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PPI Response to Carollo Report:

"Evaluating the Compatibility of Chemical Disinfectants with Plastic Pipe Materials used for Potable Water Distribution"

Recently Carollo Engineers published a Technical Memorandum titled "Evaluating the Compatibility of Chemical Disinfectants with Plastic Pipe Materials used for Potable Water Distribution" and dated August 2008. This third party funded report is a "table top" analysis. PPI questions the conclusions of this study because it appears to be biased against polyethylene (PE). The information upon which the study is based seems to be limited to a select group of research papers on potable water disinfectants in PE pipe. Several users have advised PPI and its members that the research that is referenced in the study does not support the conclusions that are being made. This unfortunate development requires factual clarification.

PE pipes have provided decades of exceptional performance in water service in the US. It is regrettable that research that responsibly seeks to improve all PE pipes through scientific study has been tarnished by misrepresentation. In addition, an isolated case where PE pipe did not perform at the levels experienced elsewhere has been distorted.

Dr. Ken Oliphant, Executive Vice President of Jana Laboratories states "Our research, which is heavily referenced in the Carollo report, reflects a proactive approach by the industry to develop accelerated test methods to explicitly validate the long-term performance of PE piping materials in potable water applications. It reflects one piece of a large body of work that has been developed that demonstrates the excellent long-term performance of PE materials."

Dr. Oliphant concludes "Looking 50 or 100 years into the future is a great challenge. Jana has been doing this work for many years. It is now an exciting time, though, as many PE water installations are reaching 50 years of service history and we are able to validate our predictive models. This gives us confidence to apply them to the current generation of high performance materials. The preliminary results demonstrate 50 years, 100 years and greater extrapolated performance lifetimes for specific PE piping systems in potable water applications. The industry will soon have additional and enhanced tools to enable pipeline operators to explicitly project the expected performance lifetime of their overall systems."

Historically, surveys on the performance of PE piping materials in water service applications have reported very high overall satisfaction for a wide range of PE piping applications throughout the US. In many parts of the world, including the specific utility addressed in the research cited in the Carollo report,

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PE pipes are the material of choice for entire water systems and are providing superior service. Current users of PE pipes have found that our industry's continued research is yielding even higher performance levels under more rigorous applications and installations in addition to PE pipe's nearly fifty years of actual service.

Join the many current users who have already gained the benefits of PE piping systems. PE pipes have time tested toughness and durability that can provide the safety and lifetime integrity that you expect of a water system. Please contact PPI (www.plasticpipe.org) or any of its member companies for more information, and to learn how your water system will benefit by selecting PE pipes for your next project.

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