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(71) Applicant: M.P. Burke plc
Barnsley S73 0HH (GB)

(72) Inventor: Bircumshaw, Peter Stanley
Wombwell, Barnsley S73 0HH (GB)

(74) Representative: Moreland, David, Dr. et al
Cruikshank & Fairweather,
19 Royal Exchange Square
Glasgow G1 3AE (GB)

(54) Method for removing and/or replacing an underground conduit

(57) There is disclosed a method and apparatus for removal and for replacement of pipes such as underground pipes, and particularly, though not exclusively a method and apparatus for removal of lead water supply pipe and, if required, its replacement with a plastics water supply pipe.

The invention provides a method of economically removing buried lead pipe from the ground and, if required, for subsequent installation of a plastics pipe more economically than has previously been known.

Accordingly the present invention provides a meth-

od of removing a buried pipe (15) from the ground (10) comprising:

- (i) injecting a curable resin (15) into the pipe (15) so as to at least partly fill the pipe (15) with resin;
- (ii) allowing or causing the resin (15) to cure; and
- (iii) applying a tensile load to one end of the resin (15)/pipe (5) composite whereby the resin (15)/pipe (5) composite is pulled from the ground (10) in a generally axial direction.

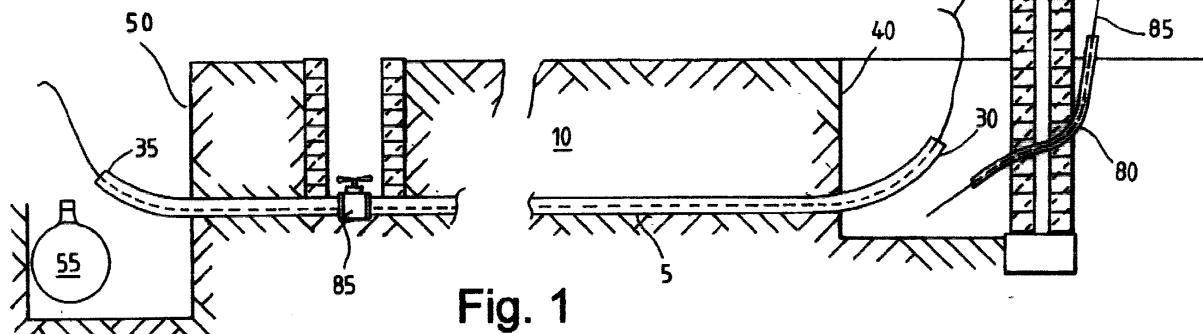


Fig. 1



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
BERLIN	6 February 2003		Jankowska, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 9017

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