

PRESS RELEASE

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AwwaRF Announces Report on Hydrocarbons' Impact on Plastic Pipe

(Denver, CO) — Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF), the leading nonprofit water research foundation dedicated to advancing the science of drinking water, today announced the publication of a new report on the impact of hydrocarbons—compounds which occur naturally in petroleum and natural gas—on plastic pipes and gaskets used to distribute drinking water.

AwwaRF sponsors research, such as the study on which this report is based, to help water utilities manage their facilities and infrastructure more efficiently. In urban areas, plastic pipes and gaskets used in water distribution systems may come into contact with hydrocarbons that have leaked from underground storage tanks or spills. The study examined how these hydrocarbons may affect the structural integrity of plastic pipes and gaskets which, in turn, could impact the quality of the water in the distribution system.

“With the help of information contained in this report, utilities can avoid the costs of unnecessary pipe maintenance and replacement,” said Robert C. Renner, executive director of AwwaRF.

“The savings are passed on to consumers. The main goal of this project, as with all AwwaRF-sponsored research, is to give utilities knowledge they need to provide the public with safe and affordable drinking water.”

Information from the AwwaRF report will help utility managers better understand the performance of plastic pipes and gaskets in hydrocarbon-contaminated soils commonly encountered in urban settings. It will also help them take appropriate measures to mitigate potential impacts of hydrocarbons on their distribution systems.

The report, *Impact of Hydrocarbons on PE/PVC Pipes and Pipe Gaskets* (order #91204), is currently available to subscribers of AwwaRF. The report will become available publicly later this year. To learn more about AwwaRF and its research, please go to www.AwwaRF.org.

About the Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF)

The Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF) is a member-supported, international, nonprofit organization that sponsors research to enable water utilities, public health agencies, and other professionals to provide safe and affordable drinking water to consumers. With more than 900 subscriber members in the U.S. and abroad, AwwaRF has funded and managed more than 1,000 projects valued at more than \$400 million. More information on the Awwa Research Foundation is available at www.AwwaRF.org.

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