

Finished Water

A PHOTOGRAPHIC PROFILE



The East Cobb Pipeline Project, among the largest in the Cobb County–Marietta Water Authority’s history, involved replacing aging 20-in. pipe with 36-, 42-, and 54-in. (shown here) ductile-iron pipe, mostly under roadway, at a depth of 14 ft.

PIPELINE UPGRADE BOOSTS GROWING COUNTY’S DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Cobb County, northwest of Atlanta, has seen tremendous growth in the past few decades. The county’s eastern flank includes unincorporated Cumberland, which has grown from an office park to a major residential community and site of the new Atlanta Braves ballpark. To keep up with this influx of new residents and visitors, the area needed to upgrade a vital stretch of water pipeline, originally installed in the 1940s, through the area for better reliability and pumping efficiency.

The East Cobb Pipeline Project replaced 6.1 miles of 20-in. steel pipe with new, larger 36-, 42-, and 54-in. ductile-iron pipe to meet the Cobb County–Marietta Water Authority service area’s current and projected water demand. Pipe material selection was based on bury

depth and proximity to a major highway. In planning since 2000, the project was largely completed by May 2017. The project enables greater and more dependable delivery of water from the Wyckoff Water Treatment Plant through central Cobb County to the Cumberland area.

With 30 percent growth expected in the area during the next two decades, system reliability improvements through increased capacity and redundancy were critical, according to Cobb County–Marietta Water Authority Project Manager Ken Janney. “This project completes the most significant pipeline the Water Authority has constructed since the original loop around the county was built in the 1960s and 1970s,” he said.

PROJECT SPECIFICS

Project Name: East Cobb Pipeline Project

Operator: Cobb County–Marietta Water Authority

Contractor: Ruby-Collins

Designer: Atkins North America

Completion Date: May 2017

Water Source: Wyckoff Water Treatment Plant

Replacement Length: 6.1 miles

Technology: Replacement of 20-in. pipe with 36-, 42-, and 54-in. ductile-iron pipe, along with resilient wedge gate valves 36 in. to 54 in. in diameter

Project Cost: \$42 million

Special Features: Phase Four includes an 84-in. tunnel that will accommodate a grade-separated interchange at US Highway 41 and Windy Hill Road.