New Castle Water Transmission Main Improvements
Progress Report - November 16, 2020

PERMANENT REPAIR OF BRIDGE CROSSING COMPLETED

The permanent repair of the original 8-inch diameter water main on the Sawtelle Bridge was completed on Friday November 13th. This asbestos cement water main was installed on the bridge circa 1971. In September 2020 we discovered a leak at one of the joints. Granese's crew made a temporary repair of the main in September.

The permanent repair required the removal of a small amount of the outer asbestos cement pipe. On Monday Nov 9th Granese, working through its asbestos abatement sub-contractor NorthStar removed about 12 inches of the outer pipe. This allowed the coupling to be centered on the joint. Thermal insulation was then applied.

Erecting Temporary Containment Tent

Outer asbestos cement pipe (on the left) Removed

Completed Repair With Thermal Insulation

Granese and the Town also marked out the pavement for line stripping, stop bars, and crosswalks. Line stripping was performed during the early morning hours of Thursday November 12th. Hydrant flow testing began on Friday November 13th and will continue during the first part of this week.

Rain prevented us from performing the Substantial Completion Punch List on Thursday. This will be performed on Tuesday November 17th. If you have been impacted by this water main improvement project and have any items that have not been addressed, please bring them to our attention, at the number below, so they can be included on the punch list.

Hydrant flow testing work is being performed to quantify and document the improvements resulting from the construction of the new 12-inch diameter water main from Peirce Island to the intersection of Main Street and Wentworth Road. The Town also will be color coding the hydrants based on the fire flow available at each hydrant. This will aid the Fire Departments of New Castle and Portsmouth in fighting fires by providing them an estimate of how much water they can expect to get out of a particular fire hydrant.

During hydrant testing the fire hydrant is opened as wide as possible to allow as much water as possible to leave the distribution system. The amount of flow will be measured as well as the static and residual water pressures. This information will be compared with similar data obtained prior to the improvements. Water pressure will fluctuate during hydrant flow testing. There are over 30 hydrants that will be tested over a 3-day period so do not be surprised if you experience fluctuations in water pressure. The high flows may also stir up sediment that has accumulated on the inside of the water mains. This will result in colored water at the tap. If this happens let your water run until the discoloration disappears.

N. Granese & Sons, Inc. and Underwood Engineers, Inc. thank you all for your patience and understanding during construction over the past six months.

Construction Hotline: 603-436-6192 (Note Change)
(for general inquiries, questions, and complaints)