



# PICA

Pipeline Inspection and  
Condition Analysis Corporation

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# PICA Corporation

Pipeline Inspection and Condition Analysis

PICA is a part of the Russell Group. Russell NDE has been building In-Line Inspection Tools for over 35 years and is a pioneer in the industry. PICA is the service branch for the Russell tools and is responsible for inspecting Water, Wastewater and Slurry Pipelines

# Municipal Pipeline Asset Management

PICA Services

# Large Toolbox for Condition Assessment



# PICA Services

## Asset Management - Meeting the Challenge

**Objective: To explore the use of advanced pipe condition assessment technologies in achieving your infrastructure management needs.**

# PICA Deliverables

- proven advanced technology
- pipe condition surveys: fast and reliable
- enhanced asset management planning ability
- proactive system repair or rehabilitation knowledge
- maximizing use of capital improvement funds
- improved pipe life cycle and performance

# The “Real” Deliverables

- improved water customer service performance
- efficient use of water, energy, manpower, \$
- improved risk control - all management levels
- enhanced regulatory compliance & recognition
- substantial operations and capital cost savings



## Why Condition Assessment?

- Focus on Infrastructure that is reaching its lifespan
- Decisions when to repair a pipe – avoid too early, avoid too late
- PICA can help to make decisions on when to fix a pipe





# Why Condition Assessment?

## Replacing a pipe too early

- Consider a 30 year old pipe. Is it time to replace? 75 years old? 100 years old?
- Pipes interact with their environments differently due to material and manufacturing process; high levels of moisture or corrosive soil; and, deeply submerged or under heavy stress? These factors and many more contribute to each pipe's longevity.
- Some 30 year old pipes are dangerously near the end of their useful life, while some 100 year old pipes are still going strong. Replacing a 100 year old pipe that is still in good condition wastes money that could be spent on those 30 year old pipes.



# Why Condition Assessment?

## Replacing a pipe too late

What happens when you wait too long to replace a pipe?  
It's not hard to guess that the consequences are very costly, both monetarily and socially.



# Why “Direct” Condition Assessment?

- Direct measurement of remaining wall thickness is the only reliable way of assessing the true condition of a pipe. It is an essential component of any Asset Management Plan.
- It allows for more accurate long-term budgeting. You can find leaks before they happen and help prevent massive fissures and bursts.





## Typical HydraSnake Tool



## The HydraSnake Advantage

- PICA's Condition Assessment Program utilizes the HydraSnake and other In-Line Inspection tools to help you discover your infrastructure's durability.
- The ability to make informed decisions regarding repair, rehabilitation or replacement allows budgets to be stretched further.



Decisions can now be based on the  
**ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE PIPE**, not just speculation.

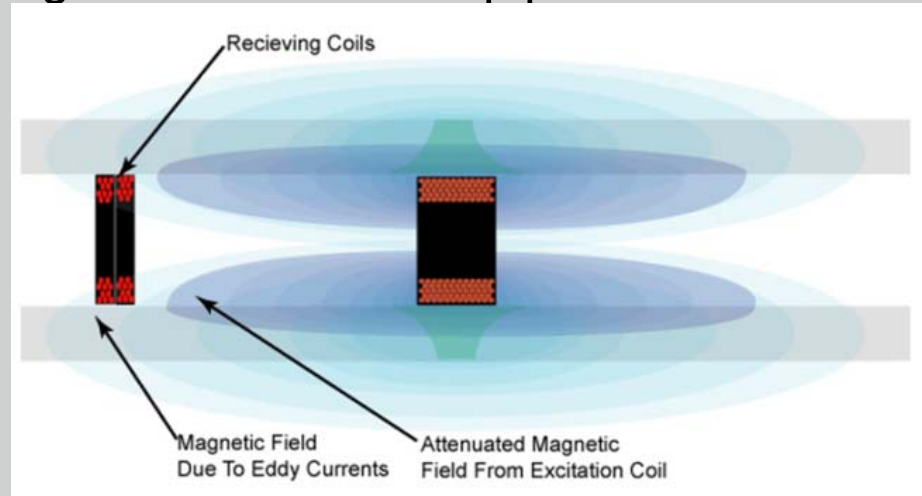




Large Canadian Cities have embraced PICA technology

# The HydraSnake Tool

- The HydraSnake is an electromagnetic In-Line Inspection tool that uses Remote Field Technology (RFT) to directly measure the remaining wall thickness of pipelines.



- The tool is equipped with an exciter module that emits an AC electromagnetic field.
- This field energy passes through the pipe wall, travels along the longitudinal axis, re-enters the pipe and is received by a detector array.
- Each detector in the array measures the wall thickness, creating a colour map of the pipe integrity.



# The HydraSnake Tool Capabilities

- The tool itself is rugged and reliable. Its flexible design allows the HydraSnake to navigate a wide array of pipe features: 90° elbows, tees, valves, sleeves, and more.



## Detects:

- Corrosion
- Wall Thinning
- Cracks
- Pitting
- Graphitization
- Valves, Elbows, Tees
- Flanges, bends
- Stressed areas

## HydraSnake Tool Applications:



- PICA's clientele include operators of:

- Water lines
- Wastewater lines
- Firewater lines
- Cooling water lines

- Whether the pipe is lined or scaled, the HydraSnake is still able to deliver high-quality data.

