

a Dairy Factory. Drains call for emergency work.

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Recently it was discovered that the drains under the milk powder processing plant at the Waitoa Dairy Factory had failed. Sand from around the pipes had been washed away over the years forming large tomos under the floor slab. Consequently the building foundations were being compromised.

The proposal was to install 70m of 300mm diameter Vinyl Ester Pipe (fibre glass) at 1% grade under the entire length of the building. Squares would then be cut in the floor slab and new connections made.

The steel reinforcing in-bedded in the floor slab coupled with the surrounding electric motors and steel pipe-work made electronically locating the pilot drill under the building difficult. To overcome this Smythe Contractors utilised special low pulsing location equipment imported for a previous under floor project.



Locating the pilot drill in the sterile environment.

The ground under the floor slab was saturated and it was difficult to maintain the required grade. Due to this saturation it was decided not to pre-ream and the pipe was connected to the back of the reamer and pulled back in one operation. The pipe was cleaned out and the dropper connections made. The emergency works were completed within four weeks with no factory shutdowns required.

Installing gravity pipelines under existing concrete floors and buildings requires a very high degree of technical skill and specialty equipment.



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