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Plastics Pipe Institute Bestows Rare Lifetime Achievement Award

Performance Pipe retiree honored for advancing the quality, reputation of HDPE pipe

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) recently presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to P. Paul Petro, Ph.D., for his outstanding commitment to the technological advancement of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The presentation took place during the 2005 PPI Annual Meeting in Amelia Island, Florida.

Petro is a chemical scientist who spent who spent many years in materials engineering and recently retired as president and general manager of Performance Pipe – a division of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company – after 26 years of service. His accomplishments include the authorship and co-authorship of many publications for the pipeline industry, American Gas Association, Thermochem Acta and the U.S. Army Missile Command.

“I am honored to be the recipient of this rare and distinguished award,” Petro said. “Having served on the board of PPI for 12 years I had the opportunity to help move the HDPE pipe industry forward with the help of so many talented and innovative people. It’s been very much a collaborative effort.”

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The latest industry statistics from PPI show that about two billion pounds of HDPE pipe were produced in 2004 in nine different market segments, including potable water, storm water, sewer, conduit, gas distribution, plumbing pipe and others.

“The Lifetime Achievement Award goes only to individuals whose contributions to the HDPE pipe industry are deemed to be so unique and of such a high order that they warrant special recognition,” said Rich Gottwald, president of PPI. “Paul has demonstrated an incredible passion for advancing the industry and working together with his fellow PPI members to make a difference.”

Petro was the founding member of the Advisory Council and served two terms as its chairman. He also held a seat on the Hydrostatic Stress Board for 10 years.

Petro also served two terms on the board of directors for the Society of Plastics Industry, Inc. and for nearly 40 years has been a member of the American Chemical Society, the Society of Plastics Engineers, the American Society for Testing Materials and the American Society for Advancement of Science.

“It is through the works of industry experts like Petro and many others that PPI has been able to broaden market opportunities and make effective use of HDPE pipe,” Gottwald said.

The PPI Board of Directors previously presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to industry influencers **Robert L. Ayres, Ivan DeBlieu, Jim Inhofe and Stan Mruk**, whose superior guidance and leadership worked to enhance the quality and overall reputation of HDPE plastic pipe.

About PPI

The Plastics Pipe Institute is the major trade association representing all segments of the polyethylene piping industry. Member companies share a common interest in broadening market opportunities that make effective use of plastic piping for water and gas distribution, sewer and wastewater, oil and gas production, industrial and mining uses, power and communications, duct and irrigation. More information is available at www.plasticpipe.org.

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