



# **PLASTIC PIPING DATA COLLECTION INITIATIVE STATUS REPORT**

March 2022

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## Contents

PPDC HISTORY AND BACKGROUND .....	5
DOT STATISTICS .....	5
PPDC VOLUNTEER AND ACTIVE SUBMITTER STATISTICS .....	6
EXPLANATION OF HISTORICAL DATA COLLECTION .....	7
HISTORICALLY KNOWN INFORMATION .....	7
DATA ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION .....	8
RESIN AND PLASTIC MATERIALS IMPROVEMENT .....	8
FAILURES ON NEWLY INSTALLED PIPE .....	9
GPTC GUIDANCE .....	9
AGA PLASTIC PIPE MANUAL REFERENCE .....	10
MANUFACTURER INFORMATION .....	10
GAS DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM .....	10
RATE PROCESS METHOD .....	10
ASSISTANCE AND ANSWERS FROM PPDC .....	11
APPENDIX A .....	12
APPENDIX B: GENERAL FAILURE DATA ANALYSIS – MARCH 2022 .....	14
B1: ALL PIPE FAILURES BY CAUSE .....	14
B2. ALL PIPE FAILURES BY MATERIAL .....	15
B3. ALL FITTING FAILURES BY CAUSE .....	16
B4. ALL FITTING FAILURES BY TYPE .....	17
B5. ALL JOINT FAILURES BY CAUSE .....	18
B6. ALL JOINT FAILURES BY TYPE .....	19
B7. ALL POLYETHYLENE (PE) FAILURES BY COMPONENT .....	20
B8. ACRYLONITRILE BUTADIENE STYRENE (ABS) FAILURES BY COMPONENT .....	22
APPENDIX C: CENTURY DATA ANALYSIS –JUNE 2021 .....	23
APPENDIX D: ALDYL DATA ANALYSIS - MARCH 2022 .....	26
APPENDIX E: PE 3306 DATA ANALYSIS – JUNE 2021 .....	31
APPENDIX F: CAP DATA ANALYSIS – JUNE 2021 .....	34
APPENDIX G: AMP DATA ANALYSIS - DECEMBER 2020 .....	39
APPENDIX H: PVC DATA ANALYSIS - DECEMBER 2020 .....	43
APPENDIX I: KEROTEST DATA ANALYSIS - MARCH 2022 .....	47

APPENDIX J: DRISCOPIPE® HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE) PIPE DATA ANALYSIS -DECEMBER 2020 .....51

APPENDIX K: QUESTIONS FROM STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ABOUT THE PPDC AND PPDC DATA .....55

# Plastic Piping Data Collection Initiative

## Status Report

### March 2022

## PPDC History and Background

The Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC), composed of representatives of the American Gas Association (AGA), American Public Gas Association (APGA), Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI), National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), has been coordinating since 1999 and receiving information since 2000 into a database of in-service plastic piping system failures and/or leak (failures<sup>1</sup>) with the objective of identifying possible performance issues. Participation in this initiative is voluntary and the database is designed to address the confidentiality concerns of the participants.

The data collection initiative arose from the NTSB Special Investigation Report *Brittle-Like Cracking in Plastic Pipe for Gas Service*<sup>2</sup>. The NTSB recommended that PHMSA determine how susceptible older plastic piping materials are to premature brittle-like cracking. The industry agreed to work with the regulatory community to voluntarily collect pertinent information to be placed into a secure database. The PPDC has and will continue to meet this objective. Based on the work of PPDC and PHMSA initiatives, the NTSB has classified the Safety Recommendation P-98-2 as Closed – Acceptable Action.

## DOT Statistics

2021 Gas Distribution Annual Report statistics from DOT indicate there were approximately 802,937 miles of plastic main and over 53.4 million plastic services installed in distribution systems in the U.S. at the end of 2021. These statistics indicate an increase of 26,577 miles of plastic pipe and 1,100,000 services from 2020

DOT/PHMSA Statistics for Year <sup>3</sup>	Total Miles of Plastic Main	Approximate Miles of Plastic Service	Approximate Total Miles of Plastic (Mains + Services)	Total Number of Plastic Services
2021	802,937	730,150	1,533,087	53.4 million
2020	787,886	718,624	1,506,510	52.3 million
2019	772,010	702,221	1,474,231	51.2 million
2018	755,049	687,975	1,443,029	50.4 million

<sup>1</sup> See the PPDC definitions for additional information

<sup>2</sup> *Brittle-Like Cracking in Plastic Pipe For Gas Service*, NTSB Report No. NTSB/SIR-98/01, National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, D.C., April 1998.

<sup>3</sup> Data downloaded from PHMSA website March 22, 2022.

2017	738,721	677,796	1,416,517	49.5 million
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**Table 1 Miles of Plastic Main and Number of Plastic Services**

Type of Plastic Material <sup>4</sup>	2021 Miles of Main	2021 Number of Services
ABS	2,367	1,001
Polyethylene	790,101	52,443,377
PVC	10,102	58,927
Other Plastic	366	488,404

**Table 2. Miles of Main and Number of Services for Various Types of Plastics**

Historical statistics have shown a steady increase over the years in the miles of installed plastic main and the number of plastic services. According to data submitted to PHMSA, approximately 60% of the pipe used for mains is plastic<sup>5</sup>. Since 1970, PHMSA has collected data about pipeline infrastructure from operators. The annual report formats have changed several times over the years.

The Distribution Mileage by Material for 2010-2021 and other pertinent information is available through the DOT/PHMSA website, <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/data-and-statistics/pipeline/pipeline-mileage-and-facilities>. In the menu located on the left select *Data and Statistic Overview*. From the Frequently Requested Data select *Pipeline Mileage and Facilities* and then *2010 + Pipeline Miles and Facilities*. PHMSA’s *2010 + Pipeline Miles and Facilities* database will emerge. Select *Gas Distribution* under System Type.

## PPDC Volunteer and Active Submitter Statistics

All operators actively submitting data have agreed to be recognized and have their names published in **Appendix A**. While the names of the active volunteer operators are now public records, it should be noted that the database remains confidential and does not include operator identity or geographic information.

The information submitted to the PPDC through the initiative constitutes the PPDC database. As of May 2018, the operators who are actively submitting data account for 76% of the total mileage of installed plastic main in the U.S. and 86% of the total number of installed plastic services. The PPDC actively encourages additional operators to participate to ensure the broadest coverage possible and to enhance the value of the database as a tool to proactively monitor the performance of plastic pipe and metal and/or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems. AGA, APGA, NAPS, NARUC, and PHMSA continue to encourage additional voluntary participation. In addition, PPI represents manufacturers and brings information on system components used currently and in the past to aid in identification, as well as the ability to bring specific questions to manufactures.

<sup>4</sup> Data downloaded from PHMSA website March 22, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Data downloaded from PHMSA website March 22, 2022

## Explanation of Historical Data Collection

Historically collected data includes both actual through-wall failure, leak information, and negative reports (i.e., one-page forms completed by participating operators indicating that they had no failure data to submit during the month). The data collection report forms can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/plastic-pipe-database-collection-forms/>.

The scope of the committee was expanded to include failures and/or leaks of plastic pipe and metal and/or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems<sup>6</sup>. Immediate excavation damages are not collected or evaluated (except where a delayed failure and/or leak occurs after the damage event) since these do not provide an indication of the long-term performance of plastic piping materials. Immediate failure due to excavation is collected by the Common Ground Alliance. The cumulative data supplied by volunteer participants in the Plastic Pipe Data Collection Initiative are examined in aggregate by the PPDC at each meeting to consider plastic system failures and/or leaks unrelated to excavation damage.

## Historically Known Information

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC, the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of each material that may be in service across the U.S. The failure and/or leak data points reinforce what is already (and historically) known about certain older plastic piping and components. Some of these were identified in 2000 by a government-industry group<sup>7</sup> and have resulted in PHMSA Advisory Bulletins<sup>8</sup>. The bulletins can be found on the PHMSA website at <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline> under PHMSA Guidance. Historically known information includes the following plastic piping and components that have demonstrated a significantly lower resistance to stress intensification<sup>9</sup> that can result in material failure:

- Century Utility Products polyethylene (PE) pipe produced from 1970 through 1974
- DuPont Aldyl® A low ductile inner wall PE pipe manufactured from 1970 through 1972
- PE pipe manufactured from PE 3306 resin such as Swanson, Orangeburg and Yardley
- DuPont Aldyl® service tee with a white Delrin® polyacetal threaded insert
- Plexco service tee with Celcon® polyacetal threaded cap

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<sup>6</sup> In July 2010 the PPDC clarified failures/leaks information to be reported.

<sup>7</sup> Robert J. Hall, *Brittle-Like Cracking of Plastic Pipe*, Final Report No. DTRS56-96-C-0002-006, General Physics Corp., Columbia, Maryland, August 2000.

<sup>8</sup> DOT Advisory Bulletin ADB-07-01, *Updated Notification of Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 72, Number 172, p. 51301; ADB-02-07, *Notification of the Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 228, p. 70806, November 26, 2002 and corrected Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 232, p. 72027, December 3, 2002; ADB-99-02, *Potential Failures Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe in Natural Gas Distribution Systems*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 1212; ADB-99-01, *Potential Failure Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Certain Polyethylene Plastic Pipe Manufactured by Century Utility Products Inc.*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 12211.

<sup>9</sup> Stress intensification includes conditions such as rock impingement, squeeze off, soil settlement, bending, shear, over-tightening of caps.

## Data Analysis and Information

All charts, tables and discussion in this Status Report are based on cumulative data unless indicated otherwise. Where the PPDC determined there was enough submitted data to potentially indicate a trend, the committee conducted further analysis on the following:

- General Failures - **Appendix B**
- Century Utility Products - **Appendix C**
- All Aldyl pipe and fittings manufactured by DuPont and Uponor - **Appendix D**
- PE 3306 - **Appendix E**
- Caps - **Appendix F**
- AMP/AMP-FIT - **Appendix G**
- PVC - **Appendix H**
- Kerotest – **Appendix I**
- Driscopipe® High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe - **Appendix J**

**Note:** "Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart" in the Status Report Charts and Tables.

Also, see **Appendix K**, Questions from Stakeholder Groups about the PPDC and PPDC Data. Questions for the PPDC can be submitted to the PPDC email account, [PPDC@aga.org](mailto:PPDC@aga.org). Questions can also be submitted to an applicable stakeholder representative as shown on the PPDC roster at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

The PPDC has seen an elevated number of reports of failures since 2010. This may be due to operators' preparation for and implementation of Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP), <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/gas-distribution-integrity-management/gas-distribution-integrity-management-program-dimp>, and the Federal requirement to submit Mechanical Fitting Failure Reports, <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/data-and-statistics/pipeline/mechanical-fitting-failure-data-gas-distribution-operators>.

## Resin and Plastic Materials Improvement

The data indicates that some of the early plastic piping products manufactured in the 1960s to early 1980s are more susceptible to brittle-like cracking (also known as slow crack growth) than newer vintage materials. Brittle-like cracking failures occur under conditions of stress intensification. Stress intensification is more common in fittings and joints. Operators should actively monitor the performance of their piping systems.

Plastic materials, standards and manufacturing practices have steadily improved over the years. These enhancements have led to an improved ability to withstand stress intensification and have benefited long-term plastic gas piping system performance. Various milestones in the development and use of plastic materials are highlighted in the [Plastic Pipe Timeline](#).



## Failures on Newly Installed Pipe

In light of the data collected, it is suggested that operators remain vigilant in their efforts to maintain their operator qualification programs, training programs, installation procedure reviews and inspection efforts to assure the integrity of their systems. Table 3 shows Installation Error as the leading cause for failures that occurred within 0-5 years of installation. The need for vigilance is further supported by a June 2015 National Transportation Safety Board Pipeline Safety Alert, Safety through Reliable Fusion Joints

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/members.iamu.org/resource/resmgr/Informer/NTSB\\_Plastic\\_Pipe.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/members.iamu.org/resource/resmgr/Informer/NTSB_Plastic_Pipe.pdf)) which reinforces the need for operators to pay special attention to manufacturer recommended installation procedures such as torque requirements, tapping cutter or stab depth and pipe surface conditions.

Cause	% of All Failures Occurring Within 0-5 Years in Service
Cap (Other)	2.0%
Corrosion	0.3%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	2.1%
Excessive External Earth Loading	3.0%
Gopher/rodent/worm damage	0.8%
Installation Error	38.0 %
Material Defect	11.2%
Other	7.3%
Point Loading	1.6%
Previous Impact	0.9%
Squeeze Off	0.5%
Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	0.4%
Threaded Cap (Loose cap, not cracked)	3.8%
Threaded Cap (Other, describe)	0.7%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.8%
Unknown	26.4%
Unknown- Abandoned	0.1%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 3. Causes for All Failures Occurring Within 0-5 Years of Installation**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

## GPTC Guidance

In an effort to assist the gas utilities, the Gas Piping Technology Committee (GPTC) has published guidance information that an operator can use when older plastic pipe materials are known to be present in their piping system. The guidance information is contained in the 2018 edition of the *Guide for Transmission, Distribution and Gathering Piping Systems* under Subpart P<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> Information about the GPTC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/gptc> and the guide information can be purchased at <https://www.techstreet.com/aga/searches/26663715>

## AGA Plastic Pipe Manual Reference

In addition, the *AGA Plastic Pipe Manual for Gas Service*<sup>11</sup> contains information on plastic pipeline materials, including factors affecting plastic piping performance, engineering consideration for plastic pipe utilization, procurement considerations and acceptance tests, installation guidance, personnel training, field inspection and pressure testing, operations and maintenance, and emergency control procedures.

## Manufacturer Information

The PPDC compiles historical plastic piping manufacturer information. The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) maintains this information to help operators identify the manufacturers of pipe, fittings and appurtenances. These data include material designations, date range of production, size ranges, and other important information. Corrections and/or additions are encouraged and should be communicated to Gerianne Cain at PPI ([gcain@plasticpipe.org](mailto:gcain@plasticpipe.org)). Information on the historic plastic piping manufacturer database can be found on the following website: <https://plasticpipe.org/EnergyPipingSystems/About-Energy/Manufacturing-History/EnergyPipingSystems/About-Energy/Manufacturing-History.aspx?hkey=fcb92aa4-e38e-4b56-99a2-4945a7b24a0a>

## Gas Distribution Integrity Management Program

PHMSA has developed and continues to enhance guidance to help the public and the affected industry understand the requirements of the regulations under Title 49 CFR Part 192, Subpart P, Gas Distribution Pipeline Integrity Management (DIMP). The DIMP Inspection Forms as well as other resources to support operators' implementation of their programs are on the DIMP Resources page <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/gas-distribution-integrity-management/gas-distribution-integrity-management-program-dimp>.

## Rate Process Method

For the many miles of older PE materials still in service in the U.S., the key unknown is the projected performance of pipelines in situations where stress intensification may be present. The rate process method (RPM) can be a useful tool for evaluating these compounds and their susceptibility to brittle-like cracking. The RPM can also be used to predict performance of PE materials at their in-ground temperatures and operating stresses based on both internal pressure as the primary load in combination with concentrated stresses such as rock impingement and squeeze-off.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The AGA Plastic Pipe Manual for Gas Service can be purchased at [http://www.techstreet.com/aga/standards/aga-xr0603?product\\_id=1314445](http://www.techstreet.com/aga/standards/aga-xr0603?product_id=1314445)

<sup>12</sup> Bragaw, C. G., "Prediction of Service Life of Polyethylene Gas Piping System," Proceedings Seventh Plastic Fuel Gas Pipe Symposium, pp. 20-24, 1980, and Bragaw, C. G., "Service Rating of Polyethylene Piping Systems by the Rate Process Method," Proceedings Eighth Plastic Fuel Gas Pipe Symposium, pp. 40-47, 1983, and Palermo, E. F.,

## Assistance and Answers from PPDC

AGA is available to help participants fill out the report forms if there are any questions by a participant. A portion of the AGA website hosting the PPDC contains the latest versions of Frequently Asked Questions, data collection forms, form instruction, definitions, PPDC rosters, previous status and annual reports, a data collection PowerPoint tutorial entitled, “Plastic Pipe Data Collection” and further details on the goals of the Plastic Pipe Data Collection initiative.

The PPDC encourages questions, comments, or suggestions from the stakeholder groups. **Appendix K** contains a listing of questions reviewed at Committee meetings and responses from the PPDC.

With this status report, the PPDC continues to urge all natural gas distribution system operators to volunteer as active participants in this proactive and worthwhile initiative.

For questions or additional information about this initiative, contact PPDC c/o Debbie Ellis (by telephone 202.824.7338 or electronically at [dellis@aga.org](mailto:dellis@aga.org)).

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“Rate Process Method as a Practical Approach to a Quality Control Method for Polyethylene Pipe,” Proceedings Eighth Plastic Fuel Gas Pipe Symposium, pp. 96-101, 1983, and Mruk, S. A., “Validating the Hydrostatic Design Basis of PE Piping Materials,” and Palermo, E. F., “Rate Process Method Concepts Applied to Hydrostatically Rating Polyethylene Pipe,” Proceedings Ninth Plastic Fuel Gas Pipe Symposium, pp. 215-240, 1985

## Appendix A

### Names of Gas Operators/Corporations Actively Submitting Reports to the Plastic Pipe Database

May 2018

Note: Depending on how annual reports are filed with PHMSA, some companies are listed under corporate names and some are listed by individual operating company names.

