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BUILDING COMMUNITY



BENEFITS REALIZED IN LARGER PIPE DIAMETERS

- Gas Project Wins Industry Award -

IRVING, Texas - A gas distribution line project that uses 8-inch diameter polyethylene (PE) pipe to provide new service in Wilmington, North Carolina has been recognized by the Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) as its 2010 "Project of the Year" within the Fuel Gas Division. Selected for significance because it illustrates a contemporary industry movement toward increased usage of larger diameter sizes for polyethylene gas distribution systems and showcases best practices, the project demonstrates a decisive trend. Work was commissioned by Piedmont Natural Gas Company for extensive use of over 17 miles – an extraordinary length – of PE pipe in provision of new gas supply to retirement communities under construction along the North Carolina coast. Presentation of a plaque honoring the pipe's manufacturer, Performance Pipe, was made during the PPI's annual 2011 membership meeting earlier this year. Yearly, the non-profit industry group honors member companies whose projects are voted as remarkable, innovative and important. Additionally, individuals whose dedication and actions have advanced the organization's goals and supplied broad benefit for the industry are named.

"This project illustrates escalation in use of larger sizes of PE pipe for standard gas distribution applications and demonstrates there are already full PE pipe systems available which include all fittings, valves and appurtenances for enhanced gas system operation" stated Tony Radoszewski, executive director of the PPI.



PE pipe in 50-foot lengths reduced time and saved money for a new gas line expansion project in Wilmington, North Carolina.

He continued, "Twenty years ago, 4-inch pipe was considered large for gas distribution. Now, the 8-inch and larger diameter is becoming more common place in the gas industry. Bigger diameter pipe sizes can boost capacities and extend sustainability. There is a shift within this industry, and in various related infrastructure arenas, from gas to mining and industrial applications, for raw and potable water systems, and for rural and municipal settings - even including nuclear power plant safety and non-safety applications - to rely on PE pipe performance for widespread



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applications in sizes all the way up to 65" in diameter. For the gas industry, PE continues to be the foremost chosen type of pipe due to its inherent performance characteristics. In this instance, the expense of the full system application is notable. And other industries are beginning to demand these trusted performance properties in applications of larger sizes and greater lengths as well."

More than 93,000 feet of 8-inch PE pipe was manufactured by Performance Pipe Inc., a division of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP, and used in the acclaimed project. Pipe lengths were 50-feet long to reduce the number of joints that would need to be fused in order to save time and costs.

For more information, visit the Plastics Pipe Institute website: www.plasticpipe.org



Installing the new 8-inch gas line using horizontal direction drilling (HDD) provided a quick, less disruptive installation of 93,000 feet of PE pipe.

About PPI:

The Plastics Pipe Institute Inc. (PPI) is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry and is dedicated to promoting plastics as the material of choice for pipe applications. PPI is the premier technical, engineering and industry knowledge resource publishing 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.