

December 19, 2016

Dear Power Utilities,

This letter is a special request from the Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI), a non-profit trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry across North America.

Our Power & Communications Division (PCD) represents manufacturers of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit. We collaborate with organizations that set standards; educate designers, installers and owners about HDPE conduit; establish forums for problem solving; and maintain liaison with industry and government agencies. <http://plasticpipe.org/power-comm/>

PPI is seeking your assistance in collecting samples of “used” HDPE power conduit. Specifically, we are seeking samples of HDPE* conduit that has been in service for 5, 10, 15, 20 years, or more. This conduit has been buried in the ground carrying power cables of any voltage. Any diameter or SDR is useful. Perhaps your conduit is being removed due to damage, re-routing, or any other reason.
**HDPE conduit is flexible, in long lengths, various colors – not to be confused with rigid PVC conduit (gray).*

The purpose of the **PPI HDPE Conduit Sample Collection Program** is to analyze the used conduit for research about long-term performance and durability. It is well-known that HDPE conduit is an excellent material for housing and protecting electrical power and telecommunications cables, with benefits including long lengths without joints, high strength and installation toughness. This research effort will increase the body of knowledge about the product’s long-term durability for power applications.

Collected samples will be analyzed at laboratories in a series of physical and chemical tests. When complete, the findings will be made available to the community. This information may benefit utilities when forecasting for future replacements.

Request: If your utility has recently removed or plans to remove HDPE buried conduit for power applications, please contact me directly. PPI will work with our member companies to coordinate efforts to witness the removal of the conduit (if possible), gather data about the actual installation, and to collect the used samples for shipment to our facility for evaluation and testing.

We thank you for reading this request and will be most grateful for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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