

BP plans new fiber optic pipeline

Energy giant BP is planning to lay an 800-mile, \$80 million undersea fiber optic data pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico to connect its offshore drilling and production platforms with onshore monitoring and control operations.

It will replace the satellite communication system the company currently uses, which isn't reliable during severe weather such as hurricanes. Construction was expected to start late last year, with operations possible by this summer.

Expected benefits of the link is the ability to keep production flowing longer as BP removes workers from offshore platforms ahead of hurricanes because some of the shutdown procedures could be controlled reliably from shore. BP hopes the planned fiber optic network will tie the platforms more closely to its west Houston campus, where there are replicas of the control rooms on each of the company's Gulf of Mexico production platforms.

Study reports on Great Lakes sewage

A 55-page report, *The Great Lakes Sewage Report*, released last November, which grades cities on collection, treatment and disposal has found many problems despite huge capital outlays.

The Canadian report on Great Lakes water quality has determined that inadequate municipal wastewater treatment continues to be a major source of pollution. It urges strong measures to reduce combined sewer overflow and up-

grades to treatment plants that could cost nearly \$40 billion in Ontario alone.

In contrasting the U.S. and Canada, the study showed U.S. cities had secondary and more often ultra-violet disinfection or phosphorous removal. The U.S. also scored poorly from overflows from collection systems.

New 500-mile pipeline project planned

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners L.P. and Energy Transfer Partners L.P. announced the two companies have entered into a 50/50 joint development of the Midcontinent Express Pipeline (MEP) and the start of a binding open season for firm transportation capacity. The approximately 500-mile pipeline, which will originate near Bennington, OK, be routed through Perryville, LA, and terminate at an interconnect with Transco in Butler, AL, will have an initial capacity of 1.4 Bcf/d. Pending necessary regulatory approvals, the approximately \$1.25 billion pipeline project is expected to be in service by February 2009. MEP has pre-arranged binding commitments from multiple shippers for 800,000 Dth/d, which includes a binding commitment from Chesapeake Energy Marketing Inc., an affiliate of Chesapeake Energy Corporation for 500,000 Dth/d.

MEP has executed a firm capacity lease agreement for up to 500,000 Dth/d with Enogex, a subsidiary of OGE Energy, an Oklahoma intrastate pipeline, to provide a seamless transportation path from various locations in Oklahoma into and through MEP. The new pipeline will also interconnect with

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kinder Morgan, and with the previously announced ETP 36-inch pipeline extending from the Barnett Shale and interconnecting with ETP's Texoma pipeline near Paris, TX.

World plastic pipe demand to rise

Worldwide demand for plastic pipe is forecast to increase 4.4 percent annually to 7.7 billion meters (25.41 feet) in 2010. In weight terms, consumption is projected to expand 5 percent per year to 18 million metric tons, reflecting a greater use of plastic pipe in large diameter applications. The gains in length represent an increase in growth recorded from 2000 to 2005, based on improved prospects in developed nations, particularly in China. These and other trends are found in *World Plastic Pipe*, a new study from Freedonia Group.

Western Europe, North America and Japan are mature markets where growth in building activity tends to be well below the global average. Gains will outpace the global average in developing countries of Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia, benefitting from ongoing infrastructure development. Economic growth in these countries will create demand for plastic pipe in networks for telecommunications and in residential home building applications. Efforts in these regions to upgrade water treatment systems will boost demand for plastic pipe used for potable water delivery and in drainage and sewage applications. Finally, demand will benefit from the expansion of natural gas distri-

bution networks in many nations. In particular, growth will benefit from high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is the leading plastic pipe resin in global use, accounting for over two-thirds of plastic pipe demand in 2005. PVC pipe is popular because of its low cost, durability, strength, and ease of extrusion, allowing it to make inroads against non-plastic pipe materials.

New water/wastewater infrastructure video

The EPA has released a new Web-video on water infrastructure designed for public officials and water managers.

"Bridging the Gap" outlines the key steps to developing an asset management plan for both novice and experienced professionals. The hosting website provides an on-line learning experience with an extensive array of reference materials to support the central concepts and real-world examples of emerging best practices and innovations in water asset management.

