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THE VOICE OF AN INDUSTRY

September 1, 2020.

RE: **PPI Provides $200 Bounty for exhumed HDPE Conduit Samples**

TO: **Power & Telecommunication Utilities and Contractors**

This letter announces that the Plastics Pipe Institute PPI is offering a **$200 bounty for exhumed HDPE Conduit** as part of ongoing research project to demonstrate the longevity of HDPE Conduit. PPI will award $200, in the form of a payment card, for samples selected by the PPI project task group for physical testing. Task group members are not eligible for the award.

The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) is a non-profit trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry across North America. Our Power & Communications Division (PCD) represents manufacturers of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit. We collaborate with organizations that set standards; educate designers, installers and owners about HDPE conduit; establish forums for problem solving; and maintain liaison with industry and government agencies. See http://plasticpipe.org/power-comm/

PPI is seeking your assistance in collecting samples of "used" HDPE conduit. Specifically, we are seeking samples of HDPE* conduit that has been in service for 15 or more years. This conduit has been buried in the ground carrying power cables, of any voltage, or fiber-optics. The conduit print line will indicate the year of manufacture. Any diameter or SDR is useful and a length of 8 to 20 feet is sufficient. Perhaps your conduit is being removed due to damage, re-routing, or any other reason.
**HDPE conduit is flexible, in long lengths, various colors – not to be confused with rigid PVC conduit (gray).*

The purpose of the **PPI HDPE Conduit Sample Collection Program** is to analyze the used conduit for research about long-term performance and durability. It is well-known that HDPE conduit is an excellent material for housing and protecting electrical power and telecommunications cables, with benefits including long lengths without joints, high strength and installation toughness. This research effort will increase the body of knowledge about the product's long-term durability for power and communication applications.

The PPI project task group will select up to 3 samples for testing. Collected samples will be analyzed at laboratories in a series of physical and chemical tests. When complete, the findings will made available to the community. This information may benefit utilities when forecasting for future replacements.

Request: If you have recently removed or have plans to remove HDPE buried conduit, please contact me directly. Where possible, PPI will work with our member companies to coordinate efforts to witness the removal of the conduit, gather data about the actual installation, and to collect the used samples for shipment to our test facility for evaluation and testing. See attached Collection Form for desired information.

We thank you for reading this request and will be most grateful for your cooperation. A sample collection data form is appended to this letter; however, please call me to coordinate sampling and shipment.

Sincerely,

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HDPE Conduit Research Program
Data Collection Form

Please complete form to be eligible to receive $200 award. ***This form to be used by utilities, contractors or PPI members when removing existing HDPE conduit in support of PPI's HDPE Conduit Research Program.***

Project Information:

Sample Collected By (name) _____

Contact Info (Tel, email) _____

Collection Date _____

Project Address _____

Project Zip Code _____

Application Type _____
Example: power, ITS, SCADA, etc.

Project (facility) Type _____
Example: retail store, school, streetlights, hospital, etc.

Communication Cable Type _____

Voltage of Power Cable (V) _____Service/Operating Load/Current (Amps)_____
Example: low ~ 600 V, medium voltage ~15kV to 35 kV, other

Estimated Operating Temperature _____ °F

Depth of Bury (to nearest foot) _____ ft.

Soil Type _____
Example: Rocky, sandy, clay, silt, wet, dry, etc.

Installation date (estimated) _____

Was the conduit damaged during excavation ___Yes / No_____

Continue to page 2 to record Conduit Information

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Conduit Information:

Trade Size of Conduit (inch) _____

Wall type _____

Example: Schedule 40, Schedule 80, SDR17, etc.

Primary Color (not stripes) _____

Stripe Color (if present) _____

Markings (if legible) _____

_____

_____

Length of conduit removed: (Recommended length = 8-20 ft) _____

Reason for removing conduit: _____

_____

_____

_____

Instructions:

- **Please contact Patrick Vibien, contact information below, to coordinate samples and shipping**.
- Include this completed form with the samples and ship to the address below.
- Sample preparation: Ideal total length is 8-20 ft of conduit. For shipping purposes, samples may be cut down to lengths no shorter than 12 inches in length. Lengths 4 ft long are ideal.
- Please send a copy of this completed form via email, fax or mail to Patrick Vibien

Please Ship Samples to:	**Contact Info:**
Re: Plastics Pipe Institute Project PCD-2016-08 Attn: Mario A. Paredes, PE TRI/Environmental - Pipe Services Division 9063 Bee Caves Road, Building A, Austin, Texas 78733-6201 C:352-231-0992	**Patrick Vibien, P.Eng.** **Plastics Pipe Institute** 105 Decker Court, Suite 825 Irving, TX 75062 F: 469-499-1063 T: 469-499-1048 C: 416-931-2149 Email: pvibien@plasticpipe.org Website: www.plasticpipe.org