

# Preface

**Sewer Main Pipe Collection System  
Pipe Joint Infiltration Research  
Conducted by the University of Houston  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering**

The sewer-main pipe industry and University of Houston completed the pipe joint infiltration research project in 2003 to measure the water infiltration rate of 30-inch pipe joints at a minimum hydrostatic head of 15 feet (i.e., 7 psi) under axial, shear loaded and angularly deflected conditions. The project was funded by participating industry members and the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wastewater through a grant to, and administered by, the Fiberglass Tank & Pipe Institute. Invitations to participate in the project were extended to all large diameter (i. e., 30-inch and larger) sewer-main pipe manufacturers. Below is a list of the pipe manufacturing trade organizations that participated in the research project. The research project determined that the pipe joints submitted for leak testing under a 15 foot hydrostatic head did not leak under axial, shear load and deflection conditions:

- American Concrete Pipe Association
- Fiberglass Tank & Pipe Institute
- National Clay Pipe Institute
- Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association

A research project Steering Committee was formed to:

- a. Meet semi-annually at the Houston, Texas University of Houston (UH) testing laboratory for on-site updates on research project status.
- b. Provide overall UH research project guidance.
- c. Review and develop consensus approval of:
  - the infiltration test protocols developed by UH for pipe joint testing.
  - UH project reports before releasing the final reports.

The following list of Steering Committee members provided a balance of manufacturers and non-manufacturers (users, installers, governmental & technical representatives):

<u>Organizations</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Pate Engineers (Design Engineers)	J. E. Pate (Chair)
City of Conroe, Texas	Brent Sherrod (Vice Chair)
City of Houston, Texas	Henry N. Gregory
City of Victoria, Texas	Ken E. Gill
City of Montgomery, Alabama	Danny Holmberg
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Design Engineers)	Richard Thomasson
Black & Veatch (ASCE Representative)	Rick Nelson
Laughlin-Thyssen, Inc. (Contractor)	Clifford L. Tubbs
University of Houston	Dr. C. Vipulanandan
US EPA Office of Wastewater	Charles P. Vanderlyn
American Concrete Pipe Association	Matthew S. Childs
Hobas Pipe USA	Richard C. Turkopp
National Clay Pipe Institute	Ed Sikora
Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association	Shah Rahman
Fiberglass Tank & Pipe Institute	Sullivan D. Curran (staff)
	Thomas M. Spencer (staff)