

PVC PIPE ASSOCIATION

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Marilyn Toft
City Council Secretariat
12th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Item 2011.PW9.5, Implementation of Findings from Comparative Analysis of Pipe Materials Study for Large Diameter Transmission Watermains

Members of Council:

I am following up on a presentation I made on behalf of the Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC) on November 3, 2011 regarding recommendations by City Staff (PW9.5) based on the Cole Engineering Group Ltd. Report that multiple pipe materials be allowed in tenders for large diameter water main projects in Toronto. As I stated to the PWIC, we commend the City of Toronto for this initiative and its commitment to open and fair competition.

PVC pipe has been an integral part of Toronto's water system since the 1960s and our industry looks forward to continue to meet the needs of your system with the full range of our cost-effective, long-lasting, high-performance, corrosion-proof piping products. A study by the American Water Works Association Research Foundation recently confirmed the life expectancy of PVC pipe at more than 110 years. Another study in the 1990s by the Canadian National Research Council demonstrated that PVC has the lowest water main break rate of all piping materials.

As the Cole report showed, PVC pipe is one of the most sustainable materials available. It is also one of the safest and most tested materials used in North America. It meets or exceeds all required health and safety standards and regulations governed by the U.S. and Canadian Safe Drinking Water Acts and other international statutes. That is why over 40,000 North American water utilities use PVC pipe today, and more than 1.6 million kilometers are in service. Some 10 million quality control tests have been conducted on water carried through PVC pipe since it was introduced.

The PVC pipe industry that my association represents has ten manufacturing plants and offices in the Greater Toronto Area employing approximately 2000 people. Your decision to allow the use of PVC pipe in larger sizes will support local economic development as well as benefit Toronto taxpayers through lower infrastructure costs.

Yours sincerely,



Bruce Hollands
Executive Director

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