

Pipe Advisory Group Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2005

Tallahassee, FL – FDOT Burns Building

Attendees

Rod Powers, FDOT	Jeff Hite, Rinker
Brian Blanchard, FDOT	Michael Pluimer, PPI
Ghulam Mujtaba, FDOT	Doug Holdener, Rinker
Jim Schluter, Contech	Robert Greer, FDOT
Bill Burnette, Contech	Freddie Simmons, FDOT
Jim Park, ADS	Kevin Thibault, FDOT
Rick Traylor, Rinker	John Johnston, J. Johnston Company
Tim Toliver, Hancor	Stephen Boros, PPI
Jeff Chastain, Hardie Pipe	Richard Kessler, FDOT
Paul Harkins, Hardie Pipe	Tom Fussner, ADS
Gene Palermo, Palermo Plastic Pipe	Steve Hoelsing, Rinker
Carl Tyner, Quality Culvert	Doug Todd, Contech
Brian Hunsicker, US Concrete Pipe	Jim Clemans, ADS
Mark McCormick, Contech	Jeffrey Ger, FHWA
Ed Rodriguez, Hancor	Sid Hilton, RMCFC
Greg Bohn, ADS	Rick Renna, FDOT

Preliminaries

Kevin Thibault welcomed PAG members, thanking members for their attendance and participation in PAG process.

Management Position on HDPE Pipe Protocol – Kevin Thibault

Mr. Thibault stated that the Department is moving forward with what we now have in the HDPE pipe specification. The current specification, he said, is a "snapshot in time" and may change in the future. Mr. Thibault added that the Department will be looking at other pipes to re-evaluate their performance analyses. Mr. Thibault invited PAG members to call him on policy issues, but stated that staff will handle the technical details.

Public Records Request by ADS

Rick Renna disclosed that ADS has submitted a public records request that has asked for copies of all e-mails, letters, contracts, payments, etc. regarding all pipe materials within FDOT for the last ten years. Mr. Renna stated that the Department supports the constitutional right of anyone to make such a request and that the Department fully intends to comply with this request just the same as with any other request. Mr. Renna added that the only reason for bringing this action by

ADS to the attention of PAG members was that ADS' action violated the informal, voluntary restraints of the PAG in that their request asked for draft deliberations regarding other Pipe materials. Mr. Renna stated that the PAG policy is that all cross-industry initiatives and comments to the Department will be surfaced at the PAG meetings.

Update on HDPE Pipe Protocol

Rick Renna stated that the HDPE specification in its current form is final. All comments are addressed except for the Department's response to comments from Drs. Chudnovsky and Uy; these will be sent out shortly. The Department is no longer using Popelar Shift or ISO 9080. The Popelar Shift was abandoned since it is not always conservative and the ISO 9080 was dismissed to avoid the controversy of a shift factor greater than 100. Rather, the Department is using the RPM for SCR qualification (ASTM D2837, Section 5.6.1.2 – brittle failure performance). The HDPE specification will be implemented in plans let after July 1, 2005. Manufacturers must pass the protocol for their pipes to be considered for 100-year application usage. The 100-year HDPE pipe under the interim specification will not be installed under Interstate Highway main lines. The target service temperature is 23°C. As such, 100-year HDPE pipe will not allowed in Keys since the average ground temperatures are greater than 23°C.

Rod Powers addressed QC/QA issues, stating that Industry-wide standards were being developed under the auspices of the PPI. (Note: Bill Burnette and Jim Schluter with Contech are developing industry standards for metal pipe and PVC pipe, respectively)

In the course of discussions, Bill Burnette asked about identification of Class I and Class II HDPE pipes in the field. Mr. Renna responded that he will ask Construction for a response.

Rick Traylor asked for the Department's position on pipes that pass the interim specification but fail the full specification. Mr. Thibault responded that the Department is still formulating a position on this question, but will hold manufacturers responsible for producing pipes to specifications.

Watertight Pipe Joints for All FDOT Pipes

Rick Renna informed the PAG that he was sponsoring a specification change to require watertight joints (5 psi lab-tested) on all pipes in all applications. He elaborated that no field-testing was planned at this time, that all the manufacturers had 5 psi-rated joints, and that the usage of these joints would be mandatory. The rationale behind this change is that pressures in FDOT systems often exceed the current 2 psi requirement. Members of the PAG requested an agenda item at the next PAG meeting to discuss Construction's expectations for pipe joint performance in the field.

Upcoming Changes in FDOT QC/QA Requirements – Ghulam Mujtaba

Ghulam Mujtaba distributed a draft copy of the proposed changes to Subarticle 105-5.11 of the specification, which address the quality control personnel qualification requirements for the manufacturing facilities of the precast concrete products. Upon its approval, the manufacturers

of precast concrete box culverts, precast drainage structures, fiber reinforced concrete pipes, and incidental precast concrete products will be required to have qualified quality control personnel to perform the required inspection and testing at their fabrication facilities. The level of the qualification, training, and certifications for the inspectors of the facilities are addressed in the proposed specifications. (Supplementary note: the proposed specification was submitted to the State Specification Office on February 14, 2005)

He also stated that the proposed specification covers all precast concrete manufacturing facilities, except the manufacturers of precast reinforced concrete pipes. The personnel qualification requirements for RCP was initially discussed during the FCPI/FDOT liaison Committee meeting on January 30, 2003 and then on September 16, 2004. During the initial meeting, FCPI advised the Department that they will prepare their own certification and training program and submit it for the department's review. During the September 2004 meeting, the FCPI members indicated that the same type of quality control personnel training and qualification requirements should be applied to the manufacturers of all types of pipes. Ghulam indicated that Rod Powers continues to work with the flexible pipe industries to modify QC plans. (Note: The flexible pipe industries have been operating under approved quality control plans since 1992) For the purposes of uniformity among the competitors, similar requirements (relating to personnel proficiency) will be applied to all manufacturers, including the manufacturers of flexible and rigid concrete pipes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for early June.