

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM MCWANE DUCTILE

# IRON STRONG INSIGHTS™

WINTER 2021



**McWANE  
DUCTILE**

BUILDING IRON STRONG UTILITIES FOR GENERATIONS

Why Consider a Domestic Only  
Ductile Iron Pipe Specification? **PG 4**

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- Project Profiles
- Ask The Ditch Doctor





**McWANE  
DUCTILE**

Contact Us: [McWaneDuctile.com](http://McWaneDuctile.com)

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**IRON STRONG INSIGHTS**

*McWane Ductile has been an industry leader in the manufacture of water distribution and infrastructure products since 1921. With three U.S. foundries, McWane Ductile offers superior service while supplying Ductile iron pipe across North America and beyond, all while maintaining an unwavering commitment to safety and quality. Through continued innovation, it is our goal to meet the customer needs and industry demands of the future in order to Build Iron Strong Utilities for Generations.*

PG 4

# Why Consider a Domestic Only Ductile Iron Pipe Specification?

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# Welcome to Iron Strong Insights™

Dear Readers,

**Welcome to the Winter edition of Iron Strong Insights and to a new year. Unfortunately, we are still dealing with the effects of COVID-19 and its disruption to so many parts of our normal routines. This pandemic has brought challenges unlike anything we have ever had to face before. However, with the vaccines currently being rolled out, there is reason to be optimistic for better days ahead. I hope by spring that we will move closer to something we all recognize as normal.**

With that as our hope, let us look forward to a brighter and better 2021. At McWane Ductile, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the McWane family of companies. It all started in Birmingham, Alabama, with the founding of McWane Cast Iron Pipe Company in 1921. The company's growth and expansion will be something we highlight throughout the year.

Additionally, McWane Ductile will be unveiling a new website later this year. Along with a refreshed look, we hope that the new site is more appealing and useful to our customers with better

navigation and tools throughout. We are especially proud of our Learning Center and the new content that will be available. We will continue to add information that is helpful and relevant to all those in the waterworks industry.

In this issue, we also discuss the importance of buying domestic. As we have seen with COVID-19, a strong and secure domestic supply chain is vital to maintaining our health and welfare. This security extends to the materials needed to deliver a safe and reliable supply of water. At McWane, we took the designation of being an "essential

## IN THIS ISSUE

business" to heart and worked diligently to ensure all our operations remained open and productive.

As the year continues, we are looking forward to once again attending more in-person events and meeting with our customers. However, until we are able to travel without restrictions, we will continue to offer virtual learning opportunities. In 2020, we provided 90 hours of online training that reached just over 2,200 attendees. If your company is interested in these training opportunities, please reach out to your local representative for details.

So, rather than looking back at 2020, let us set our sights ahead and focus on a brighter and more productive 2021. As 100 years can attest, McWane Ductile will be here working to provide the products and services our customers demand in Building Iron Strong Utilities for Generations.



**Stuart Liddell**  
Sales Operations Manager  
Sales Operations Department



# WHY CONSIDER A DOMESTIC ONLY DUCTILE IRON PIPE SPECIFICATION?

By Roy Mundy, Roy Mundy, P.E., ENV SP, Assoc. DBIA

Over the years, products manufactured in our country have enhanced our quality of life, and how the products are manufactured makes a difference. U.S. Ductile iron pipe (DI pipe) manufacturers follow stringent guidelines in the manufacture of their products. Water and wastewater professionals have developed methodologies and testing requirements that are outlined in AWWA/ANSI standards for

DI pipe regarding its manufacture, required capability, testing, design and ultimate use. Additionally, the American facilities that produce DI pipe must comply with standards such as those provided by the Environmental Protection Agency. All these factors can be found only with domestically produced DI pipe. This article details key attributes found only with installing domestically manufactured DI pipe.







## QUALITY ASSURANCE

Domestically produced DI pipe is manufactured in accordance with the AWWA/ANSI C151 standard. Additionally, agencies such as the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) and Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.) provide third-party, independent testing to ensure a quality manufacturing process and final product. Some of the internal quality testing includes:

- Base and ductile chemistry
- Charpy tests to determine impact resistance
- Tensile tests confirming flexibility and strength
- Visual inspection from bell to spigot
- Gauged inspections confirming critical measurements
- Visual inspections and measures to ensure proper cement lining and paint quality
- All consummated by EACH joint of pipe being pressure tested at 500 psi before shipment to the customer

Additionally, mill certs track each pipe through the manufacturing process and certify that it meets or exceeds all required quality standards. This rigorous quality assurance has allowed DI pipe to serve many communities across our country for decades.

