



CASE STUDY

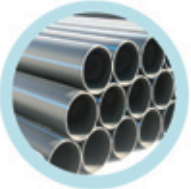


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GAINESVILLE, TX CASE STUDY

- LOCATION:** Gainesville, TX
- PROJECT SCOPE:** High-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe for potable water system
- APPLICATION:** Trenchless installation of mile-long section of HDPE pipe
- PROJECT DATES:** 2005
- KEY CONTACTS:** Mike Land, Gainesville City Manager
Bob McCoy, contractor



SUMMARY

Smack in the middle of a five-mile stretch of a water utility replacement project along O’Neal Street in Gainesville, Texas was a 4,000-foot stretch of pipe that had a lot riding on it.

After the job specification was originally written exclusively in favor of PVC pipe, the city’s public works officials and politicians were impressed enough by a presentation they saw on the benefits of polyethylene (PE) pipe that they re-wrote the spec to also include PE pipe.

“We had plans to use PE pipe on our next project, a looped system at the water tower,” said Gainesville City Manager Mike Land. “But we saw an opportunity to go to school on PE pipe with this project, so we did it.”

Since the near-mile section of the O’Neal Street project was the first in the city’s history to include PE pipe, all eyes were on it. Land said he’d heard and read about other large cities using PE pipe for its potable water systems – cities like Indianapolis, Ind. – but his own city had not yet included it on such an application.

“One reason we hadn’t worked with PE pipe yet was our contractor’s comfort level with the material,” Land said. “He had never worked with it before. But for O’Neal Street, he got up to speed fast.”

The contractor on the project was Bob McCoy, a 25-year veteran of water pipe projects using PVC and ductile iron pipe. But after one training session on how to fuse the PE pipe sections, McCoy was ready to begin installation.

“My experience was that a lot of people knew about PE pipe for gas applications, but not for water,” McCoy said. “This stretch that we used PE pipe for was an area where we had to slide it under a lot of other utilities, right through the middle of town. It’s an excellent section to do this installation, and it worked out very well. I’m happy to have been a part of the project at this point in my career.”

“We can see the advantages of this product for the right applications,” Land added.

Source: PPI Article “Small step for Texas city is giant leap for PE Pipe”

*Please do not hesitate to contact the Alliance with any questions or comments.
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