- For use in ferrous pipe:

- Cast Iron
- Ductile Iron
- Steel

# The HydraSnake Inspection Process (for distribution mains)

## STEP 1: Prepare the Line

- Replace the Hydrant with Hydrant Adapter
- Isolate the pipeline to be inspected
- Swabs and Balls are sent through the line to help remove scale and prove safe passage of the tool
- The pipe wall does NOT need to be perfectly clean for the HydraSnake to be successful.





# Typical Watermain Condition



HydraSnake can tolerate this much scale

# The HydraSnake Inspection Process (for distribution mains)

## STEP 2: Load the HydraSnake

- A hydrant adapter allows the tool to be inserted into the line
- Trenchless access to the line saves clients time and money
- The tool is attached to the winchline and the odometer is set to zero





# The HydraSnake Inspection Process (for distribution mains)

## STEP 3: Inspect the Line

- Water is used to propel the tool down to the far end of the inspection area
- Upon reaching the end, the water flow is switched off, the winch is engaged and the inspection begins as the tool is retracted



# The HydraSnake Inspection Process (for distribution mains)

## STEP 4: Download Data

- The HydraSnake is removed from the hydrant adapter
- The tool's data is download onto a computer, where analysis can begin
- Flush the line, test the water and demobilize

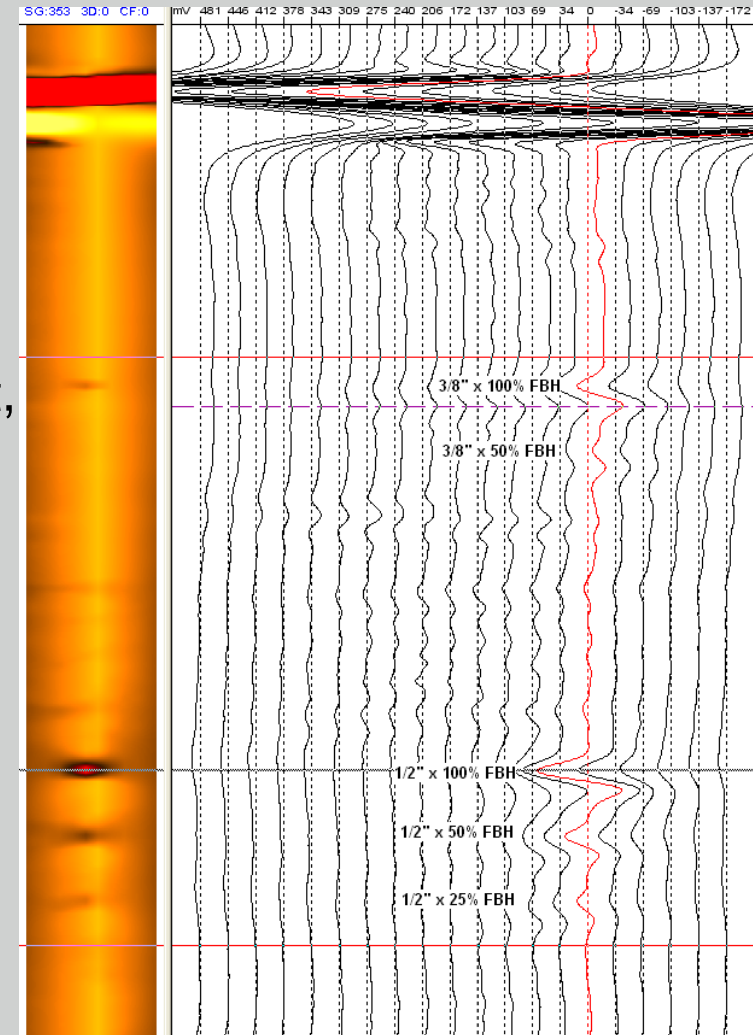




# The HydraSnake Inspection Process (for distribution mains)

## STEP 5: Analysis

- PICA takes the data from the inspection and uses its analysis program, AdeptPro, to analyze the pipe that was inspected.
- The analysis is presented in a user-friendly format, helping clients make informed decisions regarding replacement, repair or rehabilitation



# Past HydraSnake Projects – “PICA Around the World”

The HydraSnake technology has been used around the world. Some locations of previous inspections include:

- Canada
- U.S.A
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Holland
- U.K.
- Norway
- China



# Past HydraSnake Projects

PICA's work with The City of Calgary provides a good overview of a typical inspection project.

**Project Schedule:** 2 weeks

**Total distance inspected:** > 4 km

**Longest inspection:** 835 m

**Pipe Diameter:** 6" nominal

**Pipe Material:** Cast Iron, Ductile Iron





# The SeeSnake

PICA offers a range of non-tethered (“free-swimming”) In-Line Inspection tools. One such tool is the SeeSnake.

The SeeSnake is an excellent tool for inspections over longer distances.

- Longest Run to date: 27 km
  - The SeeSnake is a free-swimming tool, not limited by the length of a winchline
- Tool sizes: 4” to 28”
- Applications: Water Mains, Force Mains, Fire Water lines, Slurry lines. Transmission lines.



6” SeeSnake™





A SeeSnake Tool  
is prepared for  
launch into a  
Potable Water Main  
in Hong Kong  
Dec 2010



# See Snake Fabrication



Tools are designed and manufactured in Canada

# Force Main Inspection in Ottawa





# Conclusions:

- Direct Condition Assessment (DCA) is an essential component of a pipeline asset management plan.
- HydraSnake and SeeSnake Tools can provide cost effective direct condition assessment.
- Effective decisions start with the best information
- If you are not using DCA, how do you know if you are replacing too soon?

Why not let PICA help you to make informed decisions ...

Thank you! ..... Questions?