Conversely, DI pipe manufactured in other countries does not guarantee material quality with these standards, as factories are regulated under other governments that may not have the same quality measures in place,

causing ambiguity regarding material quality and production. The DI pipe industry encourages clients to tour manufacturing facilities to see quality control and testing measures firsthand.

Transporting non-domestic DI pipe across thousands of miles, likely in a saltwater environment, can be detrimental to pipe. In addition to corrosion, which can cause many application problems, high salt content in Portland cement with relatively hard water could cause degradation and failure of cement linings.

## WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?

During the design, construction, testing, and operation of a pipeline project, having access to professionals to provide expertise is critical. McWane Ductile is a partner that provides:

- Registered Professional Engineers
- NACE Certified Technicians
- ENVISION Sustainability Professionals
- Associate Design-Build Institute of America Professionals

Our team members have varied and lengthy backgrounds in utility operation, consulting services, plant operations and field services. This personal service is not readily available with non-domestic entities. Having support services when and where pipelines are being installed is vital to successful pipeline installation. In addition, domestic DI pipe manufacturers have testing facilities

to evaluate quality aspects of the product, which are also frequently used to conduct forensic exams of material. Choosing a domestic manufacturer provides an efficient and economic resource with a transparent operation, which is not the case with facilities located outside our country.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Domestic DI pipe is made by recycling steel scrap, preventing several thousand tons of scrap per week from being dumped in landfills and diverting one million tons of waste from landfills each year. Foreign DI pipe is most likely produced in a blast furnace operation from iron ore, which requires the mining, transportation, extraction and processing of virgin minerals at a significantly greater cost to the environment.

All American DI pipe manufacturing facilities comply with stringent EPA and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, which protect both the environment and worker safety. Foreign DI pipe manufacturers do not have these same standards. Studies have shown that domestic DI pipe producers are more energy efficient and produce significantly less air pollution, carbon emissions and greenhouse gases than foreign manufacturers. In addition, local, domestic production further reduces carbon emissions by eliminating the need to transport the pipe over thousands of miles of ocean.





## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Domestic DI pipe manufacturers employ thousands of people in numerous communities throughout the United States and Canada. Employees are provided quality jobs, and their wages benefit respective economies both locally and nationally. According to the Economic Policy Institute, for every 100 iron and steel mill manufacturing jobs, 923.7 indirect jobs are created. An example of this small business support is the scrap recycling business, where an average of 50 people are employed at each facility. This domestic DI pipe manufacturing component enhances the environment by using recycled goods and adds to our country's economic prosperity.

Additionally, the immediate availability of technical assistance and support allows for efficiently designed and constructed projects that benefit the utility's and, ultimately, the customer's bottom line. The purchase of non-domestic products cannot replicate these intrinsic advantages of domestic DI pipe.

## SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY

When constructing water and wastewater pipelines, time is money. When a contractor must cease or slow work, added compensation for delay is usually in the conversation. Many times, unknown

conditions in the field require adjustments that can only be made by the efficient supply of materials suited for that scenario. Also, materials will, from time to time, have defects. When this occurs, an immediate forensic determination needs to take place and the product's replacement needs to be expeditious to get the contractor back to work. Trying to access replacement or specialty products from thousands of miles away can create delays and expenses.

What happens when a domestic DI pipe manufacturing plant ceases production because of natural disasters, a pandemic, work stoppage or other factors? Logistics are in place to guarantee a seamless supply chain of domestically produced DI pipe. This network of resources does not exist when using of foreign DI pipe.

## TOTAL PROJECT SOLUTIONS

Domestically produced DI pipe offers total pipeline solutions, including restrained joints, river crossing pipe and applicable appurtenances. These offerings eliminate non-compatibility issues with manufacturing facilities and technical assistance close by to resolve field-related issues quickly without inordinate delays.

## WHY DOMESTIC-ONLY DI PIPE?

Leaders in our country have recognized the value of purchasing domestically made iron and steel, as demonstrated by the American Iron and Steel Act. Domestic production promotes economic growth in our country and while taking advantage of high-quality products and environmental benefits of American-made iron and steel products. Specifications that allow foreign pipe can result in using foreign products of inferior quality, with little or no service support, that cause significantly greater harm to the environment.

