



**PLASTIC PIPING DATA
COLLECTION INITIATIVE
CONSENSUS, MISSION CHARTER**

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American Gas Association
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DOT PLASTIC PIPE DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING INITIATIVE
PLASTIC PIPE DATABASE COMMITTEE (PPDC)
WRITTEN CONSENSUS SUMMARY

March 26, 2015

This Written Consensus Summary serves as a reference to rules representing consensus of the PPDC that this industry's voluntary data gathering, sharing and interpretation effort will function under. If the PPDC were to be ever replaced by another group, the Mission/Charter might have to be modified, but this Written Consensus Summary would remain to guide the voluntary data collection & sharing effort.

- A. The government-industry team developing the provisions of this initiative would be referred to hereafter as the "PLASTIC PIPE DATABASE COMMITTEE" (PPDC).
- B. Definition of Consensus: "*A decision which all members or designated alternates present at the meeting can agree upon. The decision may not be everyone's first choice, but they have heard it and everyone can live with it.*" Consensus was reached on this definition and its use, provided an individual team member could request to "go on record" as not agreeing with the decision, but willing to live with it for the greater good. In the context of consensus, all PPDC members' opinions have equal weight.
- C. The Mission/Charter of the PPDC expresses the purpose of the PPDC as a group, and provides policy guidance on the data collection and sharing effort.
- D. Participation in this data collection program by gas utility operators shall be on a voluntary basis. As of March 2010, a list of the voluntary participants will be periodically published.
- E. Failures and/or leaks of in-service plastic piping systems and appurtenances will be included in the data collection effort. Installation errors caught by inspectors prior to being placed in service and corrected should not be included in the data collection effort.
- F. The PPDC will maintain general trends and the database separate from participation tracking so it is impossible to correlate any individual participant's identity within the database.
- G. AGA will receive data and enter them into the database on behalf of the PPDC. It will thereafter maintain exclusive possession and custody of the database on behalf of the PPDC. Ultimate control over the data stored in the database shall be exercised jointly by all members of the PPDC. Express consensus of the PPDC must be obtained before any individual member of the PPDC (and/or entity employing or otherwise associated with that individual) may provide access to, dispose of or otherwise exercise control of any type over the database or the data it contains.
- H. Individual states have the right to request data from individual operators, but states are urged to cooperate with the data collection program, rather than duplicating efforts.
- I. AGA will act as a clearinghouse, setting up the database, collecting the data, and maintaining the database. Initial analysis of the involved sample to determine the cause of failure and/or leak will be done by the participating operator submitting the data to AGA.
- J. In selecting the attributes of data to be collected by AGA, a criterion for whether the item is needed would be its relevance to determining trends in the data.

- K. The PPDC shall solicit volunteers seeking to build a group that yields data representative of a cross-section of the industry, covering various geographical regions and plastic materials in service.
- L. The Mission/Charter, Plastic Piping Failure Report form, Definitions and Data Collection Procedures are part of this consensus summary document.
- M. Analysis and interpretation of the collected data shall be performed only by the PPDC (or its surrogates), viewing the data simultaneously. After the process begins, the PPDC will decide whether the analysis of the data should include others.
- N. Once the data collection effort starts, AGA will provide a report to the PPDC on progress in the data collection effort at each meeting.
- O. At each meeting of the Committee, the PPDC will produce and issue a status report based on joint conclusions about the data. This status report will be available publicly on the AGA website.

Mission

The government-industry Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) is formed to develop and maintain a voluntary data collection process that supports the analysis of the frequency and causes of in-service plastic piping system and appurtenance failures and/or leaks.

Charter

The PPDC is composed of seven stakeholders that include the American Gas Association (AGA), the American Public Gas Association (APGA), the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI). Each stakeholder has up to two representatives.

Purpose. To improve the knowledge base of gas utility operators and regulators and to monitor and determine if any trends exist in the performance of plastic piping systems.

Consensus. The PPDC will make all decisions within a consensus framework. Each stakeholder representative agrees not to initiate unilateral action on data addressed by this committee.

Anonymity. The data collection process will maintain the anonymity of all participating operators. All data will be submitted into a repository that ensures anonymity. However, the names of participating operators will be made publicly available. The AGA will undertake the role as the repository for the data. The data will be collected and placed into a database available to the PPDC.

Database Access. AGA will receive data and enter it into the database on behalf of the PPDC. AGA will maintain exclusive possession and custody of the database on behalf of the PPDC. Ultimate control over the data stored in the database shall be exercised jointly by all members of the PPDC. Express consensus of the PPDC must be obtained before any individual member of the PPDC may provide access to, or otherwise exercise control of any type over the database or the data it contains.

Third-Party Damage. Third-party impact failures that were discovered at the time the damage was done will not be collected. Only delayed plastic piping system and appurtenance failures and/or leaks that are a result of previous third-party damage will be reported.

Cost Sharing. The stakeholders agree that the costs associated with this program will be borne in a fair and equitable manner among the parties.

Coordination. Each representative on the committee will be responsible for understanding the interests of and sharing information with their respective stakeholders.