI Pipelines conference. DIPRA's VP of Technical Services, L. Gregg Horn, will speak Tuesday, Aug. 11, in the 10:30-11:30 a.m. session on "A 60-Year History of the Efficacy of Polyethylene Encasement of an Iron Pipe Installation in an Aggressive Soil Environment." The talk focuses on inspection results of a 60-year-old iron pipe in Lafourche Parish, LA, and points out the impressive return on investment that utilities can realize when properly installed polyethylene encasement becomes a part of their systems.

Gregg will be available for a live Q&A following the presentation.

We invite you to join DIPRA at our virtual exhibit booth and look forward to engaging with you during this key conference.

Thank you,
Patrick Hogan
President, DIPRA