As we've discussed, there are compelling reasons to utilize American-made DI pipe. We will delve deeper into this topic in future Iron Strong Insights Magazine's upcoming issues. If you have any questions or need further assistance with anything DI pipe related, please contact your local McWane Ductile sales representative.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Roy Mundy, P.E., ENV SP, Assoc. DBIA**

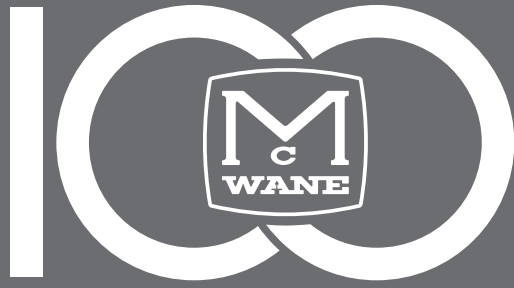
*Roy is a Senior Regional Engineer for McWane Ductile, assisting utilities and engineering firms with value engineering on pipeline projects, education in pipeline material selection and specification development and updating. He is a member of AWWA, NSPE, KSPE, ASCE, DB/A and KYRWA. Roy is a Registered PE in six states.*











# GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENCE

## McWane Celebrates 100 Years

James Ransom (J.R.) McWane once said, “The glory of business is not to make money out of it, alone, but to make progress to develop men and women, and methods and products, to improve the ‘state of the art.’” Shortly after, in 1921, he founded the McWane Cast Iron Company in Birmingham, Alabama, setting the stage for 100 years of excellence in creating critical lifeline infrastructure products that impact our lives daily.

This year, we join all McWane companies across the world to observe the McWane Centennial, a time to celebrate the innovation and invention that comes with 100 years of service and, more importantly, everyone who has made it possible.

For generations, McWane has thrived because of our willingness to evolve, improve and adapt as a team. Advancements in safety, education and technology have allowed us to change the trajectory of our industry for future generations. And each of us continues to play a critical role in supporting and manufacturing lifeline infrastructure that impacts our families, neighbors and communities daily.

It all began in the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1871, where J.R. McWane watched and learned as his father, Charles Phillip, worked in a foundry. From there, McWane Cast Iron Pipe Company was founded on Oct. 22, 1921, in Birmingham. Today, McWane continues to prosper and thrive. Together with 12 foundries

and 34 total manufacturing facilities across eight countries that make up the McWane Family of Companies, we will join together in this Centennial celebration. One thing is clear: the key component to our success is our team members — past, present and future.

While some team members may be beginning their McWane story, others have made memories with McWane for many years. We take time to celebrate and thank all team members for your dedication, commitment and hard work through this Centennial celebration.

McWane Ductile and our founding companies are proud to have been a part of the McWane Family of Companies since 1926.

### Let's Celebrate!

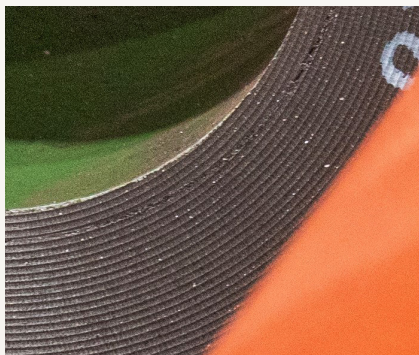
Visit [www.McWane.com/100](http://www.McWane.com/100) throughout this year to view our commemorative video, learn 100 facts about McWane and our divisions, read stories from McWane team members, see how McWane has impacted their families and learn more about the rich history of McWane. You can also submit your McWane Memories for others to see in the years to come.





# GUESS THE PICTURE

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE OBJECTS?



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_



9. \_\_\_\_\_





# PROJECT PROFILES

## West PROJECT PROFILE

In the early fall of 2020, McWane Ductile worked with Eagle River Water and Sanitation District to straighten a bridge crossing pipeline that had shifted over time. Eagle River Water District was planning on installing a new bridge crossing pipeline just a few miles up the road. McWane Ductile worked with the water district and engineer to design and plan to install this new line to avoid the problems they had previously encountered. This new pipeline was an epoxy-lined wastewater line servicing the Colorado mountain town of Minturn, near Vail.

Because of the extreme temperatures in Colorado's mountains, the pipe had been fitted with exterior insulation. The new pipeline was designed and built to cross the Eagle River under a pedestrian bridge just outside of town. The pipeline was assembled on the road, and then the pedestrian bridge was placed over the pipeline. Once the pipeline was properly attached to the bridge, the entire assembly was lifted into the air and placed over the river. It was quite a sight! McWane Ductile was proud to help with the design and installation of this new pipeline, which will serve the town of Minturn for generations to come.



