

## CLARIFICATION OF DPU DESIGN STANDARDS – ACCEPTABLE BACKFILL MATERIALS

### **To all holders of DPU Standards:**

A question was recently raised about the use of crushed or recycled concrete as bedding or backfill for water and sewer utility construction. Based upon research performed by the Department of Public Utilities staff and several of our consultants, it has been determined that the material does not satisfy the requirements of manufacturers for pipe and fittings nor is it in accordance with DPU Standards for backfill materials. The constituents found in crushed concrete are documented to be corrosive to ductile iron pipe and fittings. DPU does not want to subject our critical infrastructure to the potential for corrosion and premature failure. Therefore, DPU will not permit crushed or recycled concrete to be used as bedding or backfill for water or sewer piping. This clarification is effective for all current and future water and sewer utility projects. Piping which has been installed with crushed or recycled concrete bedding will not have to be removed, but will be monitored by DPU. Please contact Bill or me if you have any questions.