Alabama Gas Corp	Kokomo Gas & Fuel Co/NIPSCO
Alliant Energy	Knoxville Utilities Board
Ameren Illinois Co	Laclede Gas Co
Atlanta Gas Light	Lawrenceville, City of
Atmos Energy	Liberty Utilities
Avista Corp	Long Beach Gas Dept, City Of
Austin Utilities	Louisville Gas and Electric
Baltimore Gas & Electric Co	Madison Gas & Electric Co
Batesville Water & Gas Utility	Memphis Light Gas & Water Division
Black Hills Energy	Mesa Municipal System, City Of
Black Hills Corporation/Source Gas	Michigan Consolidated Gas Co (Michcon)
CenterPoint Energy	Michigan Gas Utilities Co
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp	Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District
Chambersburg Gas Dept	Middleborough Gas & Electric Dept
Chanute, City Of	Midwest Natural Gas Corp
Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power	Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	Missouri Gas Energy
Citizens Gas and Coke Utility	Mobile Gas Service Corp
City of Cartersville Gas System	Montana - Dakota Utilities Co
City of Ellensburg Gas Department	Mountaineer Gas Co
City of Fort Morgan	National Fuel
Clearwater Gas System	National Grid/Keyspan
Colorado Springs Utilities	New England Gas Company
Colquitt Gas System, City Of	New Jersey Natural Gas Co
Columbia Gas/Nisource	New Mexico Gas Co
Consolidated Edison Co Of New York	North Shore Gas Co
Consumers Energy	Northern Illinois Gas Co
Corning Natural Gas Corporation	Northern States Power Co
Delmarva Power and Light	Northern States Power Company of Minnesota
Dominion	Northwest Natural Gas Co
Duke Energy	Norwich Public Utilities
Eastern Natural Gas Co	NV Energy
Enstar Natural Gas Co	Oklahoma Natural Gas Co.
Equitable Gas Company	Orange and Rockland Utilities
Greenville Utilities Commission	Orangeburg Public Utilities
Greer Commission Of Public Works	Osage City Municipal Gas System
Intermountain Gas Co	Pacific Gas & Electric Co
Island Energy	Paris - Henry County Public Util Dist
Jackson Energy Authority	PECO Energy Co
Kansas Gas Service	Peoples Gas Light & Coke Co

Peoples Natural Gas  
Perryton, City Of  
Philadelphia Gas Works  
Piedmont Natural Gas Co Inc  
Pike Natural Gas Co  
Powell Clinch Utility District  
Public Service Electric & Gas Co  
Public Service Company of Colorado  
Public Service Company of North Carolina  
Puget Sound Energy  
Questar Gas Company  
Safford Utilities Div, City Of  
San Diego Gas & Electric Co  
Scottsboro Water Sewer & Gas Board  
Semco Energy Gas Company  
Sheffield Gas Department  
South Carolina Electric & Gas Co  
South Jersey Gas Co  
Southeastern Natural Gas Co  
Southern California Gas Co

Southwest Gas Corp  
Tallahassee, City of  
T.W. Phillips Gas & Oil Co.  
Texas Gas Service Company  
The Empire District Gas Company  
Tipton Municipal Utilities  
UGI Utilities  
Union Utility Dept, City Of  
Unisource Energy Services  
Valley Energy, Inc.  
Vectren Corporation  
Vermont Gas System  
Washington Gas Light Co  
Watertown Municipal Utilities Department  
We Energies  
Wilson Gas Dept, City Of  
Wisconsin Gas Co  
Wisconsin Public Service Corp  
Yankee Gas Services

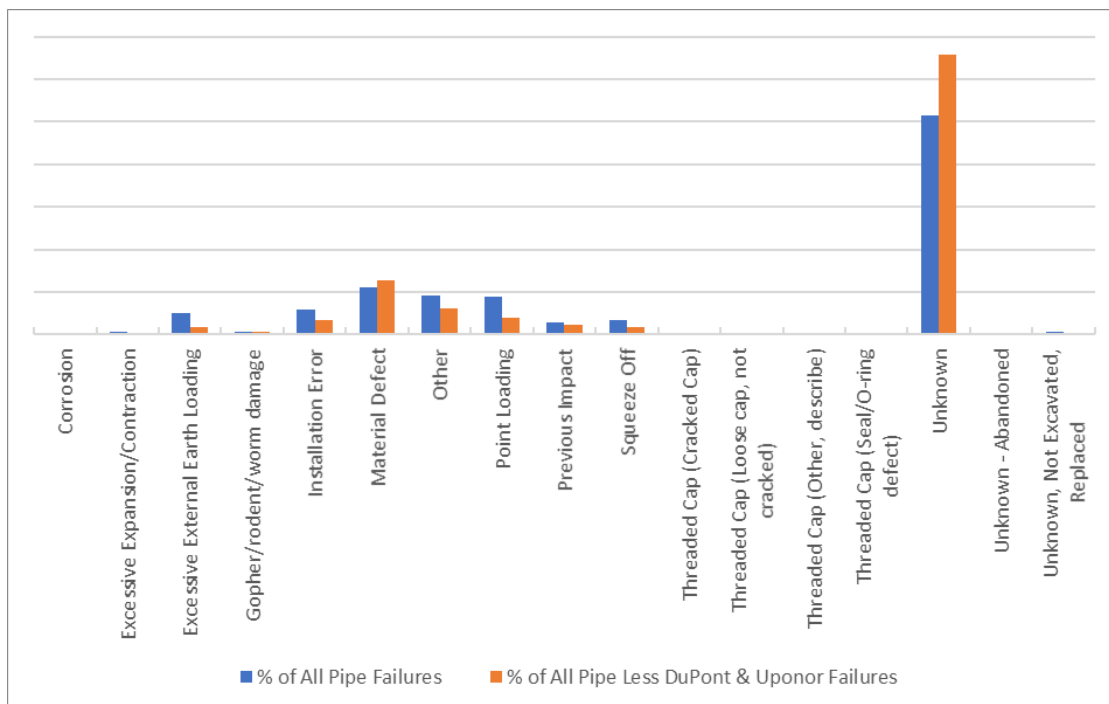
## Appendix B: General Failure Data Analysis – March 2022

Only material types shown in the data are reflected in the table. Should additional materials be seen in future data, they will be added to the table at that time.

### B1: All Pipe Failures by Cause

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

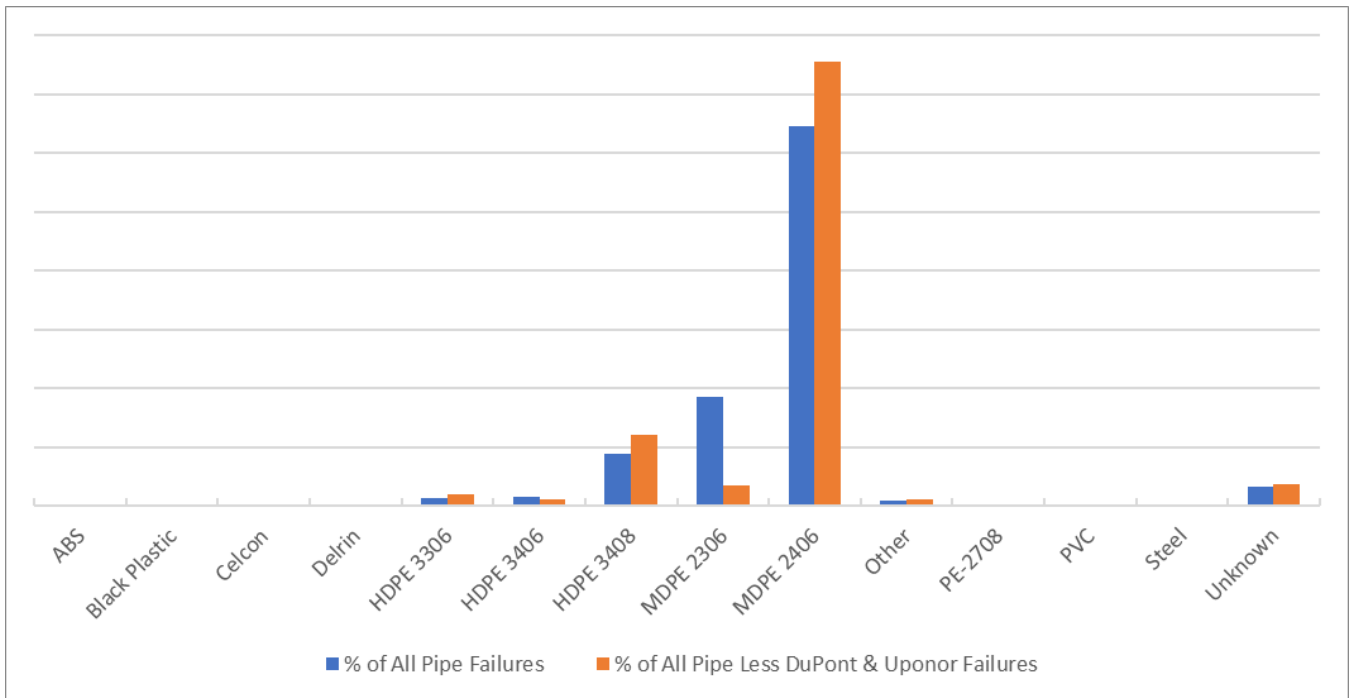
CAUSE	% of All Pipe Failures/Leaks	% of All Pipe Less DuPont & Uponor Failures/Leaks
Corrosion	0.4%	0.1%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	0.6%	0.4%
Excessive External Earth Loading	4.9%	1.8%
Gopher/rodent/worm damage	0.6%	0.7%
Installation Error	5.8%	3.4%
Material Defect	11.1%	12.6%
Other	9.2%	6.2%
Point Loading	8.8%	3.9%
Previous Impact	2.9%	2.4%
Squeeze Off	3.3%	1.7%
Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	51.4%	65.8%
Unknown – Abandoned	0.2%	0.2%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.6%	0.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	100.0%	100.0%



## B2. All Pipe Failures by Material

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

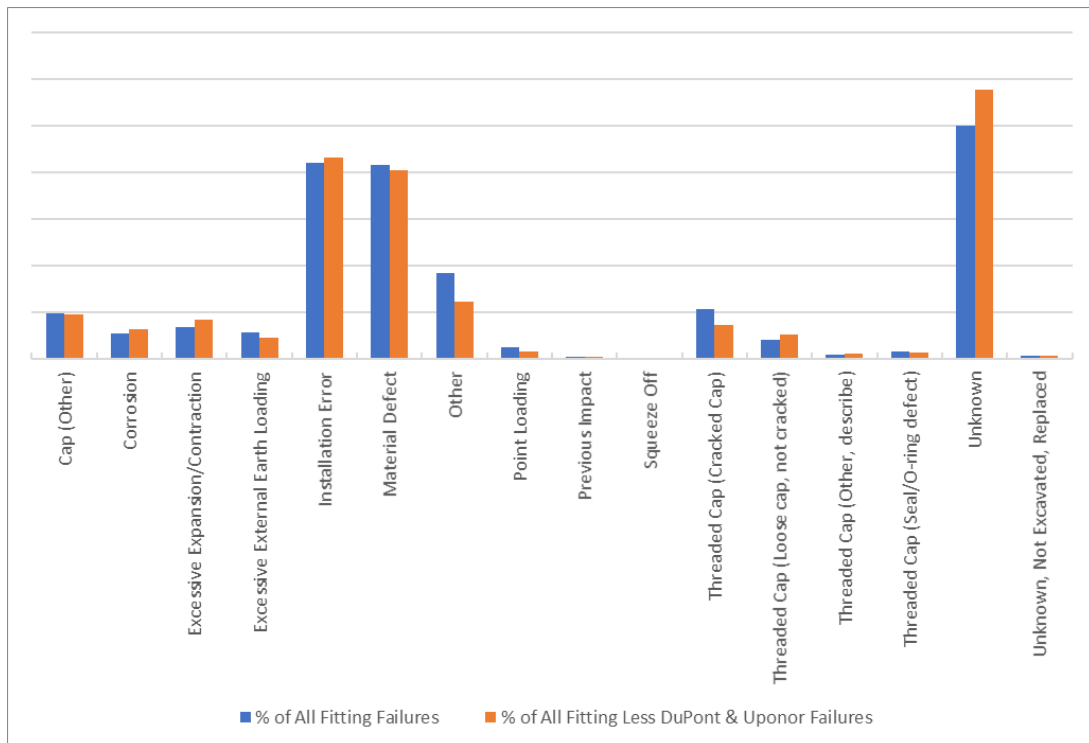
Material	% of All Pipe Failures	% of All Pipe Less DuPont & Uponor Failures
ABS	0.1%	0.1%
Black Plastic	0.1%	0.2%
Celcon	0.1%	0.1%
Delrin	0.1%	0.0%
HDPE 3306	1.4%	1.9%
HDPE 3406	1.5%	1.0%
HDPE 3408	8.9%	12.0%
MDPE 2306	18.5%	3.4%
MDPE 2406	64.6%	75.6%
Other	0.9%	1.0%
PE-2708	0.3%	0.4%
PVC	0.3%	0.3%
Steel	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	3.2%	3.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%



### B3. All Fitting Failures by Cause

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

Cause	% of All Fitting Failures	% of All Fitting Less DuPont & Uponor Failures
Cap (Other)	4.9%	4.8%
Corrosion	2.7%	3.1%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	3.3%	4.2%
Excessive External Earth Loading	2.9%	2.3%
Installation Error	21.0%	21.6%
Material Defect	20.8%	20.3%
Other	9.2%	6.1%
Point Loading	1.2%	0.8%
Previous Impact	0.2%	0.2%
Squeeze Off	0.1%	0.1%
Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	5.3%	3.6%
Threaded Cap (Loose cap, not cracked)	2.0%	2.6%
Threaded Cap (Other, describe)	0.4%	0.5%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.8%	0.7%
Unknown	25.0%	28.9%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.3%	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