The video provides an overview of issues to promote municipal infrastructure asset management and it motivates viewers to apply the concepts to their local challenges. The video includes interviews with EPA officials and perspectives on water and wastewater from stakeholder organizations. It also includes commentary from leading local public officials, including the Mayor of Atlanta. Developed with EPA grant funds, this video and website is a collaborative undertaking with Penn State's College of Engineering, World Campus and its Public Broadcasting units. Ac-

U.S. Large Diameter Pipe Demand To Reach 215 Million Feet In 2010

According to a new study presented in *Large Diameter Pipe* from The Freedonia Group, large diameter pipe demand in the U.S. is projected to rise 2.3 percent annually to 215 million feet in 2010, valued at \$8.7 billion. An aging infrastructure will reflect the need to expand and modernize. Concrete will continue to account for over half of all linear pipe footage. Plastic pipe will present the best growth as a result of resin and machinery improvements, enabling greater penetration of water distribution, sewer and other applications. Storm sewers will remain the leading large diameter pipe market based on highway and street construction projects.

U.S. Large Diameter Pipe Demand
(million feet)

Item	2000	2005	2010	% Annual Growth	
				2000-05	2005-10
Large Diameter Pipe Demand	166.8	191.6	215.1	2.8	2.3
Concrete	88.7	103.0	113.5	3.0	2.0
Plastic	28.5	36.0	44.5	4.8	4.3
Steel	23.7	25.7	28.8	1.6	2.3
Cast Iron	23.1	24.0	25.7	0.8	1.4
Clay	2.7	2.8	2.7	0.4	-1.0

© The Freedonia Group

American Concrete Pipe Association Turns 100



Concrete pipe producers and their industrial partners are celebrating 100 years of the American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA) through 2007. The year-long commemoration begins with an official kickoff at

the annual conference on March 12 at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island in Florida.

The founders of ACPA held their first conference in 1907 as the Interstate Cement Tile Manufacturers Association. ACPA is a nonprofit organization, composed primarily of manufacturers of concrete pipe and related conveyance products located throughout the U.S., Canada and in over 40 foreign countries. Membership also includes manufacturers of equipment and/or providers of products and services related to the concrete pipe industry.

ACPA provides members with research, technical and marketing support to promote and advance the use of concrete pipe for drainage and pollution control applications.

cess to the video and related materials is available at: https://courses.worldcampus.psu.edu/public/buried_assets/.

OSHA, underground contractors renew safety and health partnership

The Underground Contractors Association of Illinois, Itasca, IL, and the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have agreed to renew their partnership designed to promote workplace safety and health through cooperative training and education.

"By renewing this agreement, we've extended a successful project that continues to demonstrate that we all benefit when management, labor and government dedicate themselves to providing a safe and healthful work environment," said Diane Turek, OSHA area director in Des Plaines, IL. "We are confident the cooperative effort will continue to help reduce injuries and fatalities."

The primary goal of the partnership is to ensure that workdays lost to injury stay below the national average for participating companies, increase training conducted by participating companies, and reduce violations of OSHA regulations,

particularly in the areas of trenching and excavation.

"Trenching fatalities are among the most heartbreaking of workplace tragedies because they are totally preventable," Turek continued. "This agreement continues to help employers send their workers home safe to their families at the end of every shift."

Gulf Interstate Engineering wins Enbridge contracts

Enbridge Energy has selected Gulf Interstate Engineering Co. to provide Phase 1 preliminary engineering services for sections of their Alberta Clipper and Southern Lights pipeline projects located in the United States.

The Alberta Clipper Project includes a 325-mile, 36-inch diameter crude oil pipeline from the U.S./Canadian border to Superior, WI, and three new 15,000 horsepower pump stations.

The Southern Lights Project consists of 190-miles, 20-inch diameter diluents pipeline from Superior, WI, to Clearbrook, MN. The project also includes one new 6,000 horsepower pump station and reversal of flow at three existing pump stations. ■