

Maljamar Gas Pipeline Project



On Site at the Maljamar Gas Field

While it is true that this case study may make for dull reading it is important because it deals with yet another routine and successful application of Corropipe pipeline coatings. Corropipe II TX polyurethane pipeline coating is being used to prevent corrosion and protect over 4.5 miles of 6" steel pipe in New Mexico at the Maljamar gas field.

The pipeline was constructed in May of 1988 as a means of gathering additional natural gas directly from the well heads for processing at Conoco's Maljamar gas processing plant. Approximately 2 million of the total 22 million cubic feet of gas processed daily at the Conoco Gas Plant flow through this pipeline. Corropipe II TX was specified for this job due to its superior quality, performance characteristics and economical applied cost versus other competitive pipeline systems.

Armor Cote Corporation was contracted to handle the preparation and coating of the pipe at their facility in Odessa, Texas. The 6" pipe was grit blasted

to achieve a near white metal finish and a surface profile of 2.5 to 3 mils. The blasted pipe was then preheated to approximately 130 F and conveyor fed into a spray booth where Corropipe II TX was applied to a thickness of 16 to 20 mils at an average rate of 35 feet per minute. Although heating the pipe is not necessary, it was done to facilitate faster throughput and reduce the amount of surface moisture.

The coated pipe was then transported by truck from Odessa to the Maljamar oil field whereupon it was buried to a depth of 36" to 42". As a polyurethane, Corropipe II TX offers many unique properties that made this installation proceed smoothly. Corropipe's high degree of impact and abrasion resistance minimized the amount of wear and tear sustained during transport and handling. Unlike certain competitive products, exposure to the hot New Mexico sun for several days did not affect Corropipe. Corropipe's superior resistance to temperature extremes eliminated the need for patching the areas where the pipe was in contact with wooden supports.

In order to accommodate the planned routing of the pipeline, several bends of 9 were employed. These bends were achieved with absolutely no damage to the coating. This ability of the coating to withstand bends allowed Conoco to avoid using a 45 elbow in the pipeline.

This was not a unique pipeline or a special project. There was nothing glamorous about its design or installation. It was just another 4.5 miles of 6" Corropipe pipeline buried in New Mexico. What is exciting is the coating itself. You might say that this is one pipeline you can judge by its cover.



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