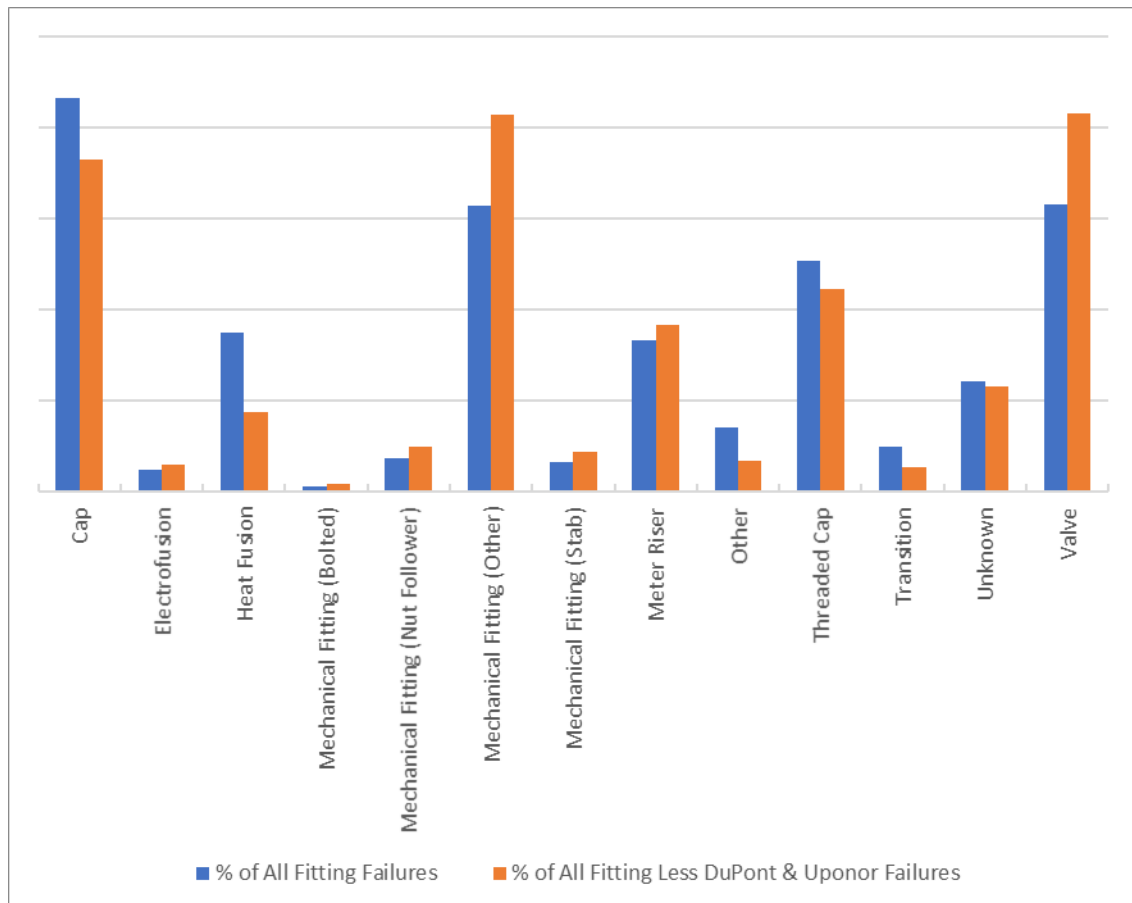




## B4. All Fitting Failures by Type

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

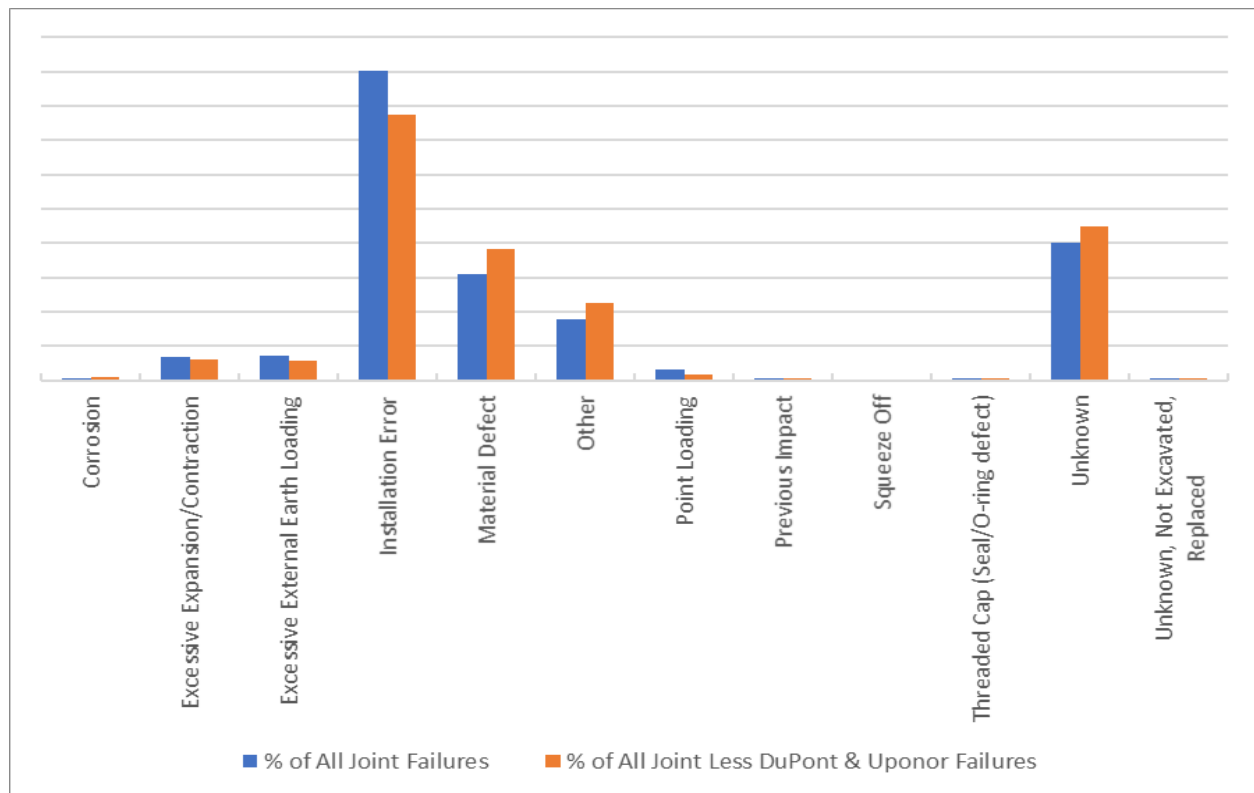
Fitting	% of All Fitting Failures	% of All Fitting Less DuPont & Uponor Failures
Cap	21.7%	18.3%
Electrofusion	1.2%	1.5%
Heat Fusion	8.8%	4.4%
Mechanical Fitting (Bolted)	0.3%	0.4%
Mechanical Fitting (Nut Follower)	1.9%	2.5%
Mechanical Fitting (Other)	15.7%	20.7%
Mechanical Fitting (Stab)	1.6%	2.2%
Meter Riser	8.3%	9.2%
Other	3.5%	1.7%
Threaded Cap	12.7%	11.2%
Transition	2.5%	1.4%
Unknown	6.1%	5.8%
Valve	15.8%	20.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## B5. All Joint Failures by Cause

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

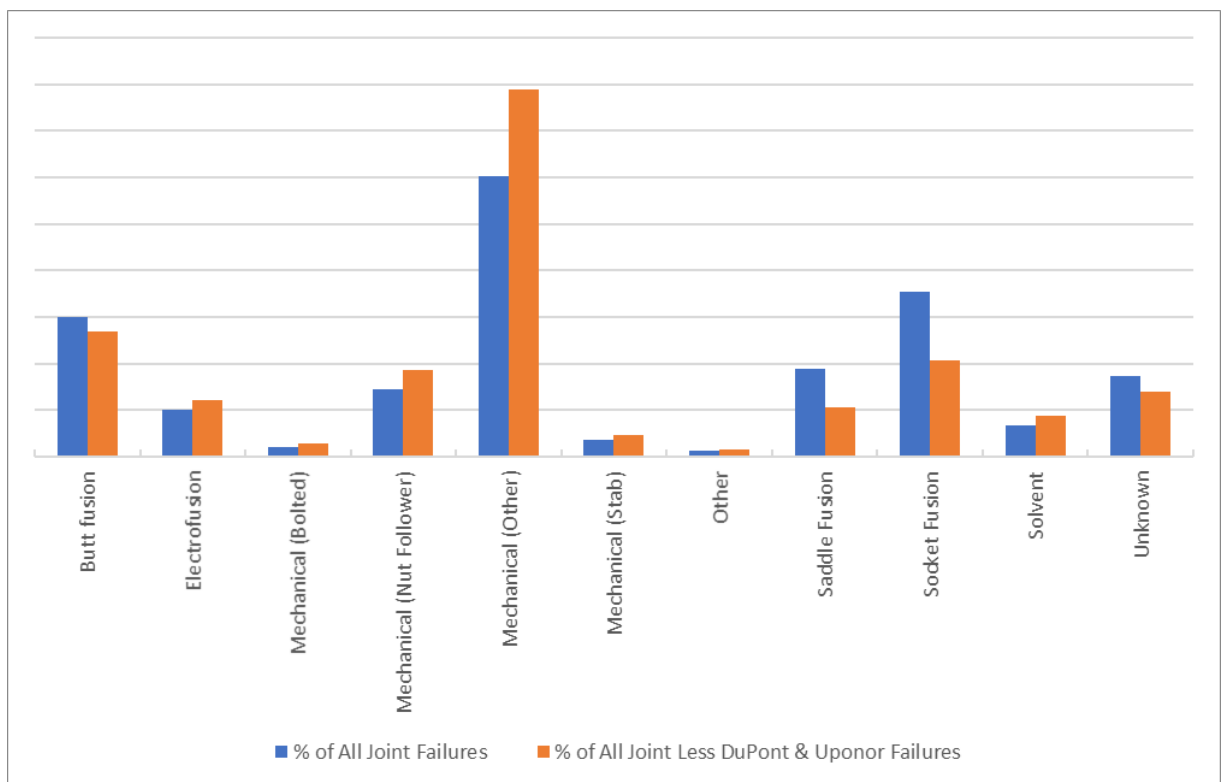
Cause	% of All Joint Failures	% of All Joint Less DuPont & Uponor Failures
Corrosion	0.4%	0.5%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	3.4%	3.1%
Excessive External Earth Loading	3.7%	3.0%
Installation Error	45.2%	38.6%
Material Defect	15.6%	19.2%
Other	8.9%	11.3%
Point Loading	1.7%	0.9%
Previous Impact	0.4%	0.4%
Squeeze Off	0.1%	0.1%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.3%	0.3%
Unknown	20.1%	22.4%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.3%	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



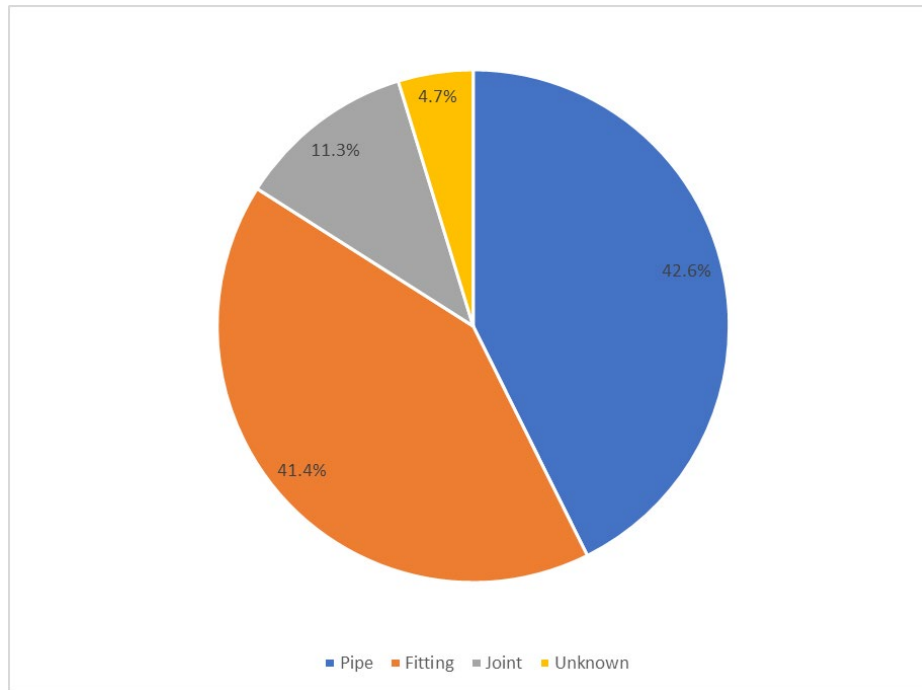
## B6. All Joint Failures by Type

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the Chart

Joint	% of All Joint Failures	% of All Joint Less DuPont & Uponor Failures
Butt fusion	15.0%	13.5%
Electrofusion	5.1%	6.1%
Mechanical (Bolted)	1.1%	1.4%
Mechanical (Nut Follower)	7.2%	9.4%
Mechanical (Other and Unknown)	30.1%	39.4%
Mechanical (Stab)	1.8%	2.3%
Other	0.6%	0.8%
Saddle Fusion	9.4%	5.4%
Socket Fusion	17.7%	10.4%
Solvent	3.3%	4.5%
Unknown	8.6%	7.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## B7. All Polyethylene (PE) Failures by Component



From the 2021 PHMSA Gas Distribution Annual reports<sup>13</sup>, there are approximately 790,101 miles of PE main representing 98% of all plastic mains and 60% of the total miles of distribution main installed in the US. For services, there are approximately 52,443,377 PE services representing approximately 99% of all plastic services and 75% of the total number of distribution services installed in the US. “All PE” includes the following material types: HDPE 3306, HDPE 3406, HDPE 3408, HDPE 4710, MDPE 2306, MDPE 2406, MDPE 2708, PE 2708, and PE 4710.

## All PE Failures by Cause

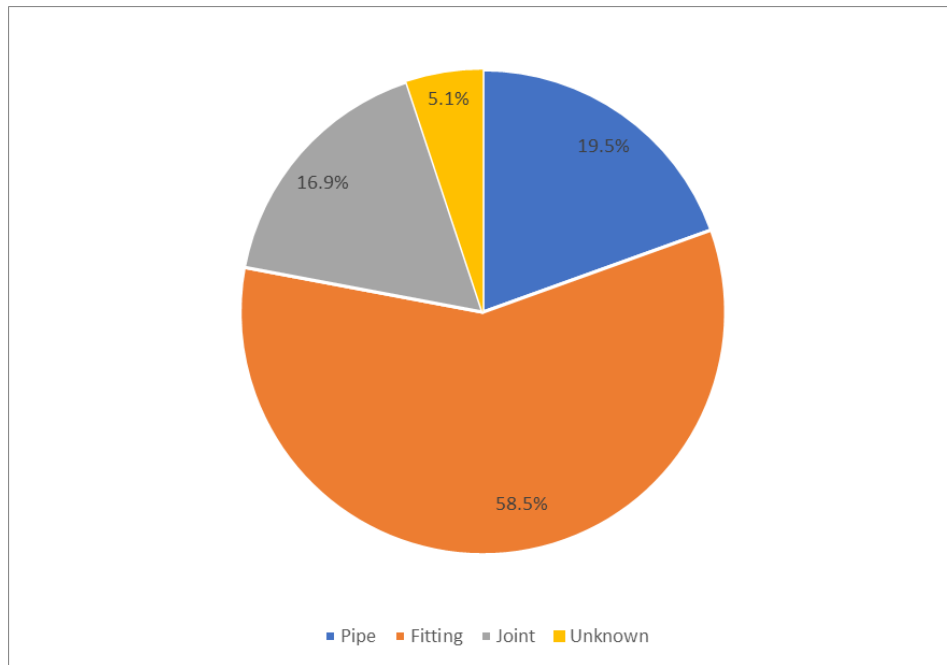
Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

Cause	% of PE Pipe Failures	% of PE Fitting Failures	% of PE Joint Failures	% of All PE Failures
Cap (Other)	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	2.7%
Corrosion	0.3%	2.7%	0.2%	1.3%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	0.5%	2.0%	4.3%	1.6%
Excessive External Earth Loading	4.9%	3.4%	4.0%	4.2%
Gopher/rodent/worm damage	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Installation Error	5.5%	26.4%	55.5%	20.5%
Material Defect	11.1%	15.9%	10.2%	13.1%
Other	8.7%	12.4%	4.8%	9.9%
Point Loading	8.9%	1.8%	2.1%	5.0%

<sup>13</sup> Data downloaded from PHMSA website March 22, 2022

Previous Impact	2.6%	0.2%	0.3%	1.3%
Squeeze Off	3.2%	0.1%	0.1%	1.5%
Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Threaded Cap (Loose cap, not cracked)	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Threaded Cap (Other, describe)	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.0%	0.8%	0.2%	0.4%
Unknown	52.6%	24.1%	17.9%	36.1%
Unknown – Abandoned	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%
<b>% of All PE Failures</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## B8. Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) Failures by Component



Based on 2021 PHMSA Gas Distribution Annual Reports<sup>14</sup>, there are approximately 2,367 miles of ABS main representing less than ½% of all plastic mains installed in the US. For services, there are approximately 1,001 ABS services representing approximately less than ½% of all plastic services installed in the US.

### ABS Failures by Cause

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

Cause	% of ABS Pipe Failures	% of ABS Fitting Failures	% of ABS Joint Failures	% of All ABS Failures
Cap (Other)	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	5.4%
Corrosion	0.0%	1.4%	5.0%	1.8%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	4.3%	2.9%	0.0%	2.7%
Excessive External Earth Loading	8.7%	0.0%	10.0%	3.6%
Installation Error	8.7%	17.4%	45.0%	20.5%
Material Defect	13.0%	29.0%	5.0%	21.4%
Other	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.9%
Point Loading	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Squeeze Off	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
Unknown	52.2%	39.1%	35.0%	41.1%
<b>% of All ABS Failures</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>14</sup> Data downloaded from PHMSA website March 22, 2022.

## Appendix C: Century Data Analysis –June 2021

### Background

Century Utility Products (Century) was identified by the NTSB Special Report<sup>15</sup> and PHMSA advisory as a material susceptible to brittle-like cracking<sup>16</sup>.

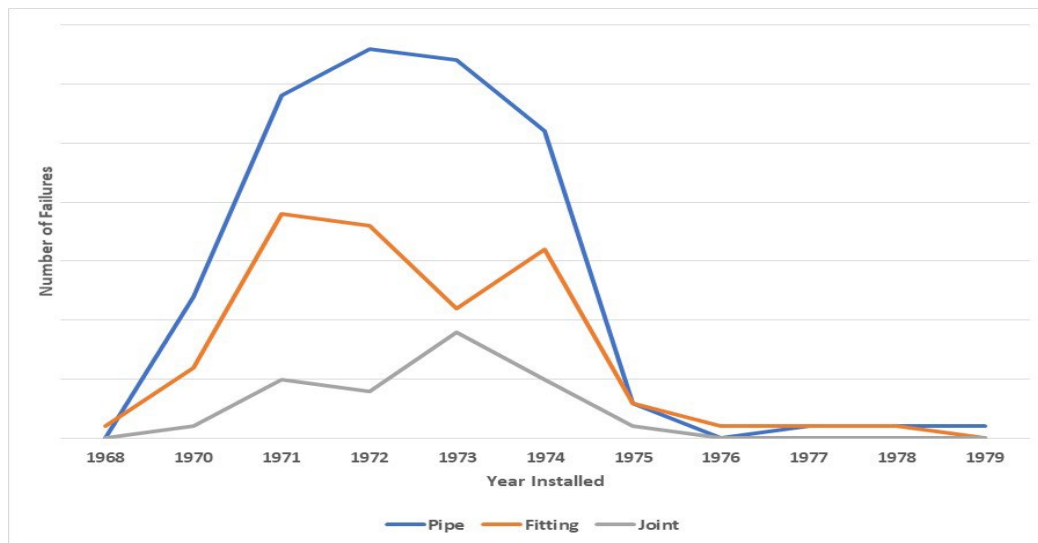
The objective of this appendix is to provide information from the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) database about Century pipe, fittings and joints.

### Methods

The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding third party damages. The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by manufacturer. More information about the PPDC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

### Results

Century represent less than 1% of all the reports in the database. The majority of the reported Century failures occur on pipe (56%). Other categories include fittings (32%), joints (11%) and unknown (1%). The distribution of failures for pipe, fittings and joints by year installed is shown in Figure 1. The figure shows the majority of failures occurred on pipe installed from 1970 to 1974.

