

Pipe Advisory Group Meeting Minutes - April 22, 2003

Attendees

Rod Powers, FDOT

Jim Park, ADS

Rick Renna Traylor, Rinker

Jeff Enyart, Hardie Pipe

Angel DeJesus, Hanson

Ted Price, Rinker

Bill Burnette, Contech

Justin James, Contech

Jeff Hite, Rinker

Brian Blanchard, FDOT

Rob Bottema, Hardie Pipe

Jeff Chastain, Hardie Pipe

Bob Greer, FDOT (part time)

Rick Renna, FDOT

Preliminaries

Bob Greer, Director, Office of Design, welcomed the attendees.

Pipe Supplier Issues

Hydro Conduit Spiral Rib Pipe Approval

Issues with Hydroconduit's spiral rib pipe will be settled apart from the PAG, since these issues are no longer adversarial, and then presented to the PAG.

Florida Concrete Pipe Institute – Miscellaneous Issues

No further comment received from FCPI in response to FDOT answers have been received, but Angel DeJesus indicated that comments might be made in the future. Regarding the HDPE Pipe "corrugation growth" concern, Rick Renna reported that the Pennsylvania study reported occurrences of this liner local buckling phenomena beginning at about 35 ft. with some cracking at 70 ft. and that he did not see this as an issue in a shallow burial state such as Florida. Angel reported that the FCPI has pictures of shallow installations with wrinkling in the inner liner. Rick Renna asked Angel DeJesus to provide the evidence he mentioned. Angel agreed to supply documentation, and stated that his concern is that the n-value for PE pipe does not include the effects of these ripples. Rod Powers added that the polyethylene resins and profiles had improved significantly over the last few years and that evidence of failures should target recent pipe installations.

Angel DeJesus asked if the pipe videos, taken by Construction as part of the current pipe specification, are available for review by industry. Rick Renna will check with Construction.

Rinker / Hardie Issues

Rick Renna is finalizing the FDOT position letter and hopes to have it ready shortly.

FDOT Issues

Continuation of Old Issues

Industry Comments on Flexible Pipe Liveload Study

Rick Renna thanked members of the flexible pipe industry for their comments on the research, and mentioned that the researchers are addressing comments.

Implementation of USF research, "Corrosion Resistance and Service Life of Drainage Culverts"

Rod Powers reported that the Department has ongoing discussions with Rinker on the establishment of a new chloride-resistant concrete mix. At Angel's request, the Department and Rinker will be careful to keep Angel, representing the FCPI, in this loop of discussion. Rinker, Angel, Rod, and Rick Renna met briefly after the formal PAG meeting to bring Angel up to date on all previous discussions.

ASTM F 949 PVC 100-Year Service Life

Rick Renna mentioned that the Department's approval of 100-year service life for F 949 PVC is not an approval of a proprietary product, that anyone is free to make F 949 PVC.

HDPE 100 Year Service Life Protocol

Rick Renna explained that the focus of the testing protocol and accompanying construction recommendations will be to provide a technically defensible path to reasonably demonstrate, through testing, an expected 100-year service life. A proper testing protocol must challenge the appropriate potential problem issues of the particular pipe being tested.

Permanent / Non-permanent Design Service Life Approach

Rick Renna mentioned that the change to a permanent / non-permanent will be postponed until after the HDPE 100-year service life protocol is in place. Rick Renna stated that this decision is consistent with the Department's policy of trying to avoid impacting industry while still maintaining engineering integrity.

New Issues

Industry Comment on FDOT Research (Draft reports, research purity)

Rick Renna sought industry consensus on the level and timing of industry input on FDOT pipe research projects. Rick Renna presented the conflict between (1) the benefits of industry input into research methodology, data analysis, and conclusions and (2) the potential misuse of draft research results and opinions in the Florida marketplace. Rick Renna also suggested an industry input approach where industry reviews research project scope, methodology, and testing activities, but data, analysis, and conclusions are not scrutinized by industry until the final report is published. Most of those present favored open access even to competitors, that the risks were worth the opportunity for input. Angel disagreed not wanting to promote marketplace abuse. Rick Renna will look at the practice of the NCHRP program and come to a decision.

Open Forum for Discussions

Justin James asked if the Central Office enforces optional pipe policy as carried out by the districts. Rick Renna replied that the Department is decentralized and the districts are given significant latitude in their decisions. Rick Renna stated that, typically, Central office would not override a district unless a district is obviously abusing its decision-making autonomy.

Date for Next Meeting?

Rick Renna suggested that fewer topics are coming up and the participants discussed the appropriate frequency for the future PAG meetings. A frequency of 3 times per year was adopted. In order to target having results on the resolution of 100-year HDPE Pipe service life protocol, the next meeting is scheduled for August 26 or possibly the first week in September if August 26th does not work out.