

Condition assessment of asbestos cement pipes in drinking water distribution systems in Germany

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In Germany, approximately 7 % (36.000 km) of the drinking water distribution system are made of asbestos cement (AC) pipes. As the average age of these pipes is estimated to be 62 years, the majority of them approaches the end of service life which is assumed to be 70 to 80 years for this kind of pipe. The lack of uniform concepts for testing, surveillance and evaluation of the technical condition of AC pipes led to a research project funded by the DVGW (German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water) and some German water distribution companies which was conducted by IWW. The aim was to close these gaps by data collection, systematic acquisition of material specific characteristics and evaluation of operational experiences as well as by corrosion chemical investigations of AC pipe samples.