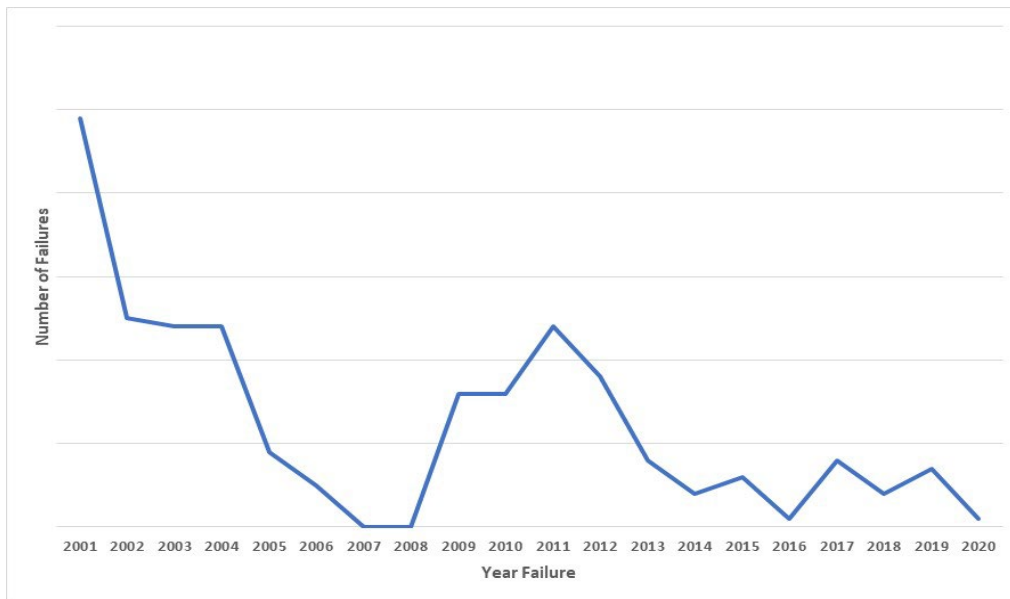


**Figure 1. Failures by Years Installed as Reported to PPDC for Century Pipe, Fittings and Joints**

<sup>15</sup> *Brittle-Like Cracking in Plastic Pipe For Gas Service*, NTSB Report No. NTSB/SIR-98/01, National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, D.C., April 1998.

<sup>16</sup> DOT Advisory Bulletin ADB-07-01, *Updated Notification of Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 72, Number 172, p. 51301; ADB-02-07, *Notification of the Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 228, p. 70806, November 26, 2002 and corrected Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 232, p. 72027, December 3, 2002; ADB-99-02, *Potential Failures Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe in Natural Gas Distribution Systems*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 1212; ADB-99-01, *Potential Failure Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Certain Polyethylene Plastic Pipe Manufactured by Century Utility Products Inc.*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 12211.

Figure 2 shows the failures by year of failure. The majority of the failures occurred prior to 2007; however, recently there have been additional reports submitted.



**Figure 2. Failures by Year of Failure as Reported to PPDC for Century**

Table 1 displays the percentages of failure causes for Century including pipe, fittings and joints. The highest identified cause is material defect.

Cause	% of Total Pipe Failure/Leaks	% of Total Fittings Failure/Leaks	% of Total Joints Failure/Leaks	% of Total
Cap (Other)	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	1.6%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.4%
Excessive External Earth Loading	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Installation Error	14.4%	25.0%	44.4%	21.1%
Material Defect	48.2%	47.5%	40.7%	47.2%
Other	28.8%	6.3%	14.8%	19.9%
Point Loading	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Previous Impact	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.4%
Unknown	5.0%	13.8%	0.0%	7.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 1. Failures by Cause for Century Pipe, Fittings and Joints**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart



**Limitations**

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that comes with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

**Discussion**

The information shown represents the detailed review of the available Century failure data by the PPDC and is intended to help operators in the analysis of their own systems and, where applicable, for consideration in DIMP methodologies.

While the amount of Century failures reported to the PPDC is relatively small, the data does confirm the material is the primary cause of failure, consistent with information in the NTSB Special Report. Recent reports of failure indicate this product is still in service.

Operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity assessment, risk analysis and mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix D: Aldyl Data Analysis - March 2022

### Background

The objective of this appendix is to provide information from the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) database about Aldyl pipe and fittings manufactured by DuPont and Uponor.

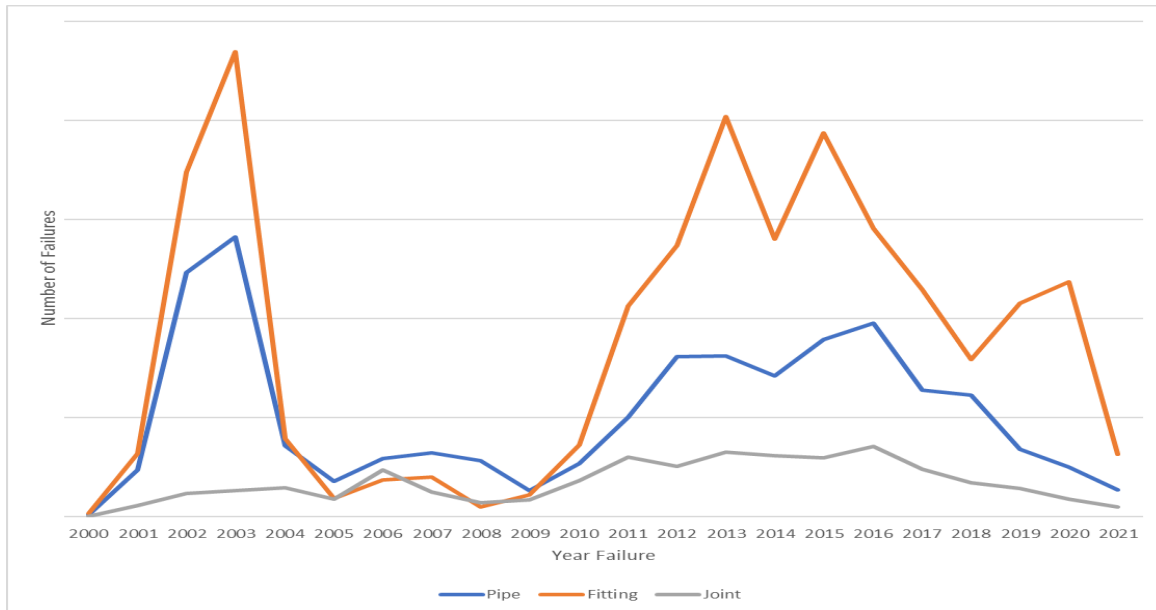
### Methods

The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding third party damages. More information about the PPDC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by manufacturer. Aldyl is a material trade name that was produced by DuPont and later Uponor. Therefore, the definition of “Aldyl” used for this analysis is the data reported as being manufactured by DuPont and Uponor.

### Results

DuPont and Uponor represent approximately 27% of all the reports in the database. Figure 1 shows the failures by year of failure. As reflected in the graph, there has been a recent increase in data submitted to the database. The majority of the reported Aldyl failures occur on fittings (56%). Other categories include pipe (32%), joints (11%) and unknown (1%).



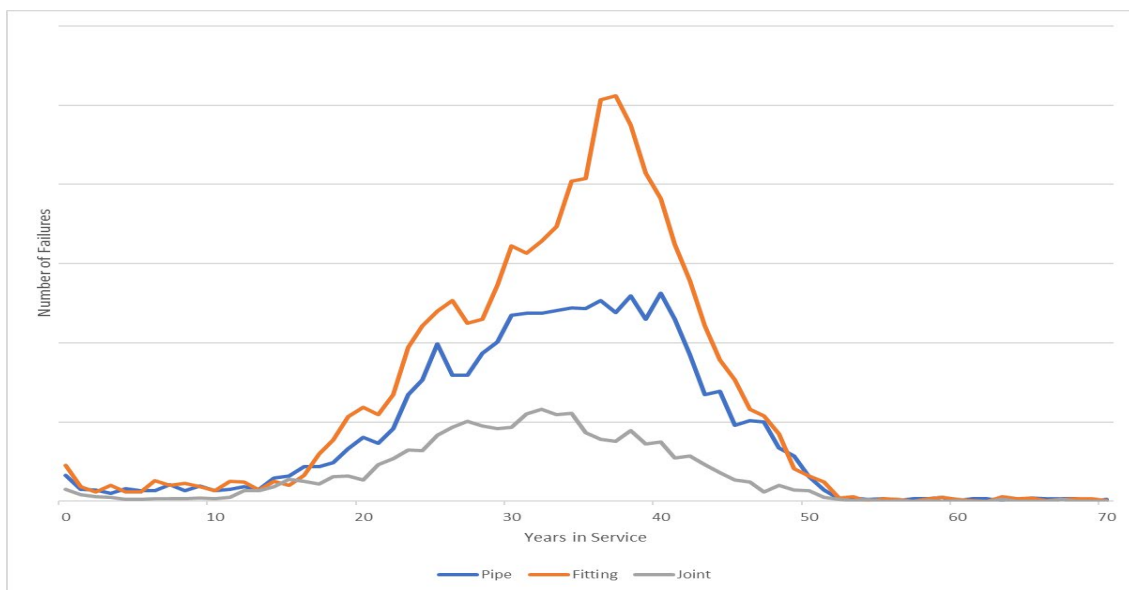
**Figure 1. Failures by Year of Failure as reported to PPDC for Aldyl.**

Table 1 reflects an analysis of the three peaks from Figure 1, comparing a change in fitting type failures from 2000-2005, 2010-2015 and 2016-2021. Noting the increase in Cap-type failures, reference Appendix F for more detailed analysis on Caps.

Fitting Type	% of Aldyl Fitting Failures between 2000 and 2005	% of Aldyl Fitting Failures between 2010 and 2015	% of Aldyl Fitting Failures between 2016 and 2021
Cap	0.2%	59.3%	13.7%
Electrofusion	0.1%	0.5%	1.3%
Heat Fusion	23.7%	17.0%	18.8%
Mechanical Fitting (Bolted)	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Mechanical Fitting (Nut Follower)	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%
Mechanical Fitting (Other)	2.5%	3.5%	2.5%
Mechanical Fitting (Stab)	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Meter Riser	13.6%	4.9%	1.8%
Other	29.0%	1.6%	1.6%
Threaded Cap	0.0%	1.6%	53.2%
Transition	16.1%	1.7%	0.4%
Unknown	4.7%	9.5%	5.2%
Valve	10.0%	1.2%	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

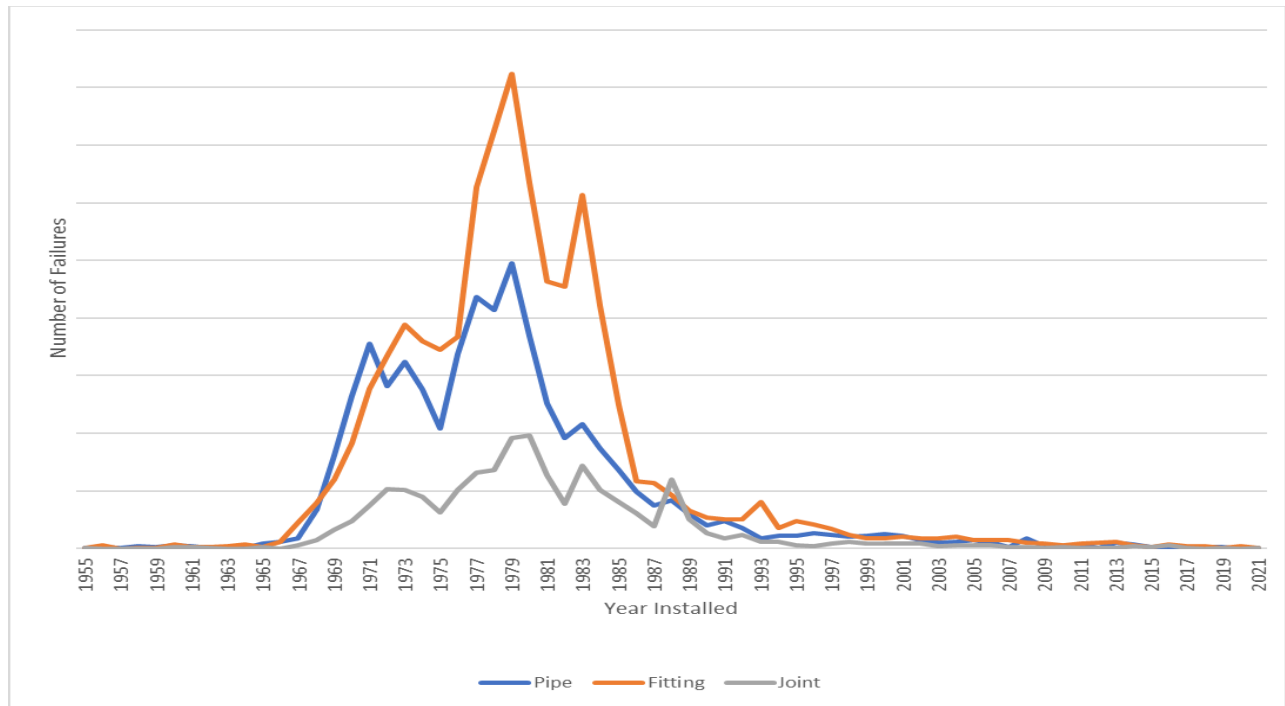
**Table 1: Fitting Types by Year Range of Failure**  
 Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

The distribution of the Years in Service of failures is similar for pipe, fittings and joints (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Failures by Years in Service as reported to PPDC for Aldyl pipe, fittings and joints**

Figure 3 shows the failures by Year Installed. Although Figure 1 shows three data peaks, the year of installation range appears consistent.



**Figure 3. Failures by Year Installed as reported to PPDC for Aldyl pipe, fittings and joints**

Table 2 displays the percentages of failure causes for Aldyl including pipe, fittings and joints.

CAUSE	% of All Dupont & Uponor Failures	% of All Dupont & Uponor Pipe Failures	% of All Dupont & Uponor Fitting Failures	% of All Dupont & Uponor Joint Failures
Cap (Other)	2.8%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Corrosion	1.3%	1.2%	1.6%	0.1%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	1.4%	0.9%	1.2%	4.6%
Excessive External Earth Loading	7.5%	13.6%	4.2%	5.7%
Gopher/Rodent/Worm damage	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Installation Error	22.0%	12.3%	19.5%	64.7%
Material Defect	15.3%	6.9%	22.2%	4.9%
Other	15.5%	17.4%	17.0%	1.8%
Point Loading	9.1%	22.4%	2.3%	4.0%
Previous Impact	1.5%	4.1%	0.1%	0.4%
Squeeze Off	2.5%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	5.5%	0.2%	9.6%	0.0%
Threaded Cap (Loose, not cracked)	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Threaded Cap(Other, Describe)	0.6%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.6%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Unknown	13.9%	11.6%	15.4%	13.3%

Unknown – Abandoned	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown – Not Excavated, Replaced	0.6%	1.1%	0.3%	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 2. Failures by Cause as reported to PPDC for Aldyl pipe, fittings and joints**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

Table 3 displays the percentages of types of Aldyl joints reported to the PPDC. Socket fusions are the most common type to failure.

<b>JOINT</b>	<b>% of All Dupont &amp; Uponor Joint Failures</b>
Butt Fusion	13.9%
Electrofusion	1.5%
Mechanical (Nut Follower)	0.5%
Mechanical (Other)	2.3%
Mechanical (Stab)	0.2%
Saddle Fusion	16.2 %
Socket Fusion	28.7%
Solvent	0.0%
Other	3.2%
Unknown	33.4%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%

**Table 3. Aldyl Joint Types failures as reported to PPDC**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

### **Limitations**

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may have been placed in service or may be in continued service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that come with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

The PPDC Data Report Form does not request brand name, trade name or product name. The PPDC’s definition of Aldyl is broader than the product name of Aldyl A.

### **Discussion**

The information shown represents the detailed review of the available Aldyl failure data by the PPDC and is intended to help operators in the analysis of their own systems and where applicable, for consideration in DIMP methodologies.

Aldyl failure data continues to be reported. Moreover, as depicted in Figure 1, there are now three peaks of failure data submissions (2000-2005, 2010-2015, 2016-2021). Analysis has determined that the range of installation years for these peaks appears consistent. Therefore, the installation years are more reflective of materials experiencing failures. Failure causes demonstrate that installation practices and the operating environment can greatly impact the service life of the Aldyl piping.

Operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity assessment, risk analysis and mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix E: PE 3306 Data Analysis – June 2021

### Background

Polyethylene (PE) pipe manufactured from PE3306 resin was included in PHMSA advisories<sup>17</sup> as one of the historically known materials susceptible to brittle-like cracking<sup>18</sup>. PE3306 resins include pipe manufactured by companies such as Swanson, Orangeburg and Yardley, starting in the 1950s and peaking in the 1970s.

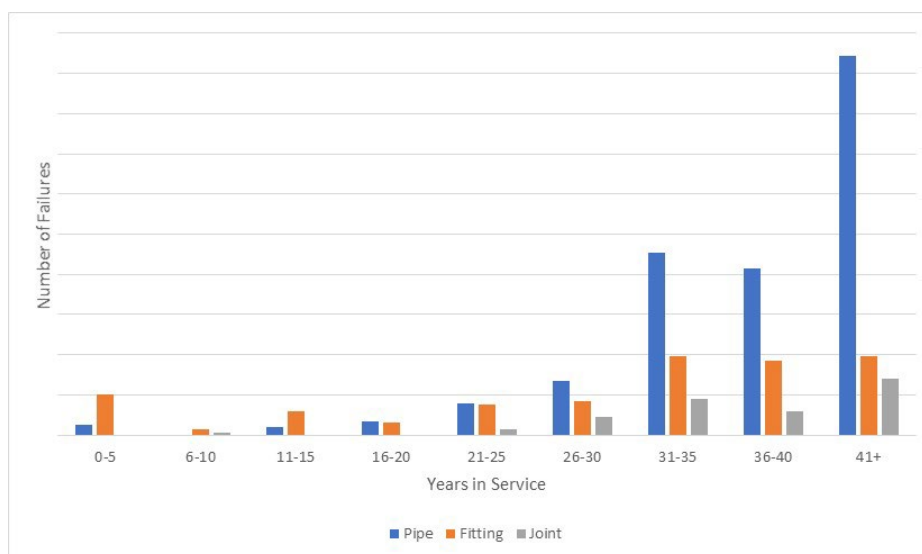
The objective of this appendix is to provide information from the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) database about PE3306 pipe, fittings, and joints.

