



Photos courtesy Mohave County

JM Eagle Plant Engineer Matt Hoyng (center) explains processes during a tour of the plastic pipe manufacturing company located at the Kingman Airport Industrial Park to county, city and community leaders Wednesday, Aug. 18. Mohave County Supervisor Gary Watson, Dist. 1, listens directly right of Hoyng.

JM Eagle holds open house

KINGMAN – County and city officials joined community leaders Wednesday, Aug. 18, for an open-house tour of the JM Eagle plastic pipe manufacturing plant at the Kingman Airport Industrial Park.

According to Plant Manager Michael Kenny, Sr., JM Eagle, the world's largest manufacturer of plastic pipe, has 22 plants in the United States, four of which produce polyethylene pipe. The local plant, which is the only polyethylene pipe manufacturer in Arizona, has 50 full-time employees.

"We are all from Kingman," he said.

The plant produces pipe in diameters from one half inch up to 63 inches.

"There are only three plants in the United States that produce the large diameters," Kenny said. JM Eagle has a plant in Georgia that produces the large size and one of the company's competitors has a plant in another state that also produces pipe in the 60-plus diameter range.

Attendees started their tour with a presentation on the history of the plastic pipe manufacturing company going back to when it was purchased



Dist. 1 Supervisor Gary Watson (third from right) and his wife, Councilwoman Janet Watson (fourth from right) listen as JM Eagle Plant Engineer Matt Hoyng discusses the 63-inch polyethylene pipe extrusion process Wednesday, Aug. 18, during a tour of the company located at the Kingman Airport Industrial Park.

from Johns Manville in 1983. The types of pipe and their uses were discussed as well as a few videos that were presented highlighting a few of the company's unique large-scale jobs.

Company literature highlights that this year, JM Eagle announced "an unprecedented 50-year warranty against manufacturing defects for its pipe products." That warranty covers "the company's high-performance polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and high-density polyethylene (PE) pipe used in water transmission and distribution lines as well as forced sewer mains.... Additionally, the warranty will retroactively cover plastic pipe products manufactured by JM Eagle and its predecessor J-M Manufacturing since original inception for all new pipe failures."

The tour moved on to the plant's precision quality control work and then to the manufacturing machinery. Plant Engineer Matt Hoyng described the materials that are used and the processes involved from extrusion to completion of the pipe.

Mohave County Supervisor Gary Watson, Dist. 1, who attended the tour with his wife, Kingman Councilwoman Janet Watson, said, "JM Eagle's intense quality control procedures are amazing. The company is unique in its product, quality and the fact that they truly stand behind their work with this 50-year warranty."

"This plant runs 24 hours, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty five days per year," Hoyng said. "The employees have 12-hour shifts. One shift runs three days to 36 hours and one shift runs four days to 48 hours."

"This company has the ability to adapt to different applications," Watson said, "for different municipalities, counties, water operations, corporations and other agencies. Their products range from a half inch to 63 inches in diameter. JM Eagle is just one more

example of the unique, quality manufacturers we have at the Kingman Airport Industrial Park. The two-square-mile area of industry we have at the airport provides a tremendous amount of jobs for the area and is the source of close to five percent of Mohave County's total property tax revenues."