**Sales Region:** West  
**Sales Representative:** Aaron Loosli  
**Project Location:** Minturn, Colorado  
**Project Owner/Utility:** Eagle River Water and Sanitation District  
**Project Engineer:** HDR  
**Project Contractor:** Gould Construction  
**Project Distributor:** Grand Junction Pipe and Supply

### Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
18"	TR Flex®	350	200



The old saying “when one door closes, another door opens” has never been more accurate than with this project in east central Ohio. With the City of Coshocton, Ohio, losing some business that used water and the Village of West Lafayette having an aging water system, it was time for the two towns to join and make Coshocton a regional water system. The idea for the project originated more than 30 years ago. After years of surveying and planning, the job was bid out in two parts, with J.S. Bova earning Part A and Tucson earning Part B.

J.S. Bova’s Part A would run a 12-inch line from Coshocton to West Lafayette, roughly four miles, with most of this project just off the side of the road of a major thoroughfare between the towns. Some obstacles J.S. Bova encountered during the project were heavy traffic flows, running into unplanned rocky soil and having to bore under a set of railroad tracks when near the end of the project. Even while dealing with the challenges

of COVID-19, they pushed through and completed the main portion of the project ahead of schedule.

“During the project, we installed just under 40,000 feet of Ductile iron waterline, including 6-, 8- and 12-inch pipe using both TR Flex® pipe as well as push joint,” said Cody Bova, Estimator, Project Manager for J.S. Bova Excavating. “While we did our job ensuring all pipe was installed correctly, it truly speaks volumes to the quality of the pipe and McWane Ductile, as we did not have a single failure while using this product. All 40,000 feet of pipe passed pressure tests on the first attempt, which sometimes can be hard to do. Over the years, we’ve encountered issues with other manufacturers’ pipe having failures, which causes all parties involved additional time, money and headaches. We did not have any of those issues on this project and are extremely satisfied with the product received from McWane Ductile.”

Tucson’s Part B would replace the underground infrastructure in West Lafayette, around 13,000 feet. If you have ever been to a small village, you know that many eyes watch when something big is happening. Tucson has been working very closely with the West Lafayette and Coshocton water utilities to help locate underground infrastructure that was not mapped out or thought to be in another place. “Sometimes you have to just roll with the punches,” someone said on the job site while they were trying to locate an underground line.

When this project is complete, 900 customers will have improved water pressure — something they did not have previously. Also, the City of Coshocton will distribute some of the extra water they now have because of manufacturing loss. McWane Ductile would like to thank J.S. Bova and Tucson for helping Coshocton and West Lafayette stay Iron Strong.



**Sales Region:** Midwest  
**Sales Representative:** Clinton “CJ” Fowler  
**Project Location:** Coshocton, OH  
**Project Owner/Utility:** City of Coshocton  
**Project Engineer:** Engineering Associates, Inc.  
**Project Contractor:** J.S. Bova Excavating/Tucson

**Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:**

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
12”	Tyton®	52	20,488
12”	TR Flex®	52	1,260
8”	Tyton®	52	18,233
6”	Tyton®	52	4,032

PROJECT PROFILE  
**Midwest**







# South

PROJECT PROFILE

In 2009, Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission began planning for a system improvement to accommodate the growth that was happening in the area. Improvements needed included a new water treatment plant capable of supplying those needs, a new raw water intake line and other system-wide water line upgrades.

One of the water transmission line upgrades essential to the success of LCWSC’s plan included installing 60,000 feet of 16-inch Ductile iron pipe along Highway 72. Goodwyn Mills Cawood out of Greenville, South Carolina, did the design work, and the job was put out for bid in November of

2019. The job was originally bid with a PVC alternate.

Laurens County awarded the job to Legacy Water Group out of Covington, Georgia. They decided that the upfront investment of installing a superior product such as Ductile iron pipe outweighed the short-term cost savings that would have been realized by installing PVC. Legacy began construction on this project in January of 2020. McWane Ductile and Legacy worked together to ensure there were no issues with material availability. The project was completed, tested and turned over to LCWSC in September of 2020.



**Sales Region:** South  
**Sales Representative:** Jeremy Gwin  
**Project Location:** Laurens, SC  
**Project Owner/Utility:** Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission  
**Project Engineer:** Goodwyn Mills Cawood — Greenville, SC  
**Project Contractor:** Legacy Water Group

**Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:**

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
16"	Tyton®	250	60,000
10"	Tyton®	350	127
8"	Tyton®	350	54
6"	Tyton®	350	310



**Sales Region:** Northeast  
**Sales Representative:** Bob Hartzel  
**Project Location:** Williamsport, PA  
**Project Owner/Utility:** Williamsport Municipal Water Authority  
**Project Engineer:** ATC Group Services  
**Project Contractor:** Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc.

**Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:**

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
24"	Tyton®	52	324



Michael F. Ronca & Sons of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was awarded the Mosquito Valley Road Water Line Relocation project in the fall of 2020. This project is being constructed for the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority. WMWA supplies water to the greater Williamsport Area, serving over 50,000 residents in the City of Williamsport, the Borough of Duboistown, Loyalsock Township, Old Lycoming Township and Armstrong Township. The project consists of relocating a new 24-inch water line, stream crossing and valve installation to facilitate the future replacement of a nearby bridge for Armstrong Township.

The water authority relocated the 24" line downstream to accommodate the new bridge. The 24-inch potable water line is a main trunk line that comes out

of the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority Filtration Plant that feeds their system. Funding for this project came from a grant from Lycoming County.

Michael F. Ronca & Sons is family owned and has operated for three generations. Their roots date back to 1940, when Fred Ronca established a residential and plumbing company. Through the years, this multi-generational company provided much-needed services to a growing Lehigh Valley population. In 1979, son Michael F. Ronca began an underground utilities construction firm. With his untimely passing in 1985, his five sons assumed leadership roles to expand into the water and wastewater industry. Today, they are one of the largest and most successful water, sewer and underground utility

contracting firms in central and eastern Pennsylvania and recognized as an ENR Top 600 Specialty Contractor.

The Ductile iron pipe installed is 24" Tyton Joint Class 52, and each joint is restrained by utilizing a Sure Stop 350® restraining gasket used inside casing pipe to cross the stream.

Brian Purcell, Project Superintendent for Michael F. Ronca, said, "For the past eight years, I have been working with Bob Hartzel and McWane Ductile. During that time, I can honestly say it has been a joy working with them. Scheduling pipe deliveries was easy and always on time. The quality of pipe has always been great. I am looking forward to many more years of working with McWane's team. Again, thank you for the excellent service."



PROJECT PROFILE  
**Northeast**







**DEAR DITCH DOCTOR,**

We recently installed a 15,000-ft 12-inch diameter Ductile iron pipeline with several 6-inch branches off to hydrants. The average depth of cover is 4 feet. The city engineer has expressed a concern that residual groundwater might have entered the pipeline during our installation activities. This pipeline was not hydrotested after installation for various reasons but will be after winter. The concern is if there is

residual water in the line and it freezes, will it affect the integrity of the pipe and cement lining? Will this crack or buckle the pipe? Do you foresee any other issues?

Thanks in advance for your input.

**Sincerely,  
Freezing in Fairbanks**

**DEAR FREEZING,**

It truly depends on the amount of residual water that may have accumulated within the pipeline. The only time that I've seen internal water damage in Ductile iron pipe was on a bridge-crossing near Boston, Massachusetts, where they successfully pressure tested the pipe during an extended cold snap in February and left the pipe full after the test. In the belly of a bridge. Not insulated. Water expands when it freezes, and there was no place for it to go, as the pipe was left entirely full of water. Amazingly, it did rip some pipe walls clean through at the weld beads (restrained joint piping) given that the weld area is more rigid than the Ductile iron itself. Easily explainable as to cause. It was not a pressure thing. It was a mechanical strength limits thing. And if anyone thinks ice cannot wreck iron ... talk to the poor souls once upon the Titanic.

Ice on the cement lining itself will not damage the lining. The cement mortar lining in Ductile iron pipe is made of the same Portland cement blend that concrete sidewalks, patios and curbs are constructed with. A primary difference (advantage) to the lining is the lack of stone aggregate in the mix. Pipe linings consist of cement, sand and water only. Concretes for the structures I referenced contain some amount of stone or gravel within them, which can present minor voids in the mix where water (and thereby ice too) could lead to frost-heave damage or similar issues. But even that is rare. What damages the sidewalks, etc., typically is the rock salt used to melt ice in a pedestrian or other traffic areas quickly. We don't have the voids concern (centrifugal high-speed ring-out/packing of the lining during the finishing process in the foundry eliminates it). I doubt anyone left a bunch of rock salt or other quasi-chemical agents within the pipelines.

I highly doubt that any residual amount of water left in the long lengths of the pipeline you've described would consume all the available space within the pipeline, leaving no room for water to expand without harming the portions previously holding only air. It is highly likely, given the parameters you've provided, that any ice that forms will do so harmlessly only to melt back to water when the temperature rises.

Summary in two words for your inquiry ... NO WORRIES.

**Please have a safe and enjoyable winter up in Fairbanks.  
Ditch Doctor**







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2. Sure Stop Gaskets



3. Gauging the Spigot



4. Machining a Sample



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