PW9.5.20

336 form letters

Monday, January 16, 2012

Members of Toronto City Council
c/o Ms. Marilyn Toft
City Council Secretariat
12th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear City Councillors:

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

I am an employee at Royal Building Products in Woodbridge. We manufacture pipe for water and sewer systems that is made from PVC.

I have recently learned that the city of Toronto does not allow PVC pipes to be used for large-diameter watermains. But, from what I understand, that could change if the City Council votes in February to permit the use of non-traditional materials for large watermains.

During my years working at Royal Building Products, I have learned that PVC pipe offers many advantages over pipe that is made out of other materials. Pipes made from PVC tend to last longer, they don't corrode and they require less maintenance. As a result, cities and towns in Canada that allow PVC pipes to be used for their watermains end up with lower water bills, lower taxes for water infrastructure and high-quality drinking water.

Please vote in favour of allowing alternative materials to be used in Toronto's large watermains. Your residents will thank you for it.

Sincerely,

114 form letters

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Dear City Councillors:

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

In February, the Toronto City Council will have an opportunity to vote for enhanced competition, lower costs to city residents and business owners, and a higher-quality drinking-water system. Please vote in favour of allowing the use of alternative materials for the city's large-diameter watermains.

This is an important issue to me as a local employee and a Canadian. The company I work for, Royal Building Products in Woodbridge, manufactures the kind of PVC pipe that a favourable vote by the City Council would allow Toronto's residents and business owners to benefit from for decades to come.

Why allow the use of PVC for the city's large watermains?

First, PVC has a proven track-record of durability when used in high-pressure applications underground. That translates to infrequent repairs and replacement, as well as low maintenance costs.

PVC also is non-corrosive, which means that water transported through the watermains would be free from rust and other particles typically associated with deteriorating pipes.

Finally, PVC offers a range of environmental advantages. One is energy efficiency, since the smooth bore of a pipe's inner wall creates less friction than other types of pipe when distributing water. Second, PVC pipe has a lower carbon footprint than many materials commonly used for watermains, because it requires less energy to produce and its lightweight nature consumes less fuel to transport it from the manufacturing facility to the jobsite. And once the PVC pipe reaches the end of its useful life – perhaps a century later – it offers one additional environmental benefit: PVC pipe is completely recyclable.

For all of these reasons, I urge the City Council to open the door to competition so that Toronto's residents and business owners can enjoy the economic, environmental and quality-of-life benefits that would result from allowing the use of materials like PVC for large-diameter watermains.

Sincerely,