

# Utility Personnel and Students Travel to Pipe Foundry

By Steve Klobukowski, Colchester Water Department



*The Connecticut group gathered at Atlantic States for a "graduation photo."*

"Upon tour completion attendees were driven to the Flynn's Irish Club where a buffet was served including the best fried chicken on the planet."

On March 26, 2010, a group of water utility personnel and several students from Gateway Community College School of Water Management traveled to Atlantic States Pipe Foundry in Phillipsburg, NJ for a tour of facilities and a lecture on pipe manufacture and ductile iron pipe installation. The trip was hosted by Ferguson Water Works of Newington and the Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Company.

Utilities represented included the Metropolitan District Commission, Connecticut Water, Middletown Water, Hazardville Water Company, Colchester Water and Fire Departments, Regional Water Authority, Bristol Water Department, Groton Utilities, Aquarion and East Hampton Water and Sewer.

The trip began with a continental breakfast provided by Ferguson and at 6:30 AM, the chartered bus departed for New Jersey. The bus arrived around 9:40 AM and greetings were extended to all. A brief presentation on pipe manufacture was provided to attendees in the Atlantic Training Facility and then attendees were broken up into groups of eight accompanied by a pipe manufacturing expert.



*The group gathered at Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Company before the day's activities began.*

The tour included the raw metal/materials yard, melting and the metallurgy lab, the furnace area, the pipe casting area, annealing and quality lab, the cement lining area and final bituminous paint coating and labeling. Questions were fielded by the tour guides throughout the tour and questions ranged from type of cement to VOC vs. water based coatings.

Upon tour completion, attendees were driven to the Flynn's Irish Club where a buffet was served including the best fried chicken on the planet. After lunch a lecture was given by Ken Rickvalsky, product engineer for Atlantic on pipe installation and various problems encountered. The presentation was both technical and entertaining.

Contact Training Hours were awarded to all who attended. The day started out in the rain and ended literally and figuratively in the sunshine for everyone involved.

Special thanks to Jeff Houser, Ken Rickvalsky and the other Atlantic States tour guides, Tony the bus driver who got us there and home on time and safely and Mark Anderson and Bobby (Bobby D) D'Onofrio from Ferguson who pulled it all together and made everyone feel welcome.💧