

The Pipeline

the official Dufresne Group newsletter

Asset Management in Vermont and New Hampshire

Asset Management (AM) is defined by the EPA as “maintaining a desired level of service for what you want your assets to provide at the lowest life-cycle cost.” AM provides structure and assistance in operating, maintaining, upgrading, and replacing assets in a cost effective manner. For municipalities, it can be implemented for water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation infrastructure. Once an AM program is developed, the municipality will have an inventory of their assets, including the condition of each asset, as well as a comprehensive picture of what assets are most critical at any given time, which will allow communities to plan for repairs and replacements. The ultimate goal of AM is to shift from “reactive” management to “proactive” management.

The Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund has implemented funding incentives for water systems that participate in AM. These incentives include planning loan forgiveness for projects stemming from an approved AM program and award of additional priority points to Community Water Systems seeking a construction loan for improvements identified using an AM program. The State of Vermont has also developed grant programs to assist water and wastewater systems in developing AM programs:

- Vermont’s Capacity Development Program, in conjunction with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, awarded \$400,000 in grant funds, with a 20% match, earlier this year to assist approximately 20 water systems with AM programs. According to DEC officials, another round of grants will be offered in late 2016 or early 2017.
- Vermont’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund recently awarded \$280,000 in grant funds, with no match, to approximately 10-15 wastewater systems with AM programs.

In New Hampshire, the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau of the Department of Environmental Services manages the asset management grant program. A 50% match is required for the grant to assist communities with developing AM programs. In 2016, New Hampshire awarded \$170,000 in AM grants to community water systems serving a population of 500 or more.

Dufresne Group is currently working on AM plans for several towns in Vermont and New Hampshire. Most of these projects are funded by the grant programs described above.

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| ● Barre City, VT Water Treatment Plant | ● Carroll, NH Water System | ● Hancock, NH Water System |
| ● Chester, VT Stormwater System | ● Northfield, VT Water System | ● Randolph, VT Water System |
| ● Manchester, VT Wastewater System | ● Manchester, VT Water System | ● Woodsville, NH Water System |
| ● Montpelier, VT Water System | ● Putney, VT Wastewater System | ● St. Johnsbury, VT Water System |

Almost all of the AM projects listed above have a primary focus on mapping and inventorying assets. However, many of these towns are also performing condition assessments and risk assessments of their assets with the goal of developing a complete AM plan.

If you are interested in learning how Asset Management can benefit your municipality or would like assistance with applying for an Asset Management grant, please contact one of our offices.

Asbestos Cement Pipe Bursting in Vermont

In the Summer 2014 edition of The Pipeline newsletter, we wrote about pipe bursting and the regulatory hurdles involved for AC pipe. Since then, Dufresne Group has been working with Vermont State officials to obtain permits and approvals for a pipe bursting project that would replace asbestos cement (AC) pipe. In September 2016, the Route 5 Water Main Improvements project in Bellows Falls broke ground with all permits and approvals in place. This project involves the replacement of approximately 4,700 linear feet of 10-inch AC water main with new 12-inch fusible PVC water main using pipe bursting. This is the first project in the State of Vermont where AC pipe will be replaced using pipe bursting. Additionally, Vermont is now one of a handful of states across the country that has approved a demonstration of pipe bursting on AC pipe.

As of early October 2016, four “bursts” have been successfully completed, totaling approximately 1,500 LF. The benefits of pipe bursting are already obvious: less disturbance, less pavement restoration, and reduced traffic impacts. Most importantly, the cost benefit of pipe bursting has been realized. The pipe bursting contractor noted that on average, the cost savings with pipe bursting is approximately 40%. When compared to actual bid prices for similarly sized projects bid in the same time of year, the cost savings realized on this project is about 35%.

Contact us to learn more!



**New Fusible PVC Pipe
and Bursting Equipment**