

CASE STUDY

ICE PIGGING

Project Summary

Customer:

A New York City Area Health Facility.

Type of Project:

Removing accumulated build-up in main distribution lines.

Date:

October 2022

Results:

- *Ice Pigging allowed for nearly complete biofilm, iron, and sediment removal.*
- *Future UDF cleaning requirements will be limited and more effective in preventative maintenance.*

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



“ This is incredible! We have tried cleaning this line by flushing multiple times and have never got results like this. The water has never come out this dark and brown. WOW! ”

A FIRST EVER FOR ICE PIGGING AT A NEW YORK CITY AREA MEDICAL FACILITY

Introduction

In October of 2022, American Pipeline Solutions was contracted by a New York City area medical facility to ice pig the main distribution lines bringing potable water into the facility, as well as the eleven different pipelines transporting the water throughout the multiple floors of the facility. Ice Pigging has not previously been used on the interior pipelines, but with the extensive knowledge and experience of our technicians, we were confident we would be successful.

The medical facility had sustained water discoloration and taste issues in eleven locations throughout the upper floors of the building. These locations included sinks, toilets, and showers. New sections of the facility had been completed just prior to the onset of the Covid pandemic. These areas were shut down for over a year resulting in water sitting, uncirculated, in the pipelines. Facility administrators believed this was the cause of the discoloration and taste issues. The maintenance team did its best to correct these problems by flushing the system using standard flushing procedures and UDF flushing practices. Nothing worked.



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Customer Goals

The facility's goal was to remove accumulated biofilm, iron, and sediment build up from the water distribution systems both inside and outside the facility.

Solution

APS technicians conducted a pre-project study to prepare a planned schedule of runs designed to clean the eleven compromised sections of the distribution system. The affected pipelines ranged in size from .5" to 8" in diameter. The plan called for use of the advanced Ice Pigging cleaning technology. The size of the exterior distribution system together with the interior pipelines required four 10-ton loads of ice slurry to be delivered one load per day. A post project report would identify the chemical, biological, and mechanical results.

Results

Ice Pigging accomplished nearly complete removal of accumulated biofilm, iron, and sediment. Thorough removal of these materials assured the facility there was limited risk of their release into the distribution system. Because no buildup of these materials in the affected areas is now anticipated, future UDF requirements will be limited and more effective in preventive maintenance.

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