

**Minutes**  
**Plumbing Board of Appeals and Examiners**  
**Engineering Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, July 16, 2008, 7 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Myron Adam, Jeff Dunn, Bryan Ellerbroek and Mark Engebretson

**Members Absent**

Richard Vissers

**Guests Present**

Don Hood, Jim Breyfogle, Kyle Wigler, Dan Carrillo, Bryce Baird and Mark Polly

**New Business**

The file was opened for Appeal No. 1-2008. The secretary specified that the Board will be requested to review the installation of PVC plumbing to be utilized in a water distribution piping system within separate buildings at the Falls Park Apartment complex which is located at 3601-3621 N. Career Avenue. The complex consists of a community building and 10 unit and 16 unit apartment buildings. Four of the buildings have been finished and occupied. The mechanical engineer specified the utilization of copper for the hot and cold water distribution system. Breyfogle Plumbing along with the general contractor value engineered the water distribution system and opted for the utilization of PVC as the material for the water distribution systems within all of the buildings. Jim Breyfogle of Breyfogle Plumbing noted that the mains are all ran in a Schedule 40 PVC with a pressure capability of 370 psi at 73 degrees F. His contact with the supplier designated that in fact the plumbing code does not allow PVC as the water distribution because the material will not maintain the required integrity in the hot water distribution system. Breyfogle noted that the hot water distribution in all of the buildings have been, or are being changed to an approved PEX piping system. He noted that each building has approximately 200 feet of 2 ½ to 1 inch PVC on the cold water side beyond the building meters. All the fittings are pressure rated fittings. Mr. Breyfogle said that he did have approval from the plumbing inspection division prior to installation, but that the material was questioned by the general contractor's mortgage inspector. Upon referencing the issue to the mechanical engineer, which in turn consulted with Mike Richards of the State Plumbing Commission officer, it was determined that in fact the UPC allows the use of PVC up to the building but that the plumbing commission amended to allow the material to extend up to the building meter, and not beyond. Section 604.1 of the Uniform Plumbing Code states:

*"Water distribution pipe, building supply water pipe and fittings shall be of brass, copper, cast iron, CPVC, galvanized malleable iron, galvanized steel, PEX, or other approved materials. Asbestos-cement, PE, PVC, PEX-AL-PEX, or PE-AL-PE water pipe manufactured to recognized standards may be used for cold-water building supply piping distribution systems up to the building valve. PEX-AL-PE water pipe and fittings may be used for cold-water distribution systems within a*

*building. All material used in the water supply system, except valves and similar devices shall be of a like material, except where otherwise approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Plastic piping for all potable water shall be water pressure rated for not less than 160 psi at 73 degrees F".*

Mr. Breyfogle noted that the Schedule 40 utilized is rated at a pressure of greater than 300 psi in excess of the 160 psi referenced in the code section. Mr. Dunn expressed his concern of the possibility of pressure surges within the water system and proposed the installation of a pressure regulating valve on the building side of the meter.

Subsequent discussions resulted in a motion by Mr. Dunn with a second by Mr. Engebretson to approve the higher pressure PVC water distribution system beyond the meter within each the respective buildings, for this project only due to the buildings being at the stage of completion and the prior assumed interpretation by staff, but that the PVC is limited to the cold water side only and that the mechanical engineer reviews the size and type of a pressure regulating valve to be installed in each building on the customer side of the meter. Upon calling the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

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Secretary