



CASE STUDY



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TULSA, OK

LOCATION:

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PROJECT SCOPE:

\$1.4 million pilot project using PE pipe for a new subdivision

APPLICATION:

16-inch HDPE pipe (3 miles), open installation

PROJECT DATES:

October 2007 to Spring 2008

KEY CONTACTS:

Jim Cameron, Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority (TMUA) Chairman
Anthony Wilkins, Tulsa Public Works Water Engineer
Charles Hardt, PE, Tulsa Public Works Director
Dave Hughes, McElroy Fusion Technologies



SUMMARY

Tulsa, Oklahoma has long been a candidate for innovative water solutions due to its dry climate and location in the American plains. It took some innovative thinking by the Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority (TMUA) and the Mayor's office to convince the city of Tulsa that PE pipe was the best option for potable water in a newly developed three-mile parcel of land in North Tulsa. With out-of-date metal pipe systems leaking water at alarming rates and water conservation a high priority among the world's leaders, Tulsa decided to lead by example. They crafted a \$1.4 million pilot project using PE pipe for the three-mile parcel of land slated to become a subdivision in this growing city.

But it wasn't an easy decision. In fact, TMUA chairman, Jim Cameron, spent months researching the best pipe that would not corrode or leak and could be easily maintained for years to come.

"We wanted a pipe that would last forever," says Cameron. "PE pipe also was the 'green choice' since it is leak proof and the production and disposal of the pipe is not harmful to the environment. And we knew that it would be a long-term cost saver because there won't be a need to fix leaks or replace corroded pipe."

"The flexibility of polyethylene makes it more desirable in corrosive soil and difficult locations," added Tulsa Public Works water engineer Anthony Wilkins. "That's the beauty of it. I expect to see no problems."

McElroy Manufacturing, which is based in Tulsa, and is one of a handful of companies specializing in PE pipe fusion technology, agreed to provide the equipment and training necessary to lay the pipe for this pilot project. The company also provided a series of seminars to contractors, city engineers and maintenance personnel.

"We were determined to send a message that this was the best option not only for this project, but also for all potable and sewer water projects in Tulsa for years to come," says Dave Hughes, McElroy Fusion Technologies.

The message was sent and the project successfully completed spring 2008.

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