

# Still Looking Great after 5 Years



*Steel pipe pilings coated with Madison's Corropipe II TX-15: very little damage after 5 years of service.*

When it comes to choosing the best coating option, sometimes you just have to get your feet wet. That's what we recently did while evaluating two coating systems at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

We leaned into the Mississippi River to evaluate coated steel pipe pilings. In 1991 the Port of New Orleans chose Madison Chemical's 100% solids, Corropipe II TX-15 for corrosion protection of the steel pipe pilings for their Nashville Wharf B project.

Performance predictions, based on physical property testing, are good indicators of a coating's expected service life in the field, but the actual service life can be very different. The evaluation after 5 years of service life proved Madison's polyurethane coating is performing superbly.

Minor damage can be found on the pilings from the severe abrasion damage caused by installation and in-service conditions. Even where the coating has been damaged, there is only minimal undercutting.

The expansion work continues at The Port of New Orleans. At present, Wharf C is under construction which involves the addition of 1,000,000 square feet to the Nashville Wharf structure. The Wharf C pilings are coated with a lower cost fusion bonded epoxy product. Upon visual inspection, the fusion bonded epoxy coated pilings are not faring as well as those protected with Madison's polyurethane coating. With the Wharf C construction nearing completion, the fusion bonded epoxy coated pilings have been in service for less than one year and show signs of more than normal wear and tear.

The inherent brittleness of the fusion bonded epoxy material allows for severe damage to occur to the coating from the impact of the installation hammer.

Madison's Corropipe II TX-15, a 100% solids polyurethane coating is a solvent free, non-flammable coating based on technology that has been protecting underground structures for over 20 years. Many coatings are investigated and trialed, but few will actually live up to their promise of long term performance in harsh environments.



*Seriously degraded Fusion Bonded Epoxy coated steel pipe pilings after only six months of service.*



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