



A/C Pipe
Producers Association

H. M. Little
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Internal Correspondence

TO Board of Directors
International Affairs Committee
FROM *J. F. Welch*
J. F. Welch, Vice-President

DATE: June 14, 1984

SUBJECT A/C Pipe Permeability-Inquiry from Michigan Department of Public Health

ACTION REQUIRED: Review for information

On June 7, 1984, Staff was contacted by Mike Kovach, Regional Engineer, Water Supply Division, Michigan Department of Public Health. He asked for technical data and the industry's position on the permeability of A/C pipe. The issue of pipe permeability, he said, had become a matter of considerable interest in Michigan. The State Plumbing Board requested the Water Supply Division to prepare a statement on the permeability of all piping materials. This was to be presented to the Board on June 12, 1984.

Kovach was particularly frustrated by the absence of data on permeability. He was familiar with reports of problems with PVC water mains and polyethylene and polybutylene service lines. In November, 1983, the Water Supply Division alerted Michigan water utilities about the possibility of permeation of plastic pipe materials. As a result of that advisory, the Vinyl Institute, the trade association representing manufacturers of PVC resin and finished products, appeared before the State Plumbing Board to argue against the Board's position.

In preparing a broader statement for the State Plumbing Board, Kovach is reluctant to say anything about the permeability of A/C or ductile iron pipe because of the absence of data and problems with these two materials. Staff reaffirmed his observations and advised him that AACPP was cooperating with the California Department Health Services and Department of Housing and Community Development's inter-agency study on pipe permeability. A copy of AACPP's submission to the interagency committee was forwarded to Kovach.

Kovach reported that the plastic pipe industry representatives, presumably from the Vinyl Institute, have engaged in "finger pointing exercises," stating that the health effects resulting from permeability of plastic pipe are no different than those related to the release of lead from customer service lines, asbestos from A/C pipe and organic compounds from lined piping materials.

AACPP Action Plan

Staff will continue to monitor the permeability issue through its state regulatory monitoring network. AACPP member companies should be vigilant for formal or informal state policies on permeability that adversely affect specification of A/C pipe.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

JFW/bwm

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