

## George Campbell Award: Rockland County Pipelines

Overcoming inclement weather, mischievous teenagers, and raccoons, the contractor managed to abrasive blast, coat, and insulate five exposed sewer pipes at two locations that had been installed more than 20 years ago.

The two pipes at the Naurashaun Brook Siphon location are 36 inches in diameter and span a feeder brook to the United Water reservoir in Blauvelt, NY. One pipe, 55 feet long, was previously coated with an asbestos coating. The other, 29 feet long, was previously covered with insulation and an aluminum jacket, most of which had fallen off. Plant life was growing out of the remaining insulation.

Work at the Naurashaun site took eight weeks to complete due to weather delays. Before the painting crew could start work, they had to install water booms

to protect the brook. A scaffold subcontractor tied the scaffolding into the concrete abutment walls supporting the pipes and the shorelines on both sides of the brook. The scaffolding also provided full containment.

A subcontractor removed asbestos. Both pipes were abrasive blasted to SSPC-SP 6, Commercial Blast Cleaning,

and the steel strapping that held the pipe to its supports had to be manually removed, power tool cleaned, and painted one strap at a time to eliminate any danger of shifting the pipes.

It was determined the pipes had to be treated as immersion service, and the paint system of both locations was changed to one that could withstand potential immersion and the atmospheric conditions of coating in colder weather. The entire pipe lengths were

coated with full prime, intermediate, and finish coats before the insulation sub-contractor reinsulated the pipes and installed a new stainless steel jacket.

The Hackensack River Siphon, in Blauvelt, NY, also feeds into the reservoir managed by United Water Company. At 30 inches in diameter, the three pipes run 285 feet long and are 60 feet above the river. Trees and bushes grew out of the insulation, and raccoons had nested in one of the support columns.

The scaffolders constructed scaffolding approximately 300 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 60–80 feet over the Hackensack River. The site was fully contained, and water booms were installed. A slight setback came when local youths threw some of the scaffolding into the river.

The insulation sub-contractor removed the old aluminum jacket and insulation, and the contractor abrasive blasted the pipes to an SSPC-SP 6 finish, then primed them to prevent rusting. The work was conducted in the winter, with a one-million BTU heater to maintain climate control. When the river began to freeze, ice eaters were deployed below the scaffolding. Pipes were reinsulated the same way as the Naurashaun location.

In order to blast and coat the steel support structure, it had to be fully contained. This concerned the scaffold PE because the location was subject to strong winds. The solution was to remove the containment above as the workers moved down the support structure. The project was completed 100 days fewer than required by contract.

**Location:** Nanuet, NY, and Blauvelt, NY

**Structure Owner:** Rockland County Sewer District No. 1

**Contractor/Applicator:** Alpine Painting & Sandblasting Contractors

**Coating Material Supplier:** Carboline Company

**Start Date:** Early 2008



Top: Hackensack River Siphon  
Bottom: Naurashaun Brook Siphon  
Photos courtesy of Alpine Painting and Sandblasting Contractors



(l-r) Ben Scaturro, Industrial Sales, and Chet Zalusky, Project Manager, Alpine Painting and Sandblasting; Steve Roetter, SSPC President; Sam Scaturro, Director of Operations, Alpine Painting and Sandblasting; John Conway, Director of Sales-Northeast, Carboline Company. Photo courtesy of SSPC