



Utility Contractor™

MAY/JUNE 2022

2021 NUCA
*Associate Member
of the Year:*
MICHAEL STURGILL



2021
*Ditchdigger
of the Year:*
FRED CHESNEY



Safety powered by productivity

United Rentals supports Trench Safety Stand Down Week, June 20-24

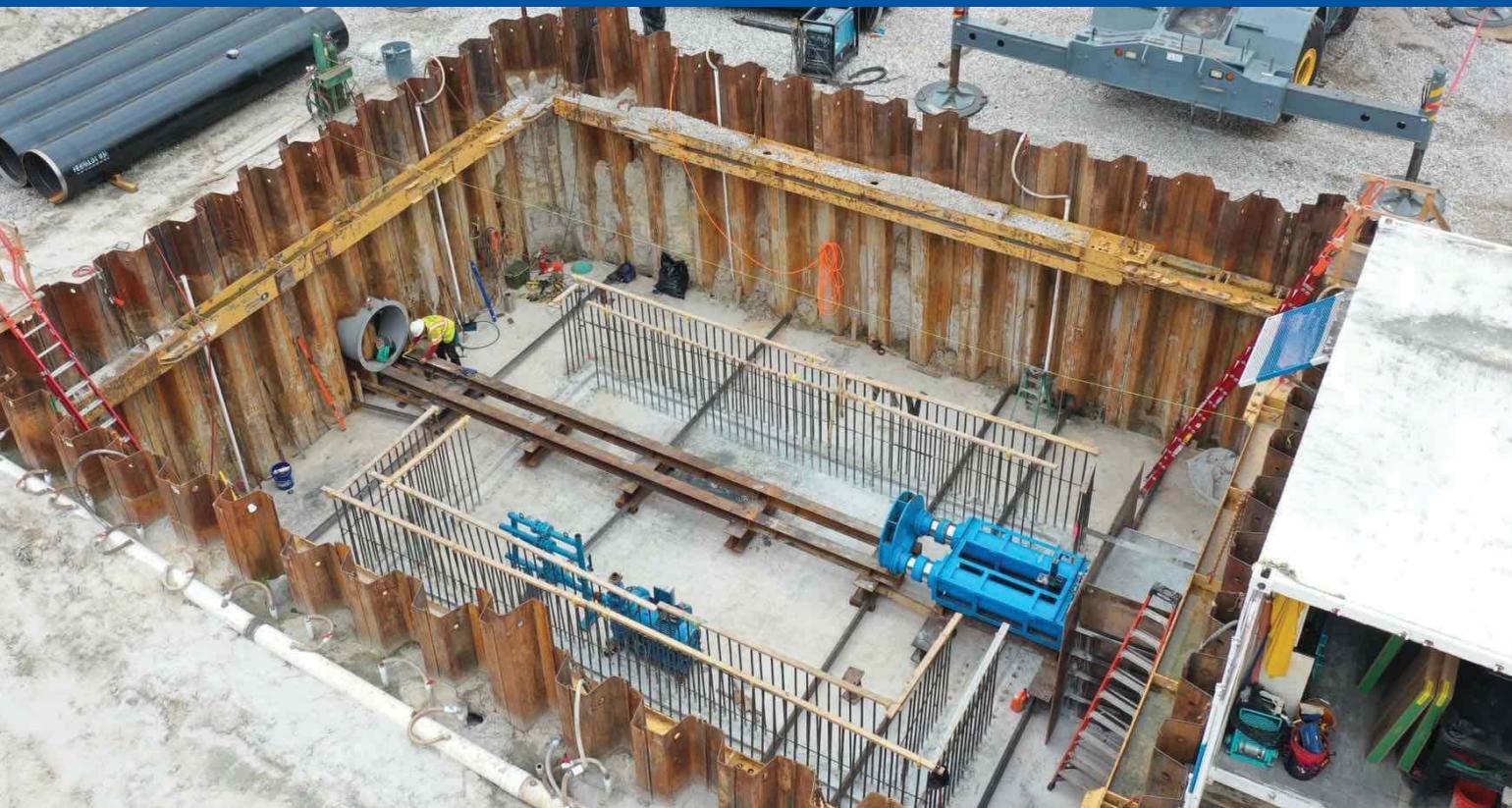
Nothing is more important than safety on the worksite. But at United Rentals, we believe that compliance can help drive productivity. With expert knowledge and smart solutions, United Rentals can help your site stay safe without sacrificing efficiency.

During Trench Safety Stand Down Week, United Rentals will be hosting a series of webinars covering a range of important safety topics.

Find more information and to register for the webinars visit trenchsafetyevents.com

UnitedRentals.com | 800.UR.RENTS

© 2022 United Rentals, Inc.



Our Elbows Get Around More Than You Know



FRE Composites fiberglass elbows provide a number of benefits to raceway installations no matter what type of conduit you are using. With our unique glass to resin ratio, FRE fiberglass has the lowest coefficient of friction of