

Delivery and Installation Time Critical For 30" Irrigation Project

By George Heimel
Western Regional Manager, Uponor ETI

The City of Mesquite, Nevada requested bids on December 21, 2001 to furnish approximately 16,000 linear feet of 30-inch irrigation pipe as well as 640 feet of 12-inch, 15-inch, and 18-inch irrigation pipe.

This seemed like a reasonable and routine request. However, there was an additional requirement. All of this material had to be delivered to the project by January 14, 2002. Delivery was extremely important, as it was an absolute necessity to have minimal downtime for the water supply.

Water (27,000 gallons per minute) was being delivered in an open channel ditch and used for irrigating three golf courses in the Virgin Valley in Mesquite. The



Wolf Creek Golf Course, shown above, was one of three courses depending on an on-time completion of the project.

City of Mesquite and the Regional Transportation Commission of Nevada were funding the project to enclose this open channel, convey the irrigation

water in a pipeline, and then build a road above it. Bulloch Brothers Engineering, Inc., of Mesquite was hired to design, receive bids, and oversee con-

struction of this important project. The irrigation water source was the Virgin River with a 60-inch diameter pipe delivering 60 cubic feet per second or approximately 27,000 gallons per minute.

The three golf courses — The Oasis, Casa Blanca, and Wolf Creek — were all dependent on this irrigation water supply. In a desert location, these golf courses rely on irrigation year round. While this was the “dormant” time of year, it was critical to get irrigation water back in service quickly, hence the requirement to deliver all of the pipe and accessory materials by January 14, 2002.

FNW/Plumbers Supply Company located in St. George, Utah saw an opportunity to help the City of Mesquite

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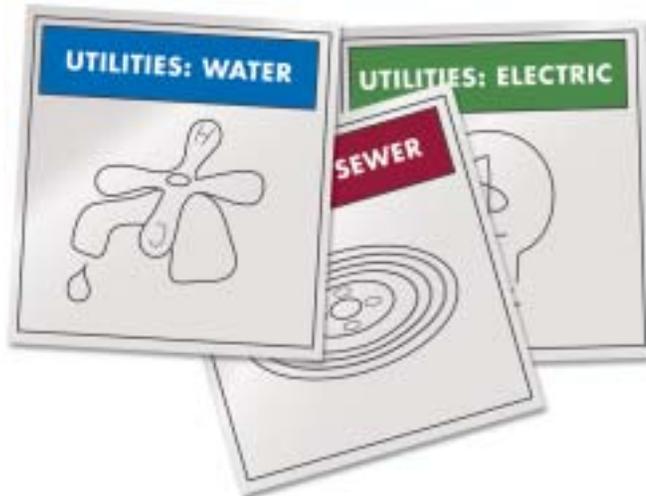
GASB 34 – Poised To End Costly Fairy Tales?

By John Houle, P.E.
Market Development Engineer
PW Pipe

Remember how shocked you were to learn the truth about Santa Claus? The Easter Bunny? The Tooth Fairy? Or perhaps even Jack and the Beanstalk or Alice in Wonderland?

Luckily, most of us learned the truth about fairy tales when we were still very young. Our psyches were able to recover from the trauma, and we were able to go on with our lives.

Regrettably, some of the adults in our industry are not so fortunate. They still believe in fairy tales, but they will soon be confronted by reality in the form of GASB Statement 34.



WHAT IS GASB 34?

GASB is shorthand for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The GASB is a private, nonprofit body responsible for establishing and improving accounting and financial reporting standards for non-federal governmental units in the United States. As you might expect, these gov-

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Profile Pipe

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Delivery of the 30-inch profile pipe was critical. The downtime of the irrigation supply had to be minimized for these desert golf courses.

accomplish its objective in the required time by furnishing dual wall corrugated profile wall pipe (which will be referred to as "profile pipe" for shorthand) in lieu of conventional PVC irrigation pipe that would not be available by the deadline. A call was placed to a Uni-Bell member company, which confirmed that 30-inch profile pipe was in stock and available for immediate shipment. The question asked by the engineer was: "Could profile pipe meet the job requirements?" The pipe was to be installed three-pipes-wide in an open ditch and be capable of conveying 60 cfs under a gravity head of six to seven feet. The pipe would have an average cover of ten to fifteen feet.

Dick Sorensen, a member company territory representative, noted that the USDA Soil Conservation Service had a PVC profile specification 430-JJ in place with a pressure requirement of 25-feet of head. The manufacturer submitted compliance with the 430-JJ specification and indicated the product could actually be used up to 50-feet of head for non-pumped service. Testing at the plant, as well as outside testing facilities, verified compliance and the profile pipe was accepted for this project. Sixty-eight truckloads of 30-inch profile pipe were delivered to the project in fifteen

days and allowed the contractor to proceed as planned.

Flying W Contracting of Las Vegas, Nevada was awarded a sub-contract from Wiser Construction Company to install the 30-inch pipe and the 12-inch, 15-inch, and 18-inch outlet pipe, butterfly valves, and diversion boxes. Flying W's challenge was to complete the project in ten days. The job required the contractor to dig a trapezoidal trench fifteen- to twenty-feet deep. The trench width would be twenty-feet at the bottom and fifty-feet at the top and a mile long. Mammoth scrapers began working around the clock to remove soil and establish grade. The pipe crew began laying 30-inch pipe (dual marked as ASTM F949 and ASTM F794) on the delivery end of the project. Three pipes were laid abreast at the same time. The first short day saw over 3,000 feet of pipe installed.

The task of installing, backfilling, and constructing outlet structures was completed in eight working days. Conditions were virtually perfect at this scenic location in the Virgin River Valley. The pipeline is functioning perfectly and water is being delivered to irrigate the Oasis, Casa Blanca, and Wolf Creek golf courses.



Slings of differing lengths reduced handling time of the triple-barrel installation.



The trapezoidal ditch ranged in depth from fifteen- to twenty- feet deep. The top width was up to fifty feet wide.



Luckenbill Joins Uni-Bell



The Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association has named Michael F. Luckenbill to the position of Association Engineer.

As Association Engineer for Uni-Bell, Michael's primary efforts will focus on providing technical information to PVC pipe industry customers by writing technical articles, responding to inquiries, conducting seminars, and representing Uni-Bell at professional meetings.

Michael graduated from The University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Before joining Uni-Bell, Michael spent 30 years in the fiberglass pipe industry. Over the last 15 years Michael was Customer Service Manager for such notable fiberglass companies as Ameron International (Fiberglass Pipe Division) and Smith Fiberglass. His responsibilities included management of Customer Service, Applications Engineering, Field Service and Quotations. This involved daily telephone interaction with regional sales managers, distributor salespeople, contractors and end users (both domestic and international). Michael was also involved in technical presentations for customers during plant visits and for "box lunch" engineering seminars for such engineering firms as Black and Veatch, Burns and McDonald and Bechtel. In addition to these duties, Michael was and continues to be a member of AWWA, ASTM and ASME and served on technical committees as the primary company representative. Michael also has sales experience working for an international distributor of

Mike's strong pipe background will allow him to focus on studying the specific properties of PVC, in order to quickly become a service asset to the ever growing community of member-company-manufactured PVC pipe users, specifiers, and installation contractors.

hydraulic and pneumatic equipment.

"Michael's strong pipe background will allow him to focus on studying the specific properties of PVC, in order to quickly become a service asset to the ever growing community of member-company-manufactured PVC pipe users, specifiers, and installation contractors," predicts Bob Walker, Executive Director.

Please join us in welcoming Michael to Uni-Bell.