

Large-Diameter Pipeline Cathodic Protection at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

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MWD Distribution System Pipelines

Pipeline Types



Soures: Esch, DigitalSiotes, SeoBys, Leubed, USDA, USSS, AEX, Setmapping, Ascognia, 198, 198, substops, and the SIS Us or Community

MWD Cathodically Protected Pipelines

We protect

- Electrically-continuous steel pipelines
- Both dielectrically-coated and mortar-coated

We typically don't protect

- Prestressed concrete cylinder pipe
- Non-electrically-continuous pipelines

Pipeline Cathodic Protection History



MWD Distribution System Age



Stray Current Corrosion Cathodically Protected Oil & Gas Pipelines

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Houbed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

MWD CP Rectifier Locations

• 250 miles of pipelines

102 ICCP rectifiers

Only electrically-continuous pipelines

Coatings: 37% dielectric/63% mortar

Source: Esri, DigitalClobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Sommunity

CP of Dielectrically-coated Pipelines

Cathodic protection current flows to coating holidays to protect steel

0.012 mA/ft²

Dielectric coating

Steel pipe

Mortar lining

Pipe interior



Steel pipe

Mortar lining

Pipe interior

CP Effectiveness Indicators

- No known corrosion-induced leaks on protected MWD pipelines
- Calcareous formation on relocated pipeline segment

Pipeline Leak Example

Pipeline apparently struck during horizontal boring to install conduits

Pipeline Leak Example



Free Cathodic Protection Advice

Be opportunistic

- Install sacrificial anodes at repair sites
- Consider "shorting" insulating joints to tie-in unprotected pipe reaches

Free Cathodic Protection Advice

- Be opportunistic
- Don't spec rectifier size until after anode wells are completed

Free Cathodic Protection Advice

- Be opportunistic
- Don't spec rectifier size until after anode wells are completed
- Be a good neighbor
 - Develop relationships with pertinent oil & gas pipeline operators
 - Minimize stray current

