

## JM Eagle, pipe maker involved in lawsuit, offers 50-year warranty

BY BONNA JOHNSON • THE TENNESSEAN • APRIL 6, 2010

A pipe maker being sued for defective pipes, including by Tennessee, has issued a 50-year warranty against manufacturing defects for its pipe products.

JM Eagle, the world's largest manufacturer of plastic pipes, said the warranty is unmatched by any other pipe manufacturer. It will cover all new sales of PVC pipes, which are at the center of a whistleblower lawsuit that contends the company made pipes that ruptured and leaked in the ground.

Tennessee is one of four states, along with more than 40 California cities and water authorities, that have joined in the lawsuit accusing JM Eagle of falsifying test results to hide the substandard quality of PVC pipes used in water and sewer systems.

In Tennessee, the White House Utility District and the towns of Spring Hill, Columbia and Lawrenceburg are named in the lawsuit as having purchased the pipes in question since at least 1997. None reported major problems with the pipes.

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The warranty will also cover plastic pipe products manufactured by JM Eagle and its predecessor J-M Manufacturing since original inception for all new pipe failures.

The federal government and other states have declined to take part in the lawsuit, a sign of the relative weakness of the case, JM Eagle spokesman Jason Maloni said.

He said there have been no complaints about the pipes in Tennessee. He also noted that the whistleblower, a former JM Eagle employee, was caught trying to arrange a kickback scheme.