

As a representative of the Plastics Pipe Institute, Mr. Pluimer certainly deserves the opportunity to promote his product. However, there is very little said in his article that is completely truthful, or relevant to the drainage community.

It is true that HDPE pipe has been tested and analyzed quite a bit lately. However, unlike many material products that have had very conservative specifications for years, and through testing and experience more economical ways of product usage have been developed, many of the successive changes to the testing of HDPE drainage pipe have been to improve upon a known deficiency in the product.

There were a significant amount of papers presented at the Plastics Pipe XIII conference in Washington, D.C. Mr. Pluimer chose to focus on the one that he could manipulate into prescribing a life of more than 100 years for his product.

The service lives presented in his article are based on stress values that Mr. Pluimer himself presented in a separate ASCE paper assuming elliptical deflection of the pipe. These values were apparently plugged into the equations from Dr. Hsuan's paper. It is interesting that Mr. Pluimer notes how SCR tests were performed on both the liner and junction locations yet he only provides his extrapolated values for the junction. Perhaps this is because the same stress values applied to the liner would indicate a life of less than 2 years.

Much of the recent research on HDPE pipe has converted math into an art instead of a science. In his article Mr. Pluimer asks the question, "But how are these numbers derived?" Perhaps someone should be asking him that very question.