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BUILDING COMMUNITY



POTTER COUNTY BASEBALL STADIUM GETS BACK IN THE GAME THANKS TO PEX PLUMBING PRODUCTS

AMARILLO, TX – Before re-opening the Potter County Memorial baseball stadium to the Ace Baseball Academy's semi-professional Amarillo Ace team, stadium maintenance professionals had to replace water lines which had burst during the winter. Further examination of the stadium's piping system, most of which was original to its construction in 1948, made it evident that significant pipe corrosion required complete replacement of the stadium's potable water system.

"The stadium originally contacted us for the emergency replacement of pipes that had burst due to lack of winterization from the previous season," said Justin Cross, journeyman plumber at contractor Allen's Tri-State Mechanical in Amarillo, Texas. "Once we had gotten onsite to inspect the water lines that had burst, we realized a complete re-pipe would be necessary."

In analyzing the project's material requirements, Cross realized that his regular pipe supplier did not provide the range of sizes needed for the extensive re-pipe.

"Though we were accustomed to working with a particular manufacturer, the job required pipe ranging from ½-inch to 2-inch diameters, which that manufacturer did not offer," Cross explained. "We needed to find an alternative plumbing pipe source with reliable products in a considerable range of sizes."

Cross approached Greg Levassar of Morrison Supply Company in Amarillo for a recommendation.

"Allen's Tri-State Mechanical originally considered using a combination PEX/copper pipe system, with the larger copper pipes supplementing the original manufacturer's product line," explained Levassar. "Based on the parameters of the project, which included a fairly quick turn-around time and a rather large amount of materials, we felt cross-linked polyethylene - PEX- would best suit the project."

"The flexible and lightweight nature of REHAU's RAUPEX PEX products would make retrofitting the potable water system throughout the stadium much easier, especially critical as the stadium was scheduled to be up and running by the summer," he said. "The line offers the large-diameter 2-inch pipes that Allen's Tri-State Mechanical needed."

REHAU plumbing engineers specified 1,500 feet of ½-inch to 2-inch diameter pipe, which would be run from the stadium's meter vault to areas throughout the facility. In addition, REHAU provided onsite training tailored specifically to the use of RAUPEX pipe and EVERLOC fittings in retrofit plumbing applications.

"REHAU and its products proved to be the perfect fit for this re-pipe project," said Cross.

"From a product perspective, we were impressed by the materials and their ease-of-use, especially the reliable seal made by the EVERLOC fittings as our experience with other manufacturers' fittings had not been as positive. We, along with the stadium officials,



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also appreciated the products' 25-year warranty. It was also very helpful to be able to call our sales engineer directly and have any on-the-spot questions answered immediately.”



The complete tear-out and re-pipe of the stadium's potable water system of the 8,500 seat stadium lasted a short 45 days, and was finished well in time for the commencement of the Amarillo Ace's baseball season. In addition to the Ace's games, the stadium has been host to a number of youth baseball clinics, as well as youth, high school and college league games. West Texas A&M University's athletic director also said the university's baseball team will utilize the stadium for its home games.

“With a high volume of activity having taken place this summer, the stadium's new water system has proven its mettle,” said Mike Head, director of facilities for Potter County. “We eagerly anticipate many more seasons with the system operating optimally, and are already looking to incorporate REHAU plumbing products in a number of other county projects.”

About PPI The Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) is a Texas-based, non-profit organization, founded in 1950, that is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic piping industry. PPI is dedicated to expanding awareness about plastic pipe systems and promoting plastics as the material of choice for pipe applications. It is the premier technical, engineering and industry knowledge resource that publishes data for use in development and design of plastic pipe systems. Additionally, PPI collaborates with industry organizations that set standards for manufacturing practices and installation methods. For more information about PPI and available information, go to: www.plasticpipe.org.