

From: [Steve Palmer](#)
To: [Jill Marsano](#); [Bristol Town Administrator](#)
Subject: RE: waterline replacement
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 11:21:57 AM
Attachments: [Industry fights back on misleading report on PVC pipe](#) [Supply House Times.html](#)

Good morning Jill. This is a topic that has a number of different viewpoints. I've attached an interesting article on this with the opposite viewpoint. It's imperative that you as the water operator are comfortable with whatever we specify for materials and can stand behind your response with technical information to back that up. Most people are not going to dig into technical data from industry experts and take the time to research actual scientific findings. They are going to depend on you as their expert to do that for them. They will read an article and assume whatever they read in the news is gospel.

I'm not taking a position on this issue one way or another. Most of the PVC pipe opposition started with the "Beyond Plastics" article that was recently released which talks about (from their perspective) health concerns with using PVC pipe in drinking water systems. It is important to recognize that the Beyond Plastics is an anti-plastic organization who's stated goal is to ban plastics worldwide. For better or worse, that should add a healthy dose of skepticism to whatever they're preaching. I'd be a lot less skeptical if the information came from an independent organization like NSF. The Beyond Plastics article however does raise valid questions that residents in your community are likely going to ask because these types of news articles are now circulating.

From a design perspective, I fall back on the fact that PVC is an NSF and AWWA certified product that has undergone a ton of testing and has been fully vetted and accepted by the EPA. PVC is also specified as acceptable product by the State of Vermont. I recognize that this is not a black and white issue and some of my clients may have different views on this. I'm supportive of whatever their needs and views are. I see my role in this as to simply advise them of the impacts certain decisions may have financially on their project(s). The use of Ductile Iron Pipe in this circumstance for instance would be substantially more expensive than PVC.

Whether Bristol decides they do or do not want to support the use of PVC pipe in their system moving forward, I do think it's important that they base that decision on scientific data from industry experts, not national news articles. You have access to great technical resources and organizations that can help you with this. A few that come to mind:

1. PVC pipe manufacturers/suppliers (EJP, FW Webb, etc.)
2. NSF
3. American Water Works Association
4. Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

NSF has done quite a bit of testing on a host of chemicals used to manufacture PVC pipe, their ability to leach and whether that presents a health concern? Might be a good place to start.

Steve

From: Jill Marsano <jill@vtums.com>

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 5:49 AM

To: Steve Palmer <spalmer@vtengineering.com>; townadmin@bristolvt.org

Subject: Fw: waterline replacement

FYI. This is why I've been asking for D.I. Pipe. Please let me know how you'd like me to respond.

Jill M.

Jill Marsano
President/Owner
VTUMS Vermont Utility Management Services, LLC
802-922-1102

From: jessica teets <jcteets@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2024 7:27:37 PM

To: Clove Haviva <clove.haviva@bastyr.edu>; Jill Marsano <jill@vtums.com>

Subject: Re: waterline replacement

Clove, I have copied Jill from VTUMS here for more information!

Jessica

On Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 02:16:54 PM EST, Clove Haviva <clove.haviva@bastyr.edu> wrote:

Jessica, is this your realm?

I don't have town water, so I haven't been paying attention.

Is the plan to use PVC to replace the leaking pipes? I wonder if you all know that PVC is carcinogenic.

I read a Washington Post article about trading lead contamination for PVC contamination, which reminded me of the issue.

Clove

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2024/11/20/lead-pipe-plastic-pvc-replacements-risks/>