NGN GROUTING OF VACANT SLEEVE ANNULI

Client:
Northern Gas Networks

PROJECT DETAILS
Existing high pressure steel gas pipelines are housed in protective steel sleeves where they pass below roads, rivers and underground utilities. The annulus between the gas pipeline and the sleeve was left vacant when they were originally constructed. This vacant space was filled with an inert gas which over time has depressurized, the depressurization can potentially allow the ingress of moisture which in turn increases the potential for corrosion thus reducing the life expectancy of the pipeline. The remedial works were to fill the annulus with a high pH grout which provides the corrosion protection required.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS
• Each end of the sleeve is exposed by excavating small access pits.
• A circular hole is carefully cut in the sleeve and valved injection/breather pipes are installed.
• Using a site batched bentonite cement grout the vacant annulus is filled by pumping the grout under pressure into the injection point until it runs freely from the breather pipe at the opposite end of the sleeve.
• The valves are closed and permanently capped followed by reinstatement.