

HDPE Pipe Saves Kentucky County in Water Emergency

Bowling Green, Ky. – At 3 a.m. on a frigid February night in Warren County, Ky., pipe installers began repairing a broken water line.

A barge on the Barren River pulled its heavy concrete moorings loose, rupturing a 16-inch pipeline that extended from deep beneath the river surface and over a bridge.

By 8 p.m. that evening, more than 2,500 feet of 12-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe had replaced the ruptured ductile iron line.

Water on.

The broken water pipe had supplied water to thousands of factories, businesses and citizens. HDPE pipe's flexibility and ability to be fused quickly and easily in the field made the rehab installation as fast and easy as possible under the intense conditions.

Warren County Water District Engineer Allen Vilines had never used HDPE pipe for potable applications before. But when he was faced with a quick decision as the water pressure north of the river began to drop, the features of HDPE pipe fit the situation well.

“The speed and ease of the installation was what made the decision for us,” Vilines said. “Time was critical. Getting that line installed and fused in 17 hours without sacrificing quality or durability was ideal.”

More information about the use of plastic pipelines for water and gas distribution, sewer and wastewater, oil and gas production, industrial and mining uses, power and communications duct and irrigation is available from the Plastics Pipe Institute at www.plasticpipe.org.

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