
The **XERXES**[®] Report



Rocky Mountain Water Storage

Xerxes Fiberglass
Underground Tanks
Are the Way to Go

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for a number of reasons.”*

— Michael Erion,
Wright Water Engineers

When supplying fiberglass tanks for a housing development on the shores of a Rocky Mountain river in June of 2000, Xerxes Corporation had a number of challenges — not the least of which was the mountain location itself.

As is often the case with rural sites such as this, the Colorado developer of the housing project needed a storage system that would store both potable water and fire-protection water. This particular development also required a larger storage system than is usual for water storage.

The project originally specified aboveground steel tanks. However, when Xerxes' Denver distributor, J-8 Equipment, got a call about the project, Matthew Titus of J-8 and Xerxes' sales representative Tim Gibbar set out to draw up a proposal and sell the project's engineer on the benefits of Xerxes fiberglass

underground tanks — two 30,000-gallon, single-wall Xerxes water tanks, to be precise.

The engineer was soon convinced that Xerxes fiberglass underground storage tanks would be not only a stronger product but also a better long-term choice than steel tanks in the remote and mountainous area in which the housing project was being built.

“Fiberglass is preferable to steel...for a number of reasons,” said Michael Erion of Wright Water Engineers. “There's always a concern about freezing. With this kind of system there's not a lot of turnover of water, so there's a potential for the water freezing.” This is just one way an underground system has an advantage over an aboveground system.

Another consideration, said Erion, was transporting and fabricating a system at this mountain

site. “The cost and difficulty of fabricating or hauling steel tanks versus bringing in fiberglass tanks” weighed heavily in fiberglass' favor.

Xerxes fiberglass tanks are more lightweight than steel and concrete systems, making them easy to ship and easy to install. This is especially important for water applications because many of these installations are either in remote or hard-to-reach locations, or are at sites with limited excavation space.

Another major benefit of Xerxes fiberglass potable water tanks are that they can be manufactured with materials that conform to the requirements of NSF standards for drinking water system components.

Unlike steel and concrete storage systems, Xerxes fiberglass tanks are constructed of materials that are rustproof and corrosion-resistant. Since water by nature

creates a corrosive environment, rust is usually the major weakness in underground storage systems. The properties of fiberglass provide long-term, internal and external protection against leakage due to rust.

In addition, Xerxes water tanks are impermeable and watertight. Since these tanks can be easily equipped for on-site pressure testing, both before and after installation, tank owners can be confident that the tanks are watertight from the time they are installed.

In manufacturing its tanks, Xerxes uses only high-quality resin and glass for its unique manufacturing process. Like fluting in corrugated cardboard, the integral ribs in Xerxes tanks add strength, and, since the ribs and tanks are made of the same materials and are manufactured simultaneously, the result is a structurally strong product.

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The water requirements for this Rocky Mountain residential development were met “by manifolded two 30,000-gallon tanks so they operate as one tank, with a total storage capacity of 60,000 gallons,” explained Tim Gibbar.

These tanks are fed by a groundwater well, which is typical of water systems in remote areas because of the high cost of running a main water line to the system. Water is pumped from the well and is chlorinated before reaching the storage tanks. Since it is a small site that doesn’t have the elevation needed for a gravity feed, pumps deliver the water on demand to the houses within the development.

When the local fire-protection



authority needs water, it simply connects hoses to the hydrants in the development, because the same water storage tanks also provide fire-protection water.

Although this dual-purpose system was a somewhat unique request at the time, Xerxes has since received many similar requests. The fact that the whole process of this tank installation at a challenging mountain location “went so smoothly,” in the words of Matt Titus, is a good indicator for other similar installations.

In addition to housing developments such as this Rocky Mountain installation, other facilities to which Xerxes supplies tanks for water applications are national and state parks, resorts, schools, campgrounds, casinos and truck stops.

Well-known for decades as a major supplier to the petroleum industry, today Xerxes is also a major supplier of storage tanks for potable water, fire-protection water, irrigation water, gray water, septicage, leachate and chemicals.

With manufacturing facilities strategically located throughout the

United States, Xerxes is able to provide customers with prompt and economical delivery and service all over the country.

Oh yes, there’s one more advantage the project’s engineer sees in using Xerxes fiberglass water tanks at sites such as this one. “There’s the visual issue,” said Erion. “An aboveground steel tank is difficult to screen. The well house on [this] site looks really good, and, since the tanks are underground, it’s an attractive site.”

With a backyard as spectacular as the Rocky Mountains, keeping the sight free and clear is the way to go — and easy to do with Xerxes underground water tanks.

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