

IPEX Fusible PVC™ Helps Power Homes in Fort St. John



The City of Fort St. John, British Columbia is turning waste water into power. The final waste water treatment station for the city is located high on a hill above the Peace River. Rather than simply emptying this cleaned water into the river, the water is now directed down the hill with enough pressure to turn a hydro-electric turbine at the base. This turbine creates electricity for houses in a nearby subdivision — an excellent example of the incorporation of a micro-hydro plant into a municipal water treatment system.

IPEX Fusible PVC™ was chosen to connect the treatment plant to the turbine. This pipe had to be laid at the angle of the slope in order for gravity to draw the water through the turbine at the correct pressure. Rob Mellander, Technical Sales Representative at IPEX, said, “The slope was very steep. Imagine a black diamond run on your local ski hill nearly 700 m in length.”

Lengths of pipe were fused on the upper surface. The directional drill began at the bottom of the slope and drilled upwards where it connected to the fused pipe and pulled it down to connect to the turbine below. Mike Irman, owner of IronMan Directional Drilling, explains, “We started at the bottom of the hill and drilled up for about 350 m

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Owner of IronMan Directional Drilling

to another plateau where we could reset the drill and then drill up for another 300 m. Sometimes we were 6 to 8 meters below the ground level. We couldn't have done the job with anything other than IPEX Fusible PVC™. It's the only pipe that could have followed the contours of the ground that we covered because of the allowable bend for the radius of the pipe. It was excellent to work with.”

Irman adds, “We've been working on convincing engineers to include IPEX Fusible PVC™ in their specs, telling them how well it works, and we've had some success. This project went very well and factory support from IPEX was awesome. I'm a happy customer.”