### Methods

The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding third party damages. The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by material. More information about the PPDC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

### Results

PE3306 failures represent less than 1% of all the reports in the database. The majority of the reported failures occur on pipe (55%), other categories include fittings (29%), joints (12%) and unknown (4.5%, includes blank). Figure 1 shows the distribution of failures for pipe, fittings and joints by years in service and indicates an accelerated rate of failure for PE3306 in service for over 20 years.



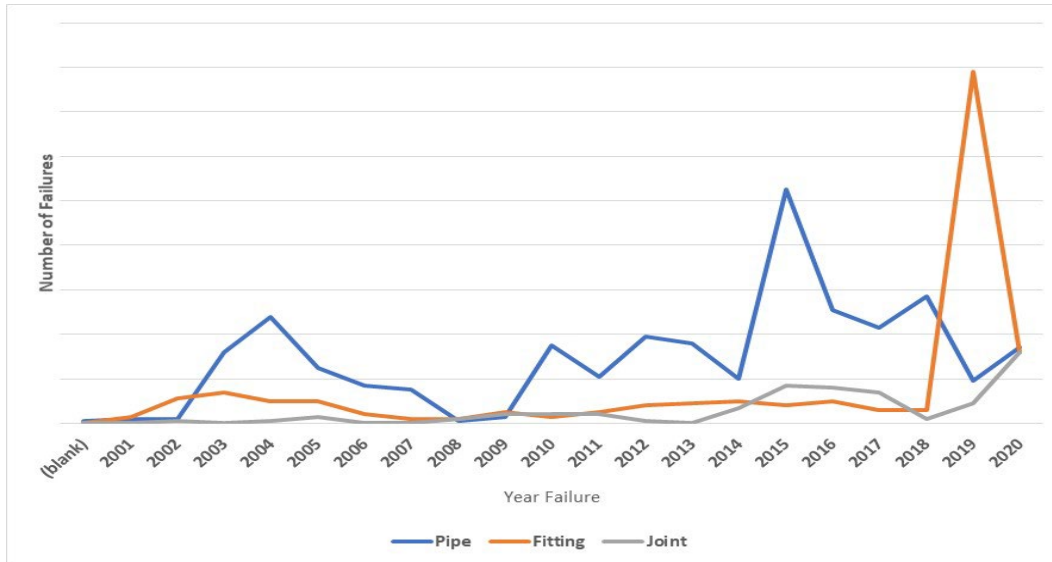
**Figure 1. PE3306 Failures by Years in Service, 5 Year Intervals.**

<sup>17</sup> DOT Advisory Bulletin ADB-07-01, *Updated Notification of Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 72, Number 172, p. 51301; ADB-02-07, *Notification of the Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 228, p. 70806, November 26, 2002 and corrected Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 232, p. 72027, December 3, 2002; ADB-99-02, *Potential Failures Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe in Natural Gas Distribution Systems*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 1212; ADB-99-01, *Potential Failure Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Certain Polyethylene Plastic Pipe Manufactured by Century Utility Products Inc.*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 12211.

<sup>18</sup> *Brittle-Like Cracking in Plastic Pipe For Gas Service*, NTSB Report No. NTSB/SIR-98/01, National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, D.C., April 1998.

Figure 2 shows the failures by year of failure. Of these PE3306 failures that have occurred, the majority of those with reported sizes (90%) are associated with service size piping (1” CTS in diameter or less) and 75% are ½” CTS.

As a result of recent entries, the data on types of failures has changed. Specifically, failures involving fittings now exceed pipe failures. The 2019 spike on fittings is due to threaded caps (56%), valves (28%) and mechanical nut follower (16%).



**Figure 2. Failures by Year of Failure as Reported to PPDC for PE3306**

Table 1 displays the percentages of failure causes for PE3306 including pipe, fittings and joints. The highest identified failure causes are squeeze off for pipe, material defect for fittings and other for joints.

**Table 1. Failures by Cause for PE3306 Pipe, Fittings, Joints (Less than 1% of All Reports in the Database)**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

Cause	% of All PE3306 Pipe Failures	% of All PE3306 Fitting Failures	% of All PE3306 Joint Failures	% of All PE 3306 Failure / Leaks Total
Corrosion	0.0%	8.2%	0.0%	2.5%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	0.8%	8.5%	10.1%	4.2%
Excessive External Earth Loading	8.4%	2.2%	4.2%	6.1%
Installation Error	0.8%	18.7%	37.8%	10.5%
Material Defect	5.1%	13.9%	15.1%	8.9%
Other	7.3%	3.5%	23.5%	8.0%
Point Loading	21.3%	2.5%	0.8%	13.3%
Previous Impact	1.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%
Squeeze Off	40.8%	2.2%	0.0%	24.4%



Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	1.9%
Threaded Cap (Loose cap, not cracked)	0.0%	10.1%	0.0%	3.1%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.2%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%
Unknown	13.5%	22.2%	8.4%	15.6%
Unknown- Abandoned	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
<b>% of All PE 3306 Failure /Leaks Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Limitations

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that comes with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

## Discussion

The information shown represents the detailed review of the available PE3306 failure data by the PPDC and is intended to help operators in the analysis of their own systems and where applicable, for consideration in DIMP methodologies.

While the amount of PE3306 failures reported to the PPDC is relatively small, this material is of particular interest because of its susceptibility to brittle-like cracking as evidenced by the high percentage of squeeze off and point loading which is approximately 62% of the PE3306 data for pipe. Recent reports of failure indicate this product is still in service.

Operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity assessment, risk analysis and mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix F: Cap Data Analysis – June 2021

### Background

In its Status Reports, the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) has recognized the following two historically known issues:

- DuPont Aldyl® service tee with a white Delrin® polyacetal threaded insert
- Plexco service tee with Celcon® polyacetal threaded cap

The objective of this appendix is to provide more detailed information from the PPDC database about these known cap issues, as well as caps from other manufacturers and materials for comparison. For purposes of this Appendix, ‘other manufacturers’ includes manufacturers other than DuPont and Plexco as well as reported failures from unspecified manufacturers.

### Methods

The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding third party damages. The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by manufacturer. More information about the PPDC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

Originally, cap was not listed as a type of fitting on the standard report form. In the process of reviewing historical data, the PPDC identified caps as an area of interest. In 2017, Threaded Cap was added to the report form as a type of fitting. Four new failure causes specific to caps were also added.

### Results

Caps represent approximately 19% of all reports in the database and 41% of all fitting failures. Figure 1 shows elevated reports of cap failures in recent years.

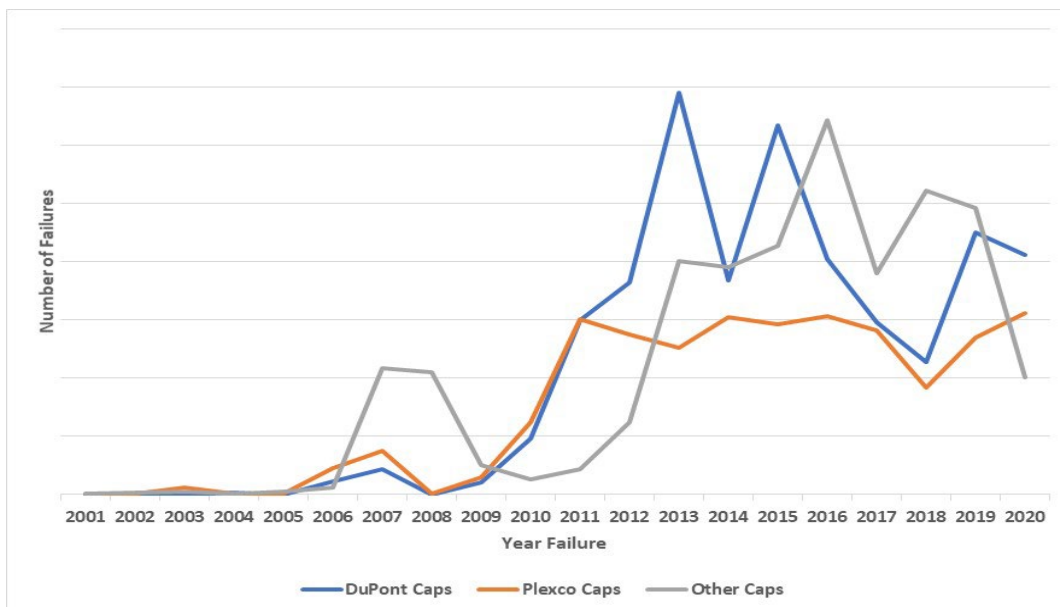
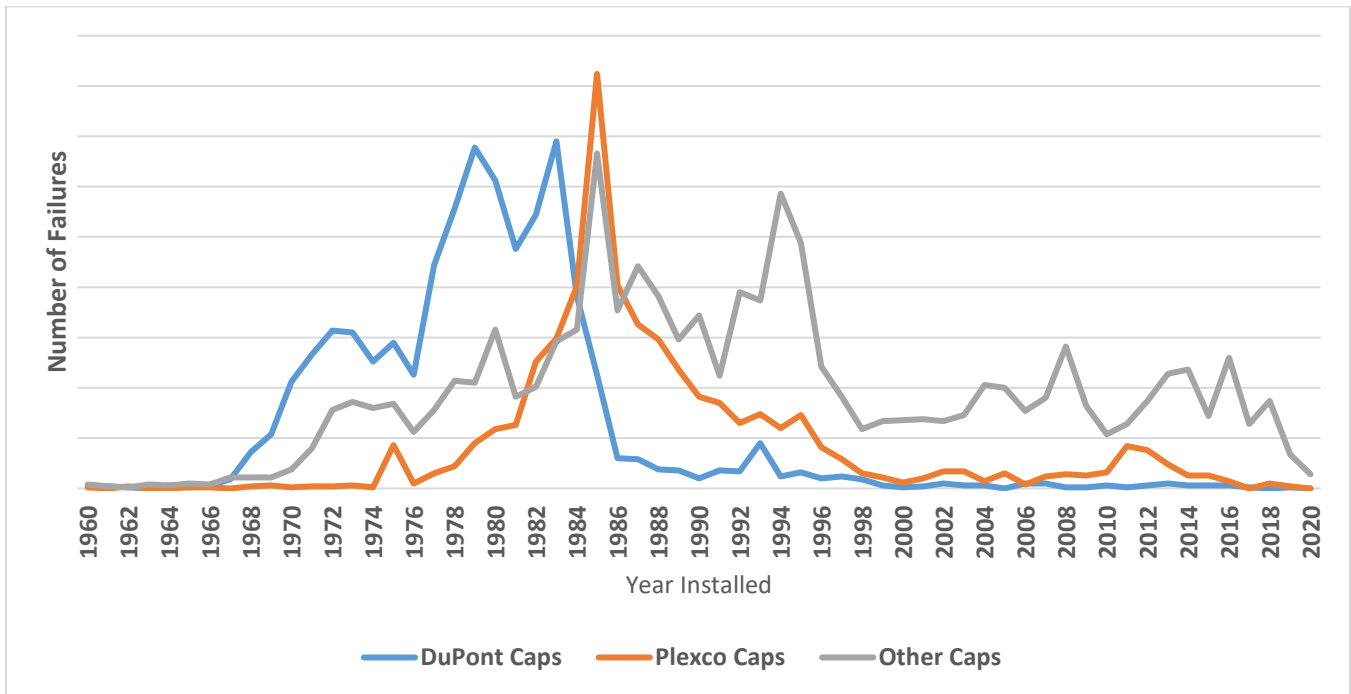


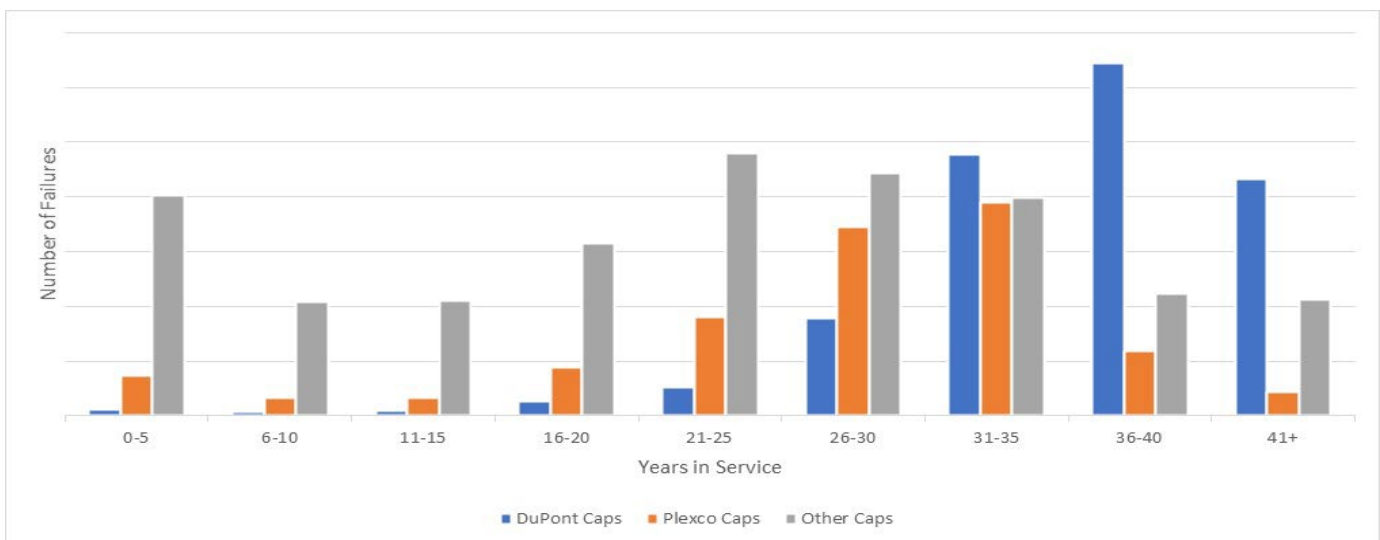
Figure 1. Failures by Year of Failure

Figure 2 shows concentrations of failures in specific installation years for DuPont, Plexco and Other Manufacturers. The year of installation was reported for 42% of DuPont cap data, 42% of Plexco cap data, and 69% of Other Manufacturers cap data. Overall, the year of installation was reported for 62% for all cap data. The installation dates for DuPont and Plexco match what is historically known about the manufacturing timeframes. Because the year of installation data is limited, the DuPont and Plexco peaks identified below are underrepresented.



**Figure 2. Failures by Year Installed**

Figure 3 shows the failure by years in service in 5 year intervals reflecting the performance over time.



**Figure 3. Failures by Years in Service, 5 Year Intervals**

Table 1 provides the distribution of reported material types for the cap failures. The majority of materials reported for DuPont and Plexco are reflective of the known issues.

Material	% of DuPont Caps Failures	% of Plexco Caps Failures	% of Other Caps Failures
ABS	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Celcon	0.0%	75.4%	0.2%
Delrin	56.7%	0.0%	0.0%
HDPE 3306	0.0%	0.5%	1.0 %
HDPE 3406	0.1%	0.4%	4.5%
HDPE 3408	0.0%	0.8%	13.5%
MDPE 2306	14.5%	6.7%	14.5%
MDPE 2406	18.6%	7.7%	48.4%
Nylon	6.4%	4.4%	9.5%
Other	3.6%	2.8%	2.1%
PA 11	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
PE-2708	0.0%	0.6%	2.0%
PE-4710	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Polyacetal or POM	0.0%	0.5%	1.6 %
PVC	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Steel	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Table 1. Cap Failures by Material Type**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

NOTE: Celcon® and Delrin® are polyoxymethylene (POM) also known as polyacetal. These are trade names not material types; but were reported as a material type.

Table 2 shows cap failures by cause. Material Defect was the major cause for DuPont and Plexco cap failures. It should be noted that the cause shown as “Not Recorded” or left blank has been moved to the “Unknown” data.

Cause	% of DuPont Caps Failures	% of Plexco Caps Failures	% of Other Manufacturer Caps Failures
Cap (Other)	11.1%	11.1%	20.1%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	1.5%	0.6%	5.2%
Excessive External Earth Loading	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Installation Error	10.4%	4.4%	20.9%
Material Defect	36.1%	40.1%	14.1%
Other	4.2%	7.4%	2.0%
Point Loading	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%

Threaded Cap (Cracked Cap)	19.4%	18.7%	7.3%
Threaded Cap (Loose cap, not cracked)	1.1%	1.7%	13.3%
Threaded Cap (Other, describe)	0.1%	0.0%	2.6%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	2.5%	2.5%	4.2%
Unknown	12.8%	12.6%	9.7%
Unknown – Abandoned	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 2. Cap Failures by Cause**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

### Limitations

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that comes with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, etc., has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

### Discussion

Cap failures reported to the PPDC are of particular interest due to known historical issues and have been included in a PHMSA Advisory Bulletin<sup>19</sup>. The fact that reported cap failures have been elevated in recent years, as indicated on Figure 1, may be attributable to operators preparing for and implementing Distribution Integrity Management Programs and Mechanical Fitting Failure Reports.

Figure 2 indicates that failures reported for DuPont were primarily on caps installed in the 1970s and 1980s and Plexco primarily in the 1980s and 1990s, while failures for other manufacturers' caps also include a peak for installations in the mid-1990s. The primary cause of failures for the mid-1990s peak is material defect.

