# Or Equal?

And the Status of Manufacturing

## Objectives

- Specification Writing considerations:
  - Best product vs. Best price
  - Buy America vs. Foreign
  - What if there is no Equal
  - Budget vs Reality
  - Translations by reader
- Status of Manufacturing
- Examples of "or Equal" not being an equal but still ending up on jobsites

#### Best Product vs. Best Price

- Hydrant specs
  - You don't get an "or equal" when you want a specified Hydrant
  - All hydrants can be considered an "or Equal" for the specified/Desired Hydrant
  - So we know it can be done.
  - Part of the issue is not all distributors are set up with all manufacturers so they either have to substitute an "or Equal" or figure out if they can sell the desired product.
  - If it is a product you want you may have to add additional wording in the spec to ensure you limit any option for an "or Equal" option.
- Best Bid vs. Lowest Bid
  - If you specify a specific product you can accept the best bid vs. lowest bid, if the best bid includes the desired product.

- Buy American / AIS vs. "or Equal" Imports
  - If there is an American Version stick to your specs and do not allow substitution
  - Not all foreign parts are made to be equal to USA Manufacturing

#### HOWEVER

- Due to manufacturing issues and the lack of ability to get some raw materials some American Manufacturers can not supply
- Getting better but there are still some supply issues or massive backlogs

- What if there is no "or Equal"
  - Work with multiple distributors or manufacturer to get adequate bids on the desired product
    - Example: Kupferle's GENESIS
      - One of a Kind Auto-Flusher with Smart technology
        - Sensors used to initiate flushing out in the distribution system based on:
          - Chlorine levels
          - PH
          - Turbidity
          - Pressure
          - Temperature
          - Etc..

- Budget Vs. Reality
  - Work with distributors or manufacturers to get most up to date pricing
    - Last 2 years there has been some massive changes in pricing
    - Engineers estimates are necessarily high but due to the current environment their estimates have been too low
  - Some prices are easing into a new norm based on supply and demand

- Translations by reader
  - Engineer's Goal
  - Owner's Goal
  - Distributor options
  - Installer/Contractor translation
    - Military orders are written at a level for the soldiers to understand
    - Similarly what are we doing to help educate contractors product applications

# Status of Manufacturing Pressure Pipe and Gravity Sewer

- What is Happening
  - Production
  - Supply
  - Pricing
  - Freight
  - Prediction



## Or Equal – Subbing C900 PVC for Ductile

- Written 50 Year Warranty
- Same Size OD
- DR 14 305 PSI
- DR 18 235 PSI
- DR 25 165 PSI
- Lighter Weight
- AVAILABLE



### C900 PVC vs. C909 PVCO

- PVCO C909
  - Spec is Buy American JM only option
  - Attacked By Both DIPRA and Other PVC Manufacturers
  - Supply Issues getting better
    - 3 North American Producers





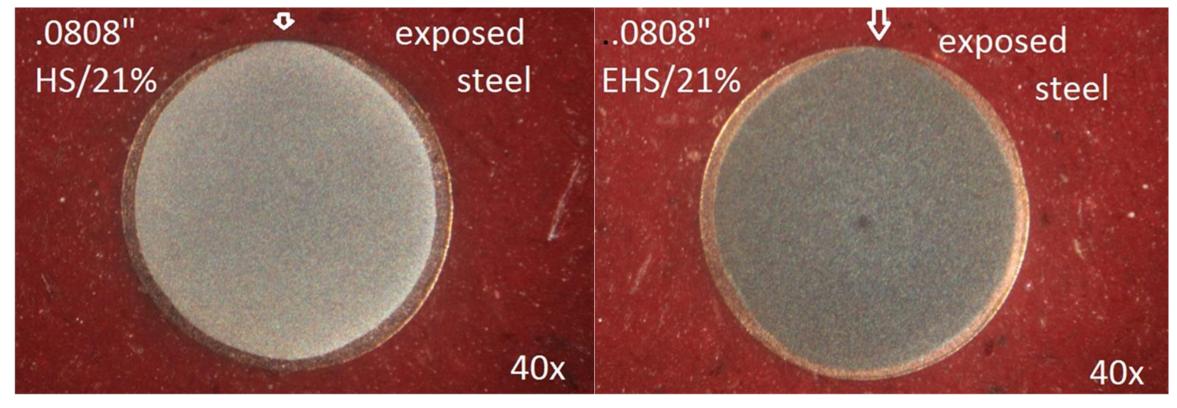
DELIVERING GOOD WATER TO YOU

## Tracer Wire

- AIS vs Foreign
- Distributor
  - Gauge
  - Connectors

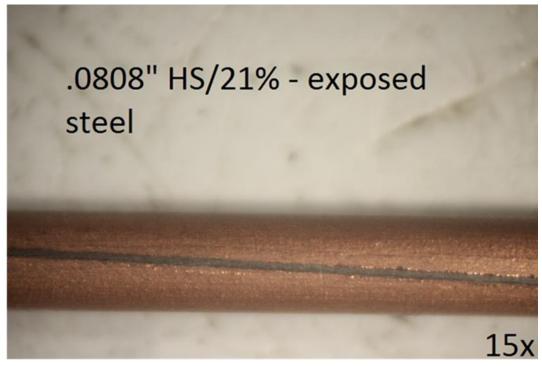


## Poor Cladding



## **Bad Cladding**





#### Tracer Wire

- Directional drilling Contractor translation 10 gauge vs. 12 gauge
  - 10 Gauge solid copper 410 590 lb breakload depending on type
  - 12 Gauge EHS CCS breakload 1150 lb breakload
- Wrong Wire
- Wrong Connectors
- One chance to get it right
  - Test while installing

## Pipe Repair - Total Piping Solutions

- AIS vs Foreign
- AWWA Standards Board Pressure Ratings

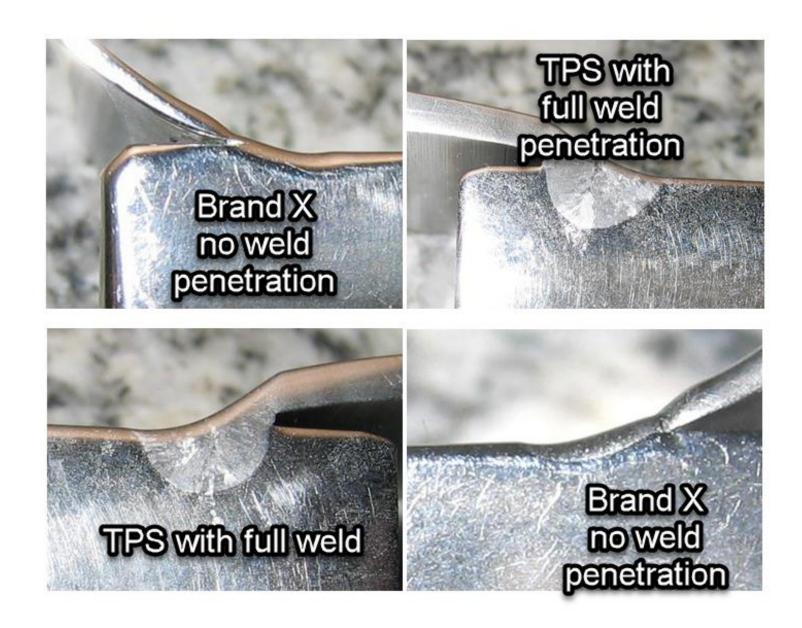




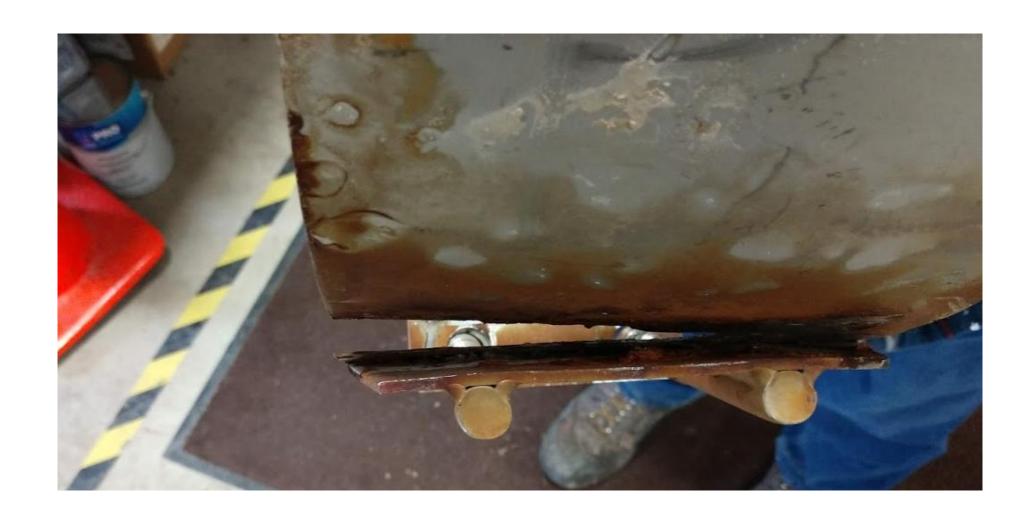


## Pipe Repair

• Welds

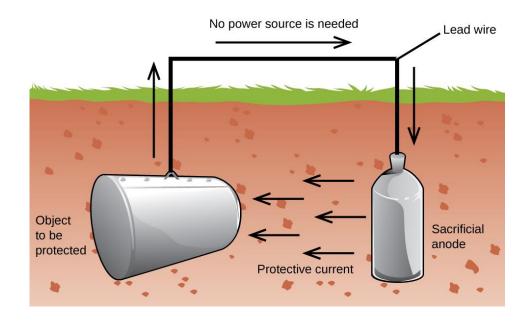


## Pipe Repair



## Pipe Repair

• Cathodic Protection – Hot Soils





## Other type of Or Equals mismatches

Service tubing

**Composite Manhole Covers** 

**Auto Flushers** 

Intelligent Flushers

**Valve Exercisers**