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BUILDING COMMUNITY



GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT RECEIVES PPI PROJECT-OF- THE-YEAR AWARD

HDPE Pipe Cost Effectively Installed

IRVING, Texas - The on-going replacement of aging cast iron pipe by high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe is providing Peoples Gas (Chicago) with a cost-effective means to upgrade its system that serves some 830,000 customers. The project was recognized by the Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) as the Project of the Year for the non-profit industry group's Fuel Gas Division.

"Replacement of the mains with HDPE pipe results in a sealed system where leaks and corrosion are eliminated," stated Tony Radoszewski, executive director of the PPI. "And the use of HDPE pipe enables the upgrade to be accomplished by inserting the new pipe into the old, which reduces installation costs and time plus there's no disruption in the lives of Chicago residents even in this highly populated city environment with heavy vehicle traffic."

The award was presented to PPI members, Performance Pipe, the pipe manufacturer and Forrer Supply, the fittings fabricator, during the PPI's annual meeting earlier this year. Founded in 1950, the Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic piping industry.

Peoples Gas uses 18-inch diameter HDPE pipe to slipline existing 20-inch, 24-inch, and 30-inch cast-iron lines. By using the smaller diameter HDPE pipe and increasing the operating pressure, Peoples Gas is

maintaining the same flow rate while providing a new leak-free, long-life replacement system with minimal impact on the public.

The utility routinely uses the sliplining process to renew the aging cast iron lines. By using this trenchless application it avoids the need for long, wide trenches to be dug, which is significantly more expensive, would create a negative impact on local citizens by damaging existing pavement and landscaping as well as causing traffic congestion from construction. More than 8,200 feet of PE 4710 natural gas distribution pipe from Performance Pipe, Inc., a division of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP, has been installed recently, with more than five miles of HDPE pipe used on the entire project since it began in 2003.

Additional information can be found on the PPI website: www.plasticpipe.org.

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A long, monolithic string of HDPE pipe is threaded under a busy Chicago street as part of the Peoples Gas pipeline replacement program. The driving force was the need for a cost-effective rehabilitation of older cast-iron pipelines.