

# TECHNICAL UPDATE

**Date:** May 21, 2013

**SUBJECT: Using Elastomeric Pipe Insulation over Reactive Gel (RG) Products**

Using elastomeric pipe insulation over Polyguard's Reactive Gel (RG) family of corrosion resistant gels presents a unique set of application requirements that must be addressed by the insulation contractor.

As its name implies, elastomeric insulation is elastic. When formed into round sections, either 3' or 6' long, the material must be bent open so that it can be installed around the pipe. It then returns to its original diameter. Once installed on the pipe the longitudinal joints and butt joints are sealed with either tape or sealant or a combination of the two.

RG products are installed on the pipe prior to the insulation in a 20-25 mil thickness. The RG does not harden and can be disturbed by the elastomeric insulation installation process. It's important that an adequate thickness of RG be maintained on the pipe to prevent corrosion. In addition, the RG can get in the insulation joints and reduce the effectiveness of the insulation sealant.

Polyguard recommends that after installation of the RG, a layer of stretch wrap film be spiral wrapped around the RG-covered pipe prior to installation of the insulation. This will help keep the RG in place and minimize contamination of the elastomeric joints.

This stretch-wrap film is economical and available from many sources. One source is ULINE which offers its Mini-Wrap products in 2", 3" and 5" x 1000 ft rolls with a handle dispenser for easy spiral wrapping.

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