

“RheinHunsrück Wasser”: well served by ductile cast iron pipes

Let the drinking water flow!

The Zweckverband RheinHunsrück Wasser utility supplies drinking water to around 90,000 people in the region of the Hunsrück range of mountains and hills. They include, amongst others, the inhabitants of the town of Boppard on the Rhine. The untreated water is pumped from wells in the region of the Neuwieder Basin and is treated in the waterworks at St. Sebastian on the Rhine. Damage had occurred in the past to the 14 kilometre long main supply pipeline that runs from there to the high-level service reservoirs in the Hunsrück range. The pipeline, which is 35 years old, showed damage from pitting. In order not to jeopardize the supply of good drinking water to the populace, the Zweckverband therefore decided to replace the entire pipeline. In view of the fact that the safety of the drinking water had to be maintained even during the laying time, careful preparations had to be made.

BGW were involved in the planning procedure at an early stage, so that it could make it clear what advantages ductile cast iron pipes with a cement mortar coating have. And it was successful at this, because the Zweckverband decided to use this safe material for by far the largest sections of the pipeline, the route of which runs through the sometimes difficult terrain of the Hunsrück range.



The 1,400 metre long section of the pipeline from the intermediate pumping station at Silberberg to the Hellerwald high-level service reservoir was finished late in the autumn of 2008 and it was put into service once the pressure testing was successfully completed.

Because of the varied soil conditions but the relatively straight path followed by the pipeline in this region, ZMU ductile cast iron pipes with restrained joints were used.

In parallel with this, 1440 metres of DN 500 Buderus pipes and 140 Metre of DN 400 pipes were laid in a further section in the Buchholz area of the district of Boppard. The route followed was unusually complicated in this section. At two points crossings were made below the B327, the well known Hunsrückhöhenstraße road. Cast iron pipes were also laid below the Rhein-Mosel-Straße, a country road that carries a lot of traffic, and below the trackbed of the Hunsrück railway, which was done by trenchless laying in a protective pipe.

“This was another case where the ease of laying of our pipes proved particularly helpful”, reports Harald Oster of BGW’s sales office in Koblenz, “because even though the company doing the work, Walter Feickert GmbH, only got approval for a narrow strip of land to work in for the section running parallel to the Hunsrückhöhenstraße, the laying work went ahead smoothly. The Feickert company, who we’ve already successfully completed a large number of projects with in the past, was, as always, very satisfied with our technical support. We can now get ready for another section of the main supply pipeline. We’ve got the contract for that as well. 4400 metres of DN 500 ductile cast iron pipes with a cement-mortar coating are going to be laid. Before we can start the laying work however we’ve got to wait until the bird breeding season is over, because the pipeline will run through a so-called FFH area. These are special protected areas which have been set aside under the EU’s Flora, Fauna and Habitat Directive and whose purpose is to safeguard plants, animals, birds and types of habitat.”