

# Peer Review Plan

## TM 8540-2024-13 Corrosion Mitigation for Buried Metallic Water Pipe

### Date:

February 20, 2026

### Originating office:

Bureau of Reclamation, Chief Engineer's Organization, Technical Service Center

### Reclamation roles:

Director or delegated manager: Katie Bartojay, Director, Technical Service Center

Peer Review Lead: Jessica Torrey, Supervisory Engineer, Technical Service Center

### Subject and Purpose:

"TM 8540-2024-13 Corrosion Mitigation for Buried Metallic Water Pipe" provides minimum requirements for corrosion protection of buried metallic pipe on Reclamation water infrastructure projects. Reclamation employs various corrosion prevention measures to maintain the integrity of its buried metallic pipeline infrastructure and extend its useful life. Since 2004, Reclamation has used Technical Memorandum Number (No.) 8140-CC-2004-1: *Corrosion Considerations for Buried Metallic Water Pipe* to define minimum requirements for corrosion protection of its buried metallic pipelines. Metallic pipe is defined as steel, ductile iron, or any concrete pipe containing ferrous elements. This technical memorandum (TM) supersedes the requirements identified in TM 8140-CC-2004-1. This revision details Reclamation's transition from a soil resistivity-based methodology to an approach that analyzes multiple environmental factors to determine the likelihood of a corrosion-related failure, and multiple design factors to assess the consequences of such a failure. This multi-factor analysis can inform selection of an appropriate combination of corrosion mitigation techniques such as pipe material selection, corrosion monitoring, protective coatings, and cathodic protection. The corrosion prevention measures identified in this TM are also applicable to metallic fittings associated with non-metallic pipe. This TM does not address internal pipe corrosion caused by the transported water. An Independent Scientific Peer Review process will be used to review these requirements.

### Impact of Dissemination:

Under Reclamation policy CMP P-14 Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments in fulfillment of the Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677) and implementation of the Information Quality Act (Pub. L. 106-554) this technical memorandum is determined to be a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment.

### Peer Review Scope:

In accordance with Public Law 113-76 Section 203, subsection (c) this revision to the 2004 TM is subject to peer review by appropriate experts not employed or selected by the Bureau of Reclamation and in accordance with the standards referenced in the Office of Management and Budget Document "Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review" and "Improving Implementation of the Information Quality Act"; and promulgated in accordance with the

requirements of Reclamation's Design Standard No. 1 as well as and any other applicable law, regulation, or agency process, including opportunities for meaningful public participation and input.

The subject of this review is the risk-informed approach used to determine minimum requirements for corrosion protection of buried metallic pipe on Reclamation water infrastructure projects. Peer Reviewers will be tasked with applying a current state-of-practice perspective to the proposed approach. Peer Reviewers will be asked to provide responses relative to the following Review Questions:

1. Were appropriate criteria and weighting used to categorize soil corrosivity and consequences of pipe failure?
2. Will the corrosion prevention minimum requirements outlined in this report for buried metallic pipe reliably provide a minimum service life of 50 to 100 years?
3. Are the estimated replacement rates proposed for Life Cycle Cost Analysis appropriate?

Peer Reviewers are to provide comment solely on the scientific information being reviewed, and not on any agency decision or policy.

#### Timing of Review:

The independent peer review period is expected to be 60 calendar days, beginning in February 2026. The public comment period will run concurrently for 30 days, also beginning in February 2026. Public comments will be compiled and delivered to the peer reviewers 5 calendar days after the close of the public comment period, for consideration. The final Peer Review Reports are expected to be available on the Reclamation Peer Review public website by September 30, 2026.

#### Methodology of Review:

The independent peer review will be conducted by individuals. The identities of the reviewers will be disclosed in the final Peer Review Reports, and review comments will be attributed to the individual reviewer. The independent peer review process will not provide opportunities for public participation. However, a public review period will run concurrently with the independent peer review, with notice of the opportunity for the public to review the document being provided on the Reclamation Peer Review internet site.

#### Number of Peer Reviewers:

It is anticipated that 3 peer reviewers will be used.

#### Reviewer Selection Process:

The peer reviewers will be selected from the following categories of expertise:

- Water utility representatives with extensive corrosion control and prevention experience and practical knowledge of the requirements and responsibilities of water utility owners and operators.
- Consultants with extensive corrosion control and prevention experience and practical knowledge of the requirements for corrosion control design and implementation on water infrastructure construction projects.

- Academics with extensive corrosion science background and a good understanding of the practical implementation of corrosion mitigation guidance on water infrastructure projects.

The peer reviewers will have at least 15 years of professional engineering experience with at least 10 years of professional experience in corrosion engineering and demonstrated professional experience in water infrastructure management. Peer reviewers will have education, professional experience, and peer recognition in their field and will have contributed to their field. To ensure objectivity and compliance with legal requirements stipulating that Reclamation will not select peer reviewers, a modified procurement process will be used. Reclamation will issue a public solicitation to recruit qualified candidates for the required peer review roles; however, all submissions will be evaluated and selected by an independent, third-party selection panel. Reclamation will not participate in the evaluation or influence the selection decision. Contracts will be awarded to the individual reviewers recommended by the independent panel. Reclamation will not influence selection of reviewers.

The selection panel will also ensure that peer reviewers do not have a conflict of interest. For this review, a person having a conflict of interest is defined as one who is a current or former employee of Reclamation, has a financial interest or represents an entity with a financial interest in the outcome of this review, or has a competing interest that could otherwise influence their responsibilities as a peer reviewer. The public will not be asked to nominate reviewers.

#### Delivery of Findings:

Each peer reviewer will submit a digital copy of their individual report findings to Reclamation by the end of the review period. At a minimum, their individual report will address the Review Questions outlined above and include a description of their findings and recommendations in a comment matrix.

#### Response to Peer Review:

Six weeks after the report of findings have been received, a final Peer Review Report will be submitted to Reclamation Peer Review public website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>

This report will summarize the key findings and conclusions of the peer review, list any specific recommendations for changes to the draft document, provide Reclamation's response to each of the recommendations, and outline the actions (if any) that will be taken to address the peer review comments.

#### Federal Register Notice:

Federal Register notices will not be provided announcing the formation of a peer review team and completion of the final report.

#### Applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA):

This peer review is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) because the review does not involve open meetings or committee chartering and reviewers are being asked to provide individual reviews on the subject matter. Reclamation is not seeking consensus advice

from the reviewers as a group.

Agency contact:

For more information, please contact:

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