

Bulletin RUB-2004-01

February 27, 2004

Operating Pressures of CIL 219 PE Pipelines

The intent of this bulletin is to remind distributors of the recommendation to lower operating pressures of gas systems containing CIL 219 pipe. By reducing the operating pressure the service life of a CIL 219 system was extended. The rationale was based on brittle failures experienced in the early life of this pipe.

Background:

- In the past, newsletters were sent out to our client group to inform them of recommendations arising from issues discussed by the Rural Gas Safety & Technical Advisory Committee.
- In the early 1980s, the committee initiated a Field Life Study, which reviewed the life expectancy of pipelines operating in rural gas distribution systems. Ronden & Associates Ltd. conducted this study, with testing performed by the Springborn Testing Institute. The ensuing report recommended that pipe manufactured from CIL 219 resin be downgraded from PE 2306 to PE 2305.
- The downgrading meant a reduction of operating pressures for CIL 219 from 550 kPa (80 psig) to 410 kPa (60 psig).

Current Advice:

Distributors with CIL 219 pipe should routinely monitor the state of their system. When the operating capacity becomes insufficient to supply the volume demands of its consumers or when the number of failures becomes a safety and/or financial risk, they should consider a replacement program. The Branch may consider resources to support distributor strategies relating to this type of system upgrading.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Bruce Partington at (780) 427-0111 or email Bruce.Partington@gov.ab.ca

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