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CUSTOMER CONNECTION

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DURABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY MAKE HDPE PIPE THE CHOICE FOR MANY CITIES

Cities across the country are turning to high-density polyethylene over ductile iron, finding it the strong, dependable and long-lasting solution to their water transmission needs.

Long heralded for its inherent properties of flexibility, strength and reliability against leaks, HDPE beats ductile iron on these qualities and more. And as cities replace their failing water systems—largely iron—they're turning to the most innovative products for solutions.

"Recent studies have proved HDPE pipe lasts at least 100 years," says Dan O'Connor, JM Eagle vice president of sales for PE. "That's welcome news for municipalities who are looking for products that perform better than ductile iron, which is prone to corroding, leaking and breaking."

HDPE can be heat-fused together to form a joint that is as strong or stronger than the pipe itself and is leak free. The practice of fusing eliminates potential leak points every 10 to 20 feet, as found with ductile-iron bell and spigot connections. In fact, with its "allowable water leakage" at zero (unlike other pipe materials for which 10- or 20-percent leakage rates are accepted), it also preserves the water supply, eliminates waste and protects property better than other pipe.

HDPE's flexibility allows it to be bent to a radius 25 times its nominal pipe diameter, reducing the requirement for fittings, thrust blocks and restraints to accommodate directional changes. Its durability also makes it

particularly well suited for dynamic-soil conditions, harsh chemicals and soils, and earthquake-prone areas.

It can be installed via horizontal directional drilling, pipe bursting, sliplining, "plow and plant," submersion and floating, and its lighter weight and superior flexibility over iron make installation easier and less expensive.

JM Eagle recently announced a 50-year warranty on its HDPE pressure pipe for water, further building the trust of government entities as they move to purchase pipe.

"Cities are rightfully impressed by HDPE's inherent toughness and long life span, as well as the 50-year warranty," says O'Connor. "It's only a matter of time before they all make the right decision about putting the best materials in the ground and make a permanent switch from iron to plastic."