Given the recently submitted data, operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity

<sup>19</sup> DOT Advisory Bulletin ADB-07-01, *Updated Notification of Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 72, Number 172, p. 51301; ADB-02-07, *Notification of the Susceptibility to Premature Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe*, Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 228, p. 70806, November 26, 2002 and corrected Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 232, p. 72027, December 3, 2002; ADB-99-02, *Potential Failures Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Older Plastic Pipe in Natural Gas Distribution Systems*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 1212; ADB-99-01, *Potential Failure Due to Brittle-Like Cracking of Certain Polyethylene Plastic Pipe Manufactured by Century Utility Products Inc.*, Federal Register, Volume 64, p. 12211.

assessment, risk analysis and mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix G: AMP Data Analysis - December 2020

### Background

Fittings commonly known as AMP-FIT or AMP were manufactured in the 1970s and 1980s for use in natural gas distribution systems. These fittings were primarily used in natural gas service line applications and main line repairs. Rights to the manufacturing process and name of the fittings went through changes as they were sold to other manufacturers including Uponor in 1996.<sup>20</sup>

The objective of this appendix is to provide information from the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) database about AMP fittings and joints.

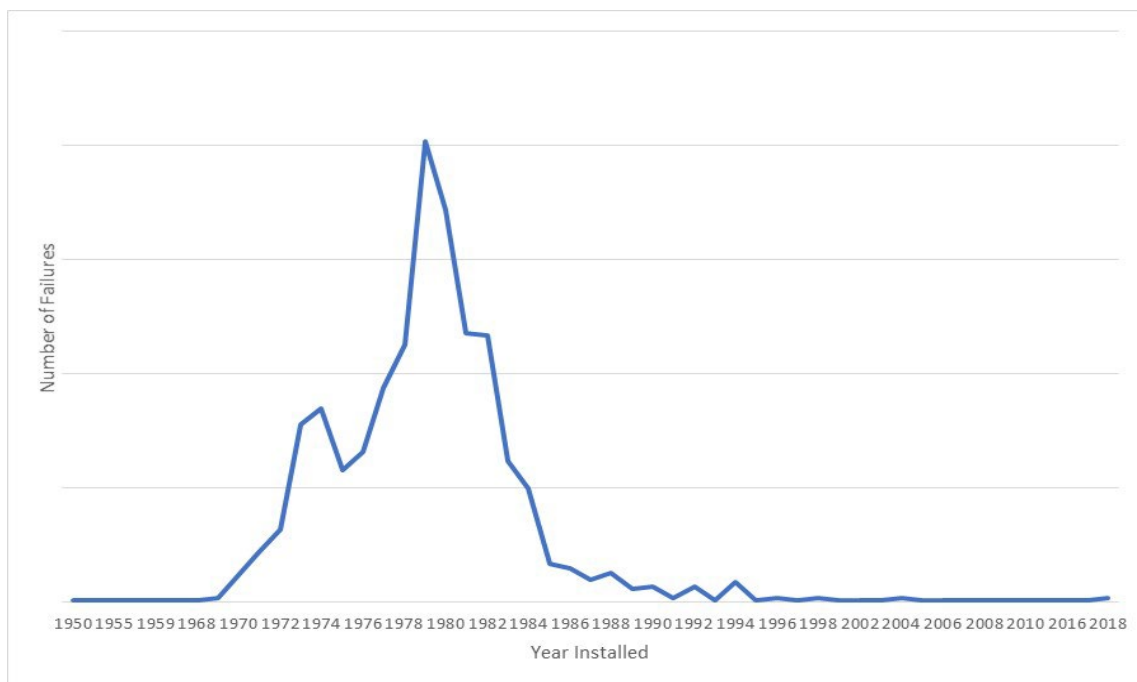
### Methods

The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding third party damages. The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by material. More information about the PPDC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

### Results

AMP represents approximately 2% of all the reports in the database. The majority of the data reported (83%) are fitting failures.

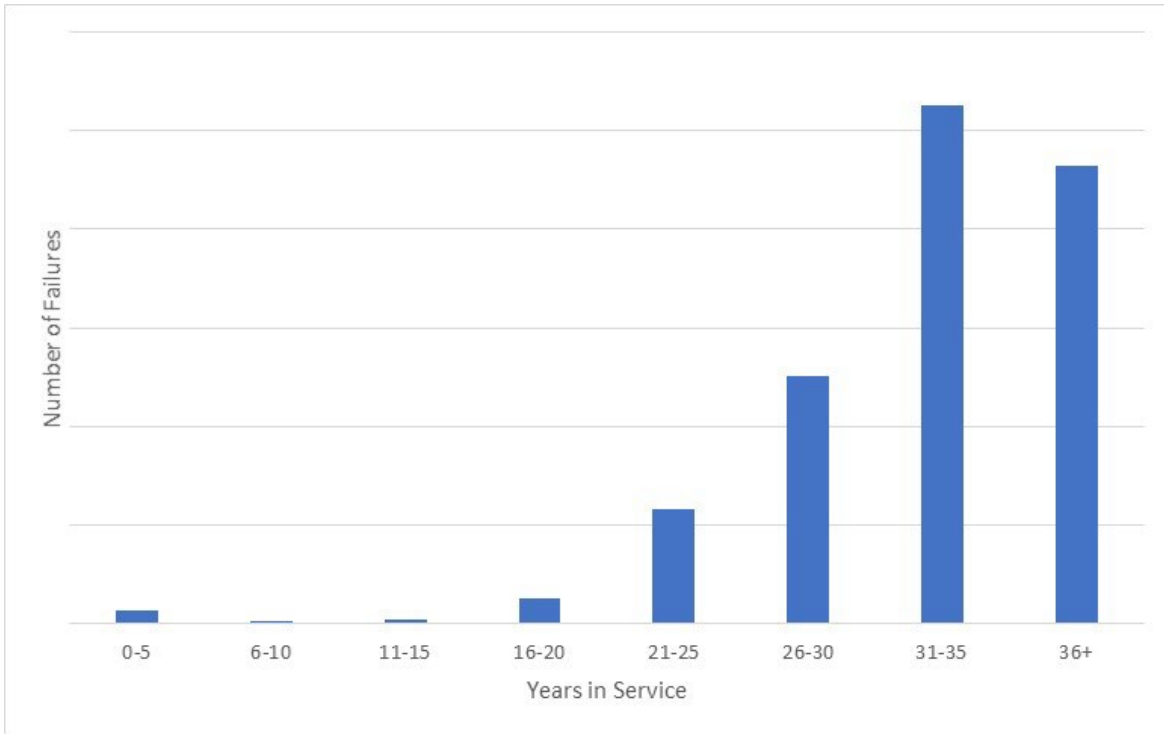
Figure 1 shows AMP failures by year installed, which depicts the majority being installed between 1970 and 1990.



**Figure 1. AMP Failures by Year Installed**

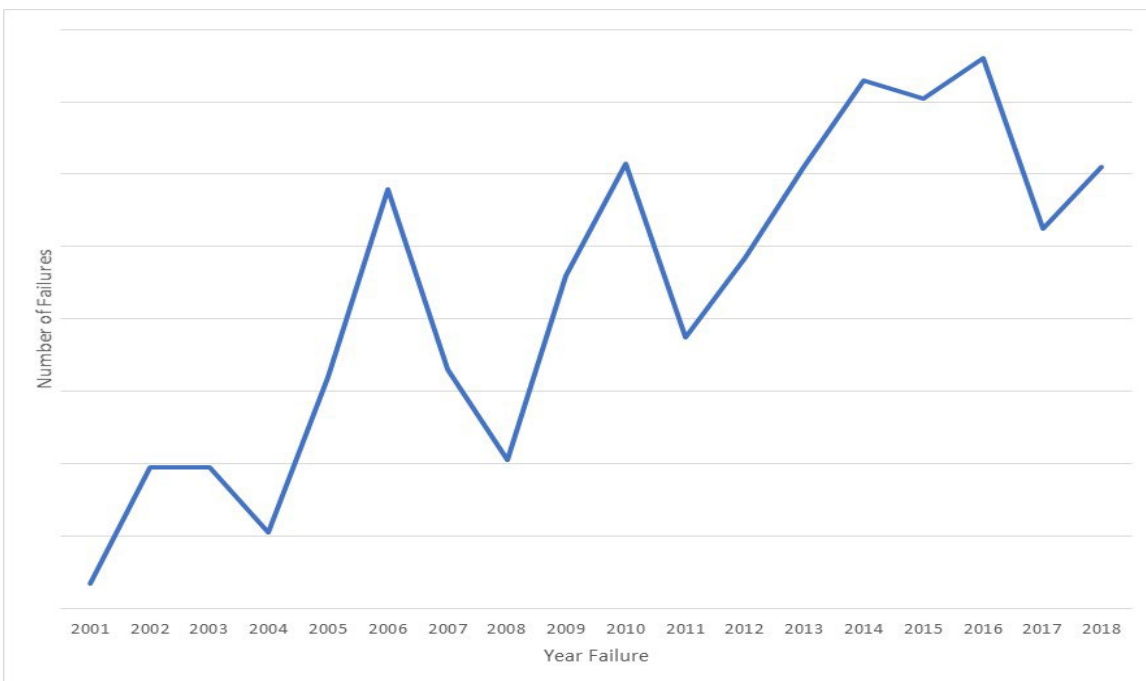
<sup>20</sup> Uponor in the US is now part of J M Eagle™.

The distribution of failures for AMP by years in service is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. AMP Failures by Years in Service, 5 year intervals**

Figure 3 shows the failures by year of failure. The number of reported failures is variable across the years.



**Figure 3. AMP Failures by Year of Failure**



Table 1 displays the percentages of failure causes for AMP. The highest reported failure causes are material defect and unknown (each 38% and 24%), followed by excessive external earth loading (15%). Although corrosion is reported as being only 0.4% of the data submitted, based on the expertise of the PPDC members, it is our opinion corrosion of the external steel compression rings may be a larger contributing factor than represented by the data submitted.

Cause	% of Total AMP Failure
Cap (Other)	0.1%
Corrosion	0.4%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	3.1%
Excessive External Earth Loading	14.9%
Installation Error	12.3%
Material Defect	38.9%
Other	5.4%
Point Loading	0.8%
Previous Impact	0.1%
Threaded Cap (Loose cap, not cracked)	0.1%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.2%
Unknown	23.6%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 1. Failures by Cause for AMP**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

### Limitations

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that comes with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

### Discussion

The information shown represents the detailed review of the available AMP failure data by the PPDC and is intended to help operators in the analysis of their own systems and where applicable, for consideration in DIMP methodologies.

Operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity assessment, risk analysis and

mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix H: PVC Data Analysis - December 2020

### Background

Due to the evolution of piping materials and construction methods, the installation of new PVC pipe diminished significantly due to operator preferences after the mid-1980s. PVC is currently used only for repair purposes.

According to data submitted to PHMSA on annual reports, mileage for PVC has been decreasing since 2000. Approximately 10,289 miles of main were reported in 2019.

The objective of this appendix is to provide information from the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) database about PVC pipe, fittings and joints.

### Methods

The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding third party damages. The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by material. More information about the PPDC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

### Results

PVC represents approximately 3% of all the reports in the database. The majority of the reported failures occur on fittings (72%). Other categories include joints (24%), pipe (4%), and not recorded (less than 1%).

The distribution of failures for pipe, fittings and joints by years in service is shown in Figure 1.

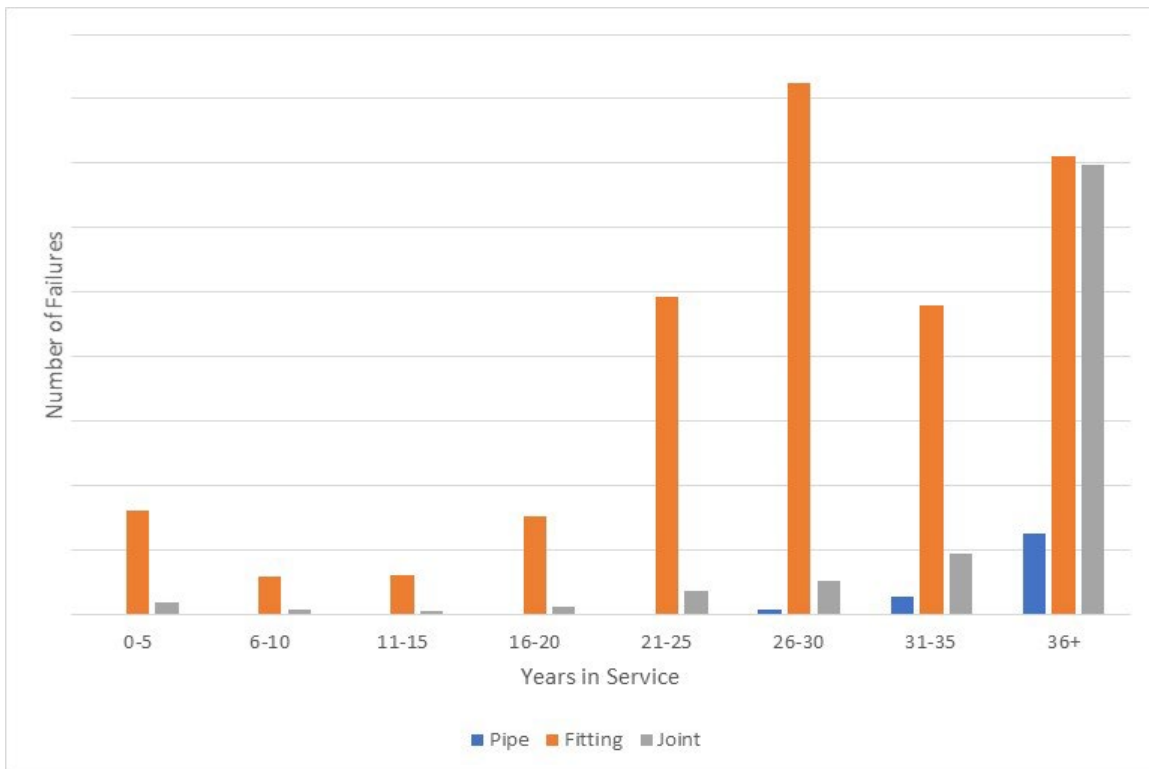
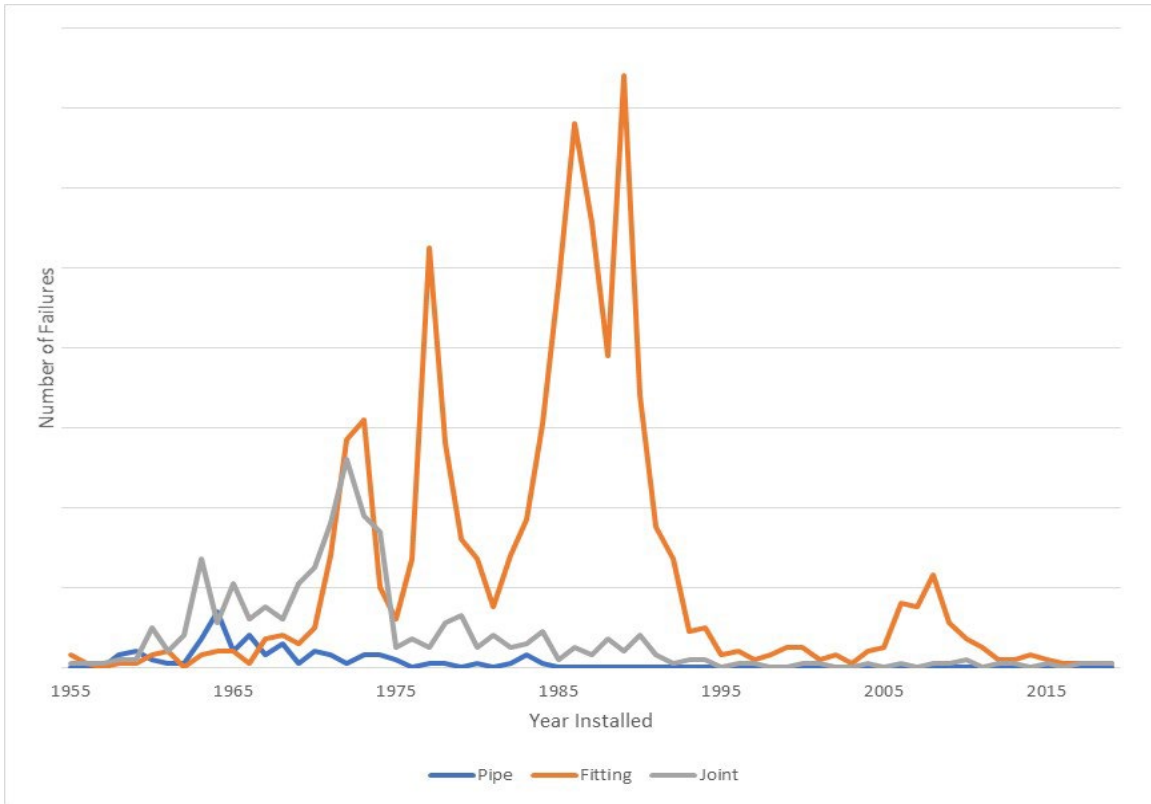


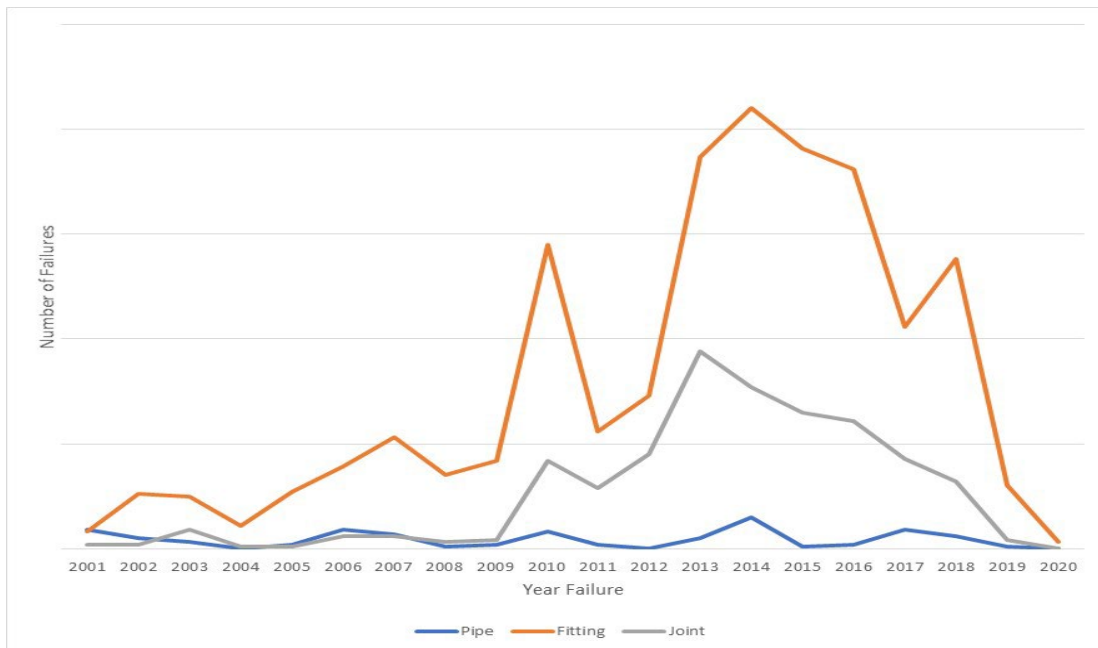
Figure 1. PVC Failures by Years in Service, 5 year intervals

Figure 2 shows the failures by year installed. This chart also demonstrates the lack of pipe installation after the mid-1980s.



**Figure 2. PVC failures by Year Installed**

Figure 3 shows the failures by year of failure. The plot shows the trend of failures of fittings and joints.



**Figure 3. PVC Failures by Year of Failure**

Table 1 displays the percentages of failure causes for PVC including pipe, fittings and joints. The highest failure causes for PVC fittings, which are the majority of failures, are material defect and installation error. The highest recorded failure cause for joints is installation error. The highest failure cause for pipe is point loading.

Cause	% of All PVC Pipe Failures	% of All PVC Fitting Failures	% of All PVC Joint Failures	Total
Cap (Other)	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%
Corrosion	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	3.4%	2.9%	0.6%	2.4%
Excessive External Earth Loading	17.2%	5.9%	8.4%	6.9%
Installation Error	6.9%	41.7%	20.0	35.1%
Material Defect	13.8%	38.9%	19.0%	33.1%
Other	1.1%	2.2%	4.6%	2.7%
Point Loading	31.0%	0.4%	1.3%	1.9%
Previous Impact	4.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.7%
Squeeze Off	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Threaded Cap(Loose cap, not cracked)	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Threaded Cap (Other, describe)	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Unknown	16.1%	6.4%	45.6%	16.1%
Unknown - Not Excavated, Replaced	2.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 1. Failures by Cause for PVC pipe, fittings and joints**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

### Limitations

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that comes with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

**Discussion**

The information shown represents the detailed review of the available PVC failure data by the PPDC and is intended to help operators in the analysis of their own systems and where applicable, for consideration in DIMP methodologies.

The spike in fitting failures in Figure 2, between 2005 and 2011, are primarily attributed to material defect and occur between 0 and 5 years in service.

Operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity assessment, risk analysis and mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix I: Kerotest Data Analysis - March 2022

### Background

Kerotest began manufacturing a variety of plastic gas carrying components including valves in the 1980s. The objective of this appendix is to provide information from the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) database about Kerotest fittings and joints due to elevated failure reports in recent years for valves installed between 1985 and 1992. Kerotest provides a customer letter addressing their investigation of Kerotite valves on their website at <https://kerotest.com/kerotite-customer-letter-2/>

### Methods

The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding immediate failures due to excavation damage.

### Results

Kerotest failures represent approximately 7% of all the reports in the database. The majority of the Kerotest data reported (72%) are fitting failures and 28% are reported as joint failure.

Table 1 shows Kerotest fitting failures by type. Of the fitting failures, approximately 85% are reported as plastic valves. Comments provided in reports identify that 16% of the reported valve failures are due to the valve's compression connections<sup>21</sup>.

<b>FITTING</b>	<b>% of All Kerotest Fitting Failures</b>
Electrofusion	0.1%
Heat Fusion	0.2%
Mechanical Fitting (Other)	8.0%
Mechanical Fitting (Nut Follower)	3.3%
Meter Riser	2.8%
Other	0.2%
Threaded Cap	0.1%
Transition	0.2%
Valve (Plastic)	84.9%
Unknown	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 1. Kerotest Fitting Failures by Type**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

Table 2 shows Kerotest joint failures by type. Of the joint failures, approximately 96% are mechanical.

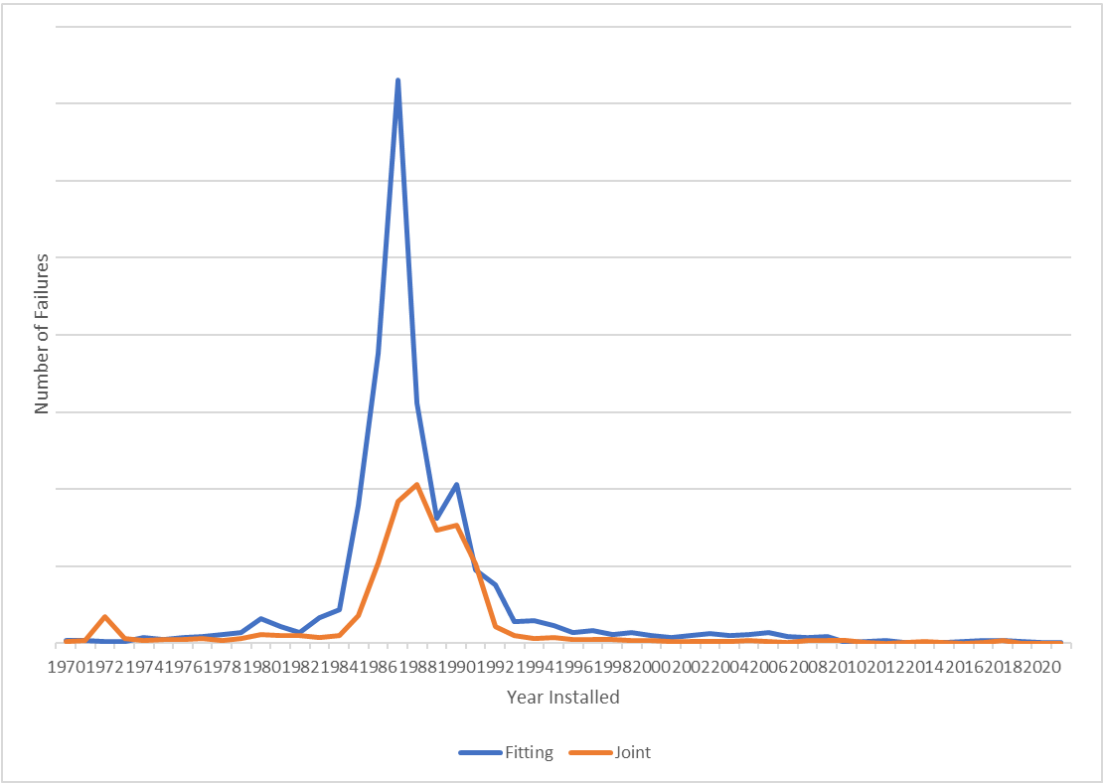
<b>JOINT</b>	<b>% of All Kerotest Joint Failures</b>
Butt Fusion	0.5%
Electrofusion	0.4%
Mechanical (Nut Follower)	25.0%

<sup>21</sup> Analysis as of March 2022

Mechanical (Other)	70.4%
Mechanical (Stab)	0.2%
Other	0.5%
Saddle Fusion	0.4%
Socket Fusion	0.2%
Unknown	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%

**Table 2. Kerotest Joint Failures by Type**  
 Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

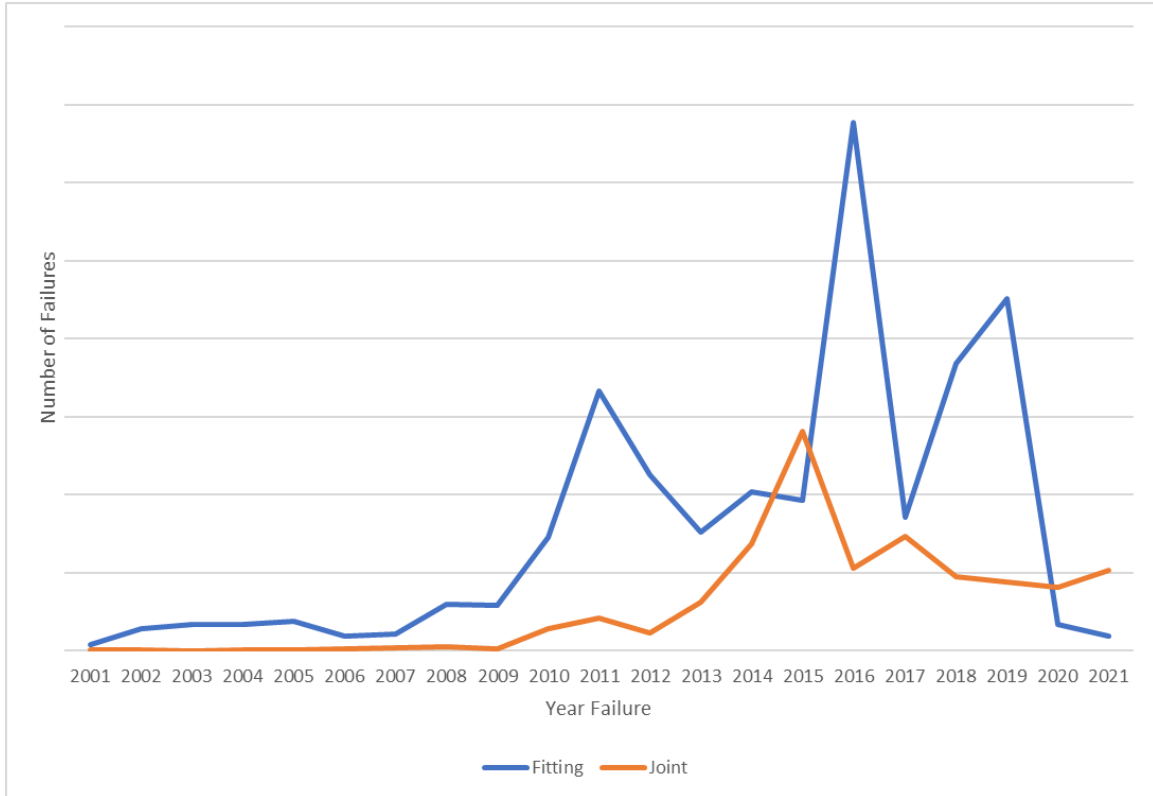
Figure 1 shows Kerotest fittings and joint failures by year installed, which depicts the majority being installed between 1985 and 1992.



**Figure 1. Kerotest Fitting and Joint Failures by Year Installed**

Figure 2 shows the Kerotest fitting and joint failures by year of failure and shows elevated reports in 2016 and 2018.





**Figure 2. Kerotest Fitting and Joint Failures by Year of Failure**

Table 3 displays the percentages of failure causes for Kerotest.

CAUSE	% of All Kerotest Failures	% of All Kerotest Fitting Failures	% of All Kerotest Joint Failures
All Cap	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Corrosion	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	7.1%	8.5%	3.1%
Excessive External Earth Loading	1.4%	1.0%	2.4%
Installation Error	9.7%	10.8%	6.6%
Material Defect	30.5%	27.1%	39.6%
Other	10.3%	6.2%	21.4%
Previous Impact	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Squeeze Off	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
Unknown	40.1%	45.2%	26.2%
Unknown – Not Excavated, Replaced	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 3. Failures by Cause for Kerotest**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

**Limitations**

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that come with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

**Discussion**

The information shown represents the detailed review of the available Kerotest failure data by the PPDC and is intended to help operators in the analysis of their own systems and where applicable, for consideration in DIMP methodologies.

Operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity assessment, risk analysis, and mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix J: Driscopipe® High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe Data Analysis –December 2020

### Background

Driscopipe® 7000 HDPE pipe was sold from approximately 1973 through 1980 and Driscopipe 8000 HDPE pipe was sold from late 1979 through 2000 by Phillips Products Company, a subsidiary of Phillips Chemical Company which was later called Phillips Driscopipe, Inc. The pipes were produced from Marlex® M-7000 and M-8000 compounded black resins produced by Phillips Chemical Company.

The manufacturer worked with operators and identified two product concerns with Driscopipe HDPE pipe. One concern related to both Phillips Driscopipe 7000 and 8000 pipe is degradation in high temperature applications. Information about this is available on the manufacturer's website at <http://www.performancepipe.com/en-us/Documents/DriscopipeDegradation.pdf>. In March 2012, this concern was highlighted through PHMSA Advisory Bulletin ADB-2012-03 <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations-fr/notices/2012-5424>.

The second concern is related to plastic contamination known to have occurred in Phillips Driscopipe 8000 pipes. Information about this is available on the manufacturer's website at <http://www.performancepipe.com/en-us/Documents/DriscopipeContamination.pdf>.

The objective of this appendix is to provide information from the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) about Driscopipe HDPE pipe manufactured by Phillips Driscopipe.

### Methods

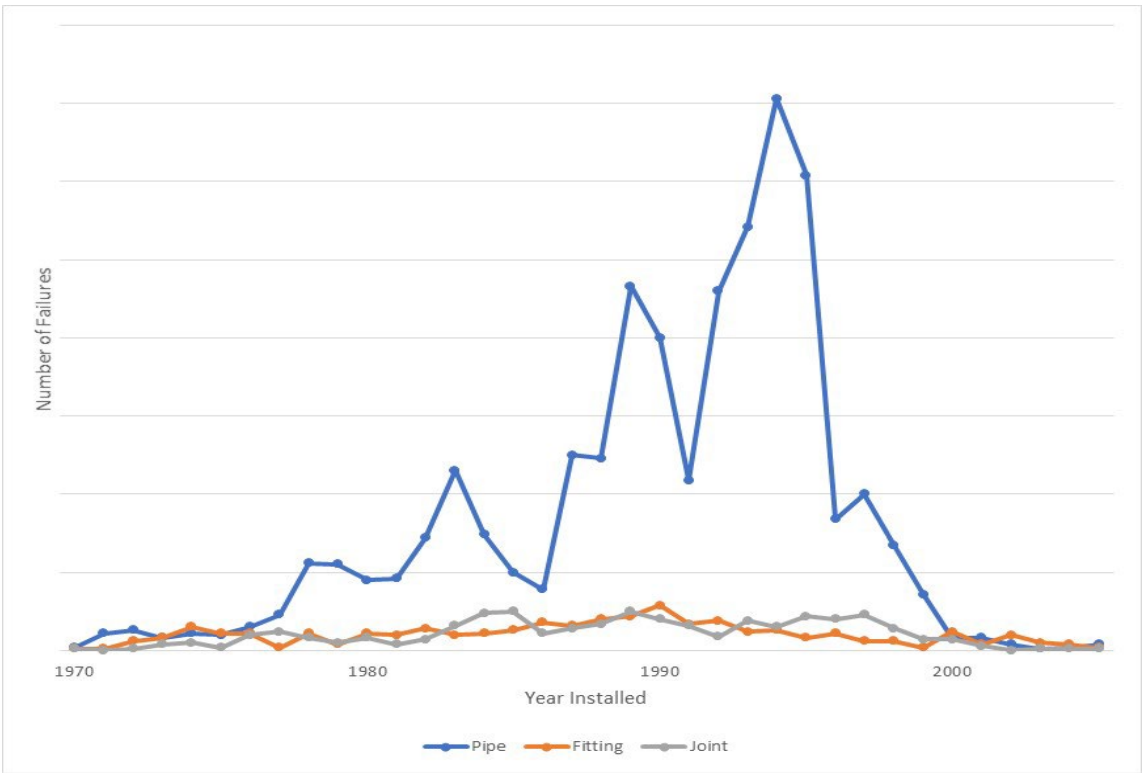
The information below reflects data collected by the PPDC. PPDC collects information voluntarily submitted by gas distribution pipeline operators on failures of metal or plastic appurtenances contained within plastic piping systems excluding third party damages. The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by material. More information about the PPDC can be found at <https://www.aga.org/safety/promoting-safety/plastic-pipe-database-collection-initiative/>.

The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by Manufacturer. Driscopipe is a registered trademark for pipe produced by Phillips Driscopipe. This analysis was limited to Phillips Driscopipe HDPE data which includes Phillips Driscopipe 7000 and 8000 pipes.

### Results

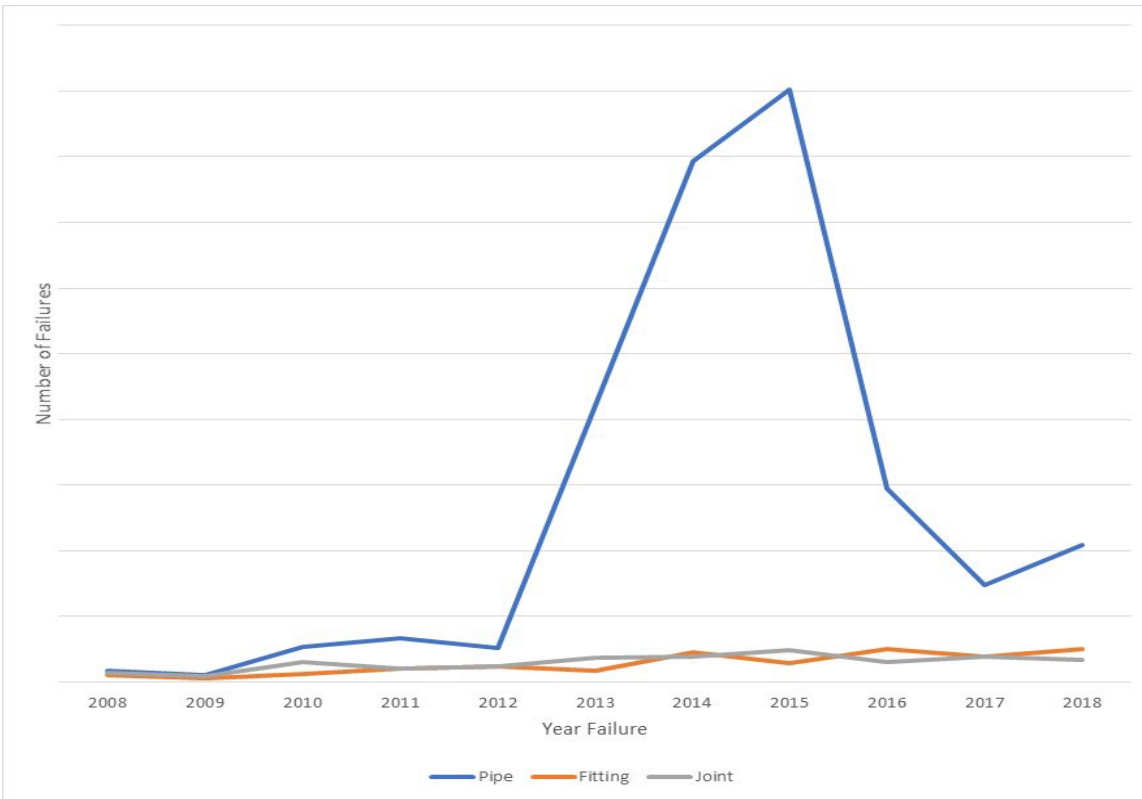
Phillips Driscopipe HDPE represents approximately 4% of all the reports in the database. The majority of the Phillips Driscopipe data reported are pipe failures (76%).

Figure 1 shows Phillips Driscopipe HDPE failures by year installed.



**Figure 1. Phillips Driscopipe HDPE Failures by Year Installed**

Figure 2 shows Philips Driscopipe HDPE failures by year of failure. Following the various notifications in 2012, there was an immediate increase in reports to the PPDC.



**Figure 2. Phillips Driscopipe HDPE Failures by Year of Failure**

Table 1 shows Phillips Driscopipe HDPE failures by material type.

Material	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Pipe Failures	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Fitting Failures	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Joint Failures	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Failures
HDPE 3306	3.0%	4.0%	2.9%	3.1%
HDPE 3406	7.4%	28.1%	19.8%	11.2%
HDPE 3408	89.6%	67.9%	77.3%	85.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 1. Failures by Material Type for Phillips Driscopipe**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

The material designation of Driscopipe 7000 was PE3306 and PE3406 (due to a change in ASTM standards). The material designation of Driscopipe 8000 was PE3408.

Table 2 shows Phillips Driscopipe HDPE failures by cause. It should be noted that the cause shown as “Not Recorded” or left blank has been moved to the “Unknown” data.

Cause	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Pipe Failures	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Fitting Failures	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Joint Failures	% of All Driscopipe HDPE Failures
Cap (Other)	0.0%	14.3%	0.4%	1.7%
Corrosion	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%
Excessive Expansion/Contraction	0.4%	2.1%	3.1%	0.9 %
Excessive External Earth Loading	2.3%	3.0%	3.1%	2.5%
Gopher/rodent/worm damage	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Installation Error	1.1%	11.7%	47.4 %	7.5%
Material Defect	81.9%	12.8%	5.8%	65.3%
Other	2.2%	9.4%	4.5%	3.3%
Point Loading	5.3 %	2.3%	3.1%	4.7%
Previous Impact	0.8%	0.9%	0.2%	0.8%
Squeeze Off	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.6%
Threaded Cap (Loose cap, not cracked)	0.0%	8.1 %	0.0%	1.0%
Threaded Cap (Other, describe)	0.0%	10.9%	0.0%	1.3%
Threaded Cap (Seal/O-ring defect)	0.1%	6.4%	0.0%	0.8%
Unknown	3.5%	17.7%	32.1%	8.4%
Unknown - Abandoned	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 2. Failures by Cause for Phillips Driscopipe**

Note: Percentages less than 0.1% are not listed in the chart

Material defect is the predominant cause for all Phillips Driscopipe HDPE pipe failures (87.4% %). Approximately 40% of the Phillips Driscopipe HDPE Pipe Failures was on 2 IPS pipe and 27% was on ½ IPS and CTS.

### **Limitations**

Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S.

Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, reports are not associated with operator; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by location.

The PPDC database is a volunteer database and has inherent properties pertaining to the accuracy that comes with volunteer surveillance data. The data, such as manufacturer, other, year installed, year manufactured and failure cause, has not been independently tested, evaluated, verified for accuracy or audited.

### **Discussion**

The information shown represents the detailed review of the available Phillips Driscopipe HDPE failure data by the PPDC and is intended to help operators in the analysis of their own systems and where applicable, for consideration in DIMP methodologies.

Operators should look at the performance of their own piping systems. Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including facility condition, past engineering practices and materials. Each operator should evaluate the actions in light of system variables, the operator's independent integrity assessment, risk analysis and mitigation strategy. The responsibility lies with each operator to determine how best to utilize the information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix K: Questions from Stakeholder Groups about the PPDC and PPDC Data

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their June 2021 meeting.

**Question from PHMSA:** What does the PPDC database show for butt fusion joint failures overall, and in particular 8 inch to 12 inch?

**Response from PPDC:** Butt fusion joint failures represent 1.7% of total database. Of those butt fusion joint failures 0.6% of these failures are 8 inch and larger. Of the 8 inch and larger 77% are due to installation error.

At the August 2019 meeting, the following analysis was performed based on an NTSB release. On February 25, 2019, the NTSB issued a Pipeline Accident Brief on the incident that occurred on July 2, 2017 in Millersville, PA. The NTSB identified the probable cause of the failure was "...an improperly installed mechanical tapping tee that leaked and allowed gas to migrate into the home where it ignited." The NTSB issued two recommendations to Honeywell International, Incorporated:

- Update your PermaLock mechanical tapping tee assembly installation instructions to specify the exact tools that should be used during installation and explain what an installer should sense while using those tools throughout the installation process. (Safety Recommendation P-18-003)
- Specify in your PermaLock mechanical tapping tee assembly installation instructions a not-to-exceed torque limit for Nylon bolts and have that value checked and adjusted with a torque wrench immediately after installation (Safety Recommendation P-18-004)

From the NTSB Safety Recommendation Report, "Perfection Corporation, later known as Elster Perfection Corporation, which is currently a division of Honeywell<sup>22</sup>, manufactured the PermaLock mechanical tapping tee assembly involved in the accident. Since 1987, three versions of the PermaLock tee assembly have been manufactured, and millions of the tee assemblies have been sold worldwide<sup>23</sup>. Each of the three versions has a different cutter tool design and method of attaching the tower to the main. The tee assembly in this accident was manufactured in 1998; it was the third version."

The PPDC Report Form provides for collection of information by manufacturer. Therefore, the committee could not perform a review on the model Permalock since data is only collected by manufacturer. Based on the information within the NTSB Safety Recommendation Report, the PPDC reviewed the Plastic Piping Failure database for failure/leak reports related to Honeywell, mechanical fittings/joints, and installation errors.

The following are the committee's observations:

- Honeywell, represents approximately 4% of the entire data set of reported failures/leaks
- The Plastic Piping Failure Report form does not specify broken bolts as a cause
- Mechanical fitting/joint failures/leaks are approximately 17% of the entire data set of reported failures
- Of the failures/leaks reported as mechanical fitting/joint failures, Honeywell was the manufacturer 14% of the time

- Of the Honeywell mechanical fitting/joint failures/leaks, approximately 58% were reported as installation error
- Of the mechanical fitting/joint failures/leaks for the aggregate of manufacturers other than Honeywell, approximately 25% were reported as installation error

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their April 2017 meeting.

**Question from APGA member:** Given the safety advisory notice from the Tennessee Regulatory Authority from March 30, 2017 regarding electrofusion burn-throughs, does the PPDC have any data indicating this is a wider trend?

**Response from PPDC:** Electrofusion failures represent 0.01% of the total database (as of April 2017). The PPDC report form does not specifically identify burn-through as a cause of failure. A review of the individual failure report comments did not identify any specific references to burn-through.

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their August 2016 meeting.

**Question from AGA member:** Is the industry seeing any trends regarding Permasert® coupling failures and, if so, is there concrete evidence? What is the general consensus on this product? Is it a product that has a finite life and at a certain time, it begins to fail? Is there a reason (with concrete evidence) to stop using these?

**Response from PPDC:** The PPDC collects data by manufacturer (Perfection) not by brand (Permasert). The fitting types are collected as mechanical fittings and are not broken down further. Additional data on stab type mechanical fittings is available in the PHMSA Mechanical Fitting Failure Report database. <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/data-and-statistics/pipeline/mechanical-fitting-failure-data-gas-distribution-operators>. In looking at comments submitted to the database, there were few references to Permasert within the Perfection data.

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their March 2016 meeting.

**Question from PPI:** What does the PPDC database show for failures on socket heat fusion joints? Are there specific trends?

**Response from the PPDC:** Socket fusions are a type of joint on the failure report form. Socket fusions represent 3% of all data submitted to the PPDC, with 59% of this 3% caused by installation error. There does not appear to be any increase or decrease in the number of reports by Year of Failure. The table shows distribution of socket fusion failures by size.

Size of Socket Fusion Joint	Percentage
1/2 to 1 1/4"	72%
2"	20%
>2"	8%

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their December 2015 meeting.

**Question from ASTM F17.20:** What does the PPDC database show for failures on sidewall heat fusion joints? Are there specific trends relating to preparation of the joint?

**Response from the PPDC:** Saddle fusions are a type of joint on the failure report form. Saddle fusions represent 1.4% of all data submitted to the PPDC. 63.5% of these failures were caused by installation error. The majority were installed prior to 1985. Limited information, with regard to specific aspects of



the installation error, was reported. Approximately 90% of the saddle fusion failures were on piping 3” and under.

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their March 2015 meeting.

**Question from NAPSAR:** What does the PPDC database show for Handley curb valves? Is there any trend in data since 2007? Are they still being manufactured?

**Response from the PPDC:** Handley represents less than 0.1% of the data submitted to the PPDC. The data does indicate an increasing trend of failures since 2007. Due to the small amount of data submitted, we suggest NAPSAR encourage operators who have Handley curb valves in their plastic piping systems to submit data. Handley is not currently listed in the manufacturer database available on the PPDC website. However, Handley has a currently active website; and produces natural gas carrying components.

**Updated Response from PPDC at May 2018 Meeting:**

Handley now represents 0.2% of the data submitted to the PPDC. The majority of the failures occurred after 2010. 38% of the Handley failures reported to the PPDC were on valves installed in 1988 and 1989. Handley stopped making gas valves in June 2015 and the company’s website is accessible but not active for valve information. Handley has been added to the manufacturer database.

**Question from AGA:** Should Aldyl A and Century failure data still be submitted?

**Response from the PPDC:** Yes, additional data points support additional analysis.

The following question and response was reviewed by the PPDC at their March 2014 meeting.

**Question from APGA:** Regarding Rockwell valves, is there a common cause for reports submitted to the PPDC? What about the involved component; pipe, fitting or joint? Are there any trends for installation dates? And are there any rising trends for any of the reported data?

**Response from the PPDC:** Rockwell represents less than ¼ of 1% of the data submitted to the PPDC. Most of the Rockwell reports were for valves. Installations between 1981 and 1990 show the highest reported failures. While the trend of failures reported was going upward through 2010, since then, failures reported appear to be declining. Unfortunately, the majority of the reported causes were listed as unknown or left blank. However, causes reported include material defects, excessive earth loading and installation error.

The following question and response was reviewed by the PPDC at their December 2013 meeting.

**Question from PHMSA:** Is there a way to normalize the data? Can the number of data points be released? Is there a way to show data by state or geographical region?

**Response from the PPDC:** Although the data continues to be actively reviewed by the PPDC the data cannot be directly correlated to quantities of this material that may be in service across the U.S. Based on the charter that governs the PPDC, the exact number of reports in the database cannot be released; only percentages of amounts can be released. Reports in the database are not associated with any operator information; therefore, analysis cannot be performed by operator or by geographic location.

The following question and response was reviewed by the PPDC at their July 2013 meeting.

**Question from PHMSA:** What does the PPDC data reflect regarding failures due to squeeze-off? For all plastic pipe? For plastic that has been known to be susceptible to brittle-like cracking? For pipe installed through the early 1980s? Are there any trends of squeeze-off failures over time for the any/all of the categories above?

**Response from the PPDC:** Squeeze off represents approximately 2 % of all the data submitted. When considering pipe only, squeeze off represents approximately 6%. Failures due to squeeze off for certain pipe materials known to be susceptible to brittle-like cracking (Century, Aldyl A and PE3306) are included in other appendices in this status report. For pipe installed prior to and including 1983, squeeze offs represent approximately 9% of all data reported. Failures due to squeeze offs are trending down in all categories requested.

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their March 2013 meeting.

**Question from Puget Sound Energy:** We have a copy of the PPDC Status Report Appendix D which analyzes all Aldyl product but are interested in obtaining data for Aldyl High Density (HD). Does the PPDC have a report available that trends just Aldyl HD failures? If not, can we request the PPDC to generate a report for Aldyl HD?

**Response from the PPDC:** No, the PPDC has not produced a separate report on DuPont & Uponor HD. The reports submitted to the PPDC containing DuPont & Uponor HD represent only 1.5% of all the data in the database. The distribution of failures for years in service for DuPont & Uponor HD is similar to the information contained in Figure 1 of the DuPont & Uponor appendix.

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their December 2012 meeting.

**Question from PHMSA:** Interactive threat events are often a combination of individual low frequency events that can culminate into a high consequence event. Does the PPDC collect data and perform analysis based on interactive threats, consequences and regional trends?

**Response from the PPDC:** The reports submitted to the PPDC attribute cause to individual factors. The PPDC does not collect data on consequences or regional information. The PPDC committee looks at broad national trends. Other sections of this PPDC Status Report address possible contributing factors, reported causes, and collective perspective of the PPDC committee members.

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their August 2012 meeting.

**Question from PMC to PPDC Feedback Task Group:** What does the PPDC data reflect regarding the 5 known concerns? How large a percentage of the data do they represent?

**Response from PPDC:** Century Utility Products polyethylene (PE) pipe produced from 1970 through 1974 represents less than 1% of the data.

DuPont Aldyl® A low ductile inner wall PE pipe manufactured from 1970 through 1972 represents 1.5% of the data; the PPDC database contains a small amount of data on year manufactured. However, DuPont and Uponor installed between 1970 and 1973, represent 4% of the data.

PE pipe manufactured from PE 3306 resin such as Swanson, Orangeburg and Yardley represent 1% of the data.

DuPont Aldyl® service punch tee with a white Delrin® polyacetal threaded insert; This is not listed as a distinct type of fitting on the PPDC report form. However, Delrin has been reported as a type of material. Plexco service tee with Celcon® polyacetal cap; This is not listed as a distinct type of fitting on the PPDC report form. However, Celcon has been reported as a type of material.

**Question from the PMC PPDC Feedback Task Group:** Is there a way to generally say how much PE is Aldyl A?

**Response from the PPDC:** Aldyl represents approximately 62 % of the PE reports in the database. The definition of “Aldyl” used for PPDC data analysis is the data reported as being manufactured by DuPont and Uponor. For additional information about Aldyl, see Appendix E.

The following questions and responses were reviewed by the PPDC at their April 2012 meeting.

**Question from PHMSA:** What does the PPDC data reflect with respect to lightning strikes?

**Response from PPDC:** Lightning strikes listed as the cause of the failures account for ½ of 1% of the data and no trend is indicated.

**Question from PHMSA:** Do static discharge failures appear in the database?

**Response from PPDC:** Yes, static discharge failures account for less than ½ of 1% of the data and no trend is indicated.

**Question from PHMSA:** Combination of lightning strikes and static discharge?

**Response from PPDC:** Lightning strikes and static discharge failures account for less than ½ of 1% of the data and no trend is indicated.

**Question from PHMSA:** Are there failures of Performance Pipe bolt on service tees with nylon bolts, metal bolts or other failure causes?

**Response from PPDC:** It is the PPDC's understanding that Performance Pipe did not produce bolt on service tees. Please note the PPDC report form ([click here](#) to access a copy of the report form) and clarify the question. Note that bolt-on tees are not listed as a distinct type of fitting on the PPDC report form.

**Question from PHMSA:** Is there an increase in failure numbers compared to earlier data on medium density 2306 materials?

**Response from PPDC:** The number of failures seems to be decreasing; however, failure reports are still being submitted for this type of plastic.

**Question from PHMSA:** Is there an increase in failure numbers compared to earlier data on pipe and fittings manufactured by DuPont?

**Response from PPDC:** The number of failures seems to be decreasing; however, failure reports are still being submitted indicating this manufacturer.

**Question from PHMSA:** Is there an increase in failure numbers compared to earlier data on Driscopipe® 8000 pipe?

**Response from PPDC:** This is a high density pipe. High Density pipe failures are less than ½ of 1% of the data and no trend is indicated.

**Question from PHMSA:** Do socket fusion failures appear in the database?

**Response from PPDC:** Yes, socket fusions are a type of joint. 3% of all failures are socket fusions and of those 60% are known to be ½" to 1" CTS size.