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NEW PEX DESIGN GUIDE AVAILABLE

New Edition Adds Updates for
Plumbing, Water Service and Fire Service Systems Plus
Green Construction Codes

IRVING, Texas - Feb. 24, 2014 -- The new edition of the Residential PEX Water Supply Plumbing Systems Design Guide is now available online. The guide, which includes expanded information on green construction codes, can help homeowners, designers, builders, plumbers and architects plan and understand the features and benefits of a PEX pipe residential water system.

The completely updated 144-page guide includes comprehensive design concepts and installation guidelines for the proper use of PEX pipe systems. The Residential PEX Design Guide project was a collaborative effort between the Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI), the Home Innovation Research Labs, the International Code Council (ICC), and the Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association (PPFA).

"Updating and adding more than 20 pages of information to the Guide was truly an industry-wide effort," stated Tony Radoszewski, president of the PPI. "In addition to our partners, the project received a great deal of support from PEX manufacturing companies. The ICC updated and expanded the section on codes and standards. And our own PPI Building and Construction Division (BCD) members took great ownership in spearheading this project and seeing it to fruition. "

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The PEX Design Guide, Second Edition, is available electronically at these websites: Plastics Pipe Institute - www.plasticpipe.org, Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association – www.ppfahome.org, International Code Council - www.iccsafe.org and Home Innovation Research Labs - www.homeinnovation.com.

"This revised edition includes many enhancements to manage increased usage of PEX systems in a variety of residential applications such as water reuse and retrofitting," stated Randy Knapp, director of engineering, BCD. "New information was added to almost every chapter including standards, all applicable national plumbing, mechanical, and building codes including new green construction codes, updates to fitting systems, and new design information on fixture flow rates and water hammer. There have been many changes to national green building standards during the past few years, and most are captured throughout the new Guide. We'd like to thank our many partners and especially the many PPI BCD committee members for the time they volunteered."

"We have worked together with PPI on educational, technical, scientific, legislative and regulatory matters," stated Dominic Sims, CEO of ICC, "and we were very pleased to have joined this effort. The new edition of the Design Guide will help the industry provide safe and sustainable construction by following the codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance processes."

Another group affiliated directly with the industry and also involved with the Guide was the Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association (PPFA). "They were responsible for a key chapter," stated PPI's Knapp, "explaining the installation practices for cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) hot- and cold- water distribution systems in greater detail including water service applications."

Jeff Church, associate executive director of PPFA added, “We’re very pleased to have worked with PPI again on this project. PPFA’s mission is to promote and defend plastic piping systems governed by construction codes. While the majority of our work is focused on construction codes and “green building” codes, standards and rating systems, contributing the hard work of our members and staff through the inclusion of this key chapter makes perfect sense. We are pleased that our organizations have complimented each other so well and look forward to future joint projects with PPI, ICC and Home Innovation Research Labs.”

According to the PPI, flexible cross-linked polyethylene - PEX - pipe continues to gain in popularity as a product that satisfies the needs of homeowners, builders, and plumbers by providing long-term performance, and making installations more labor and cost efficient. PEX is the material of choice for radiant heating systems and is quickly replacing copper for residential potable water plumbing. Other applications of PEX include AWWA municipal water service; snow and ice melt systems; turf conditioning; residential fire sprinklers; and geothermal systems. Typically found in sizes from 3/8 to 2 inches and up to 3 inches in diameter, PEX pipe comes in straight lengths or coils and is made from proven high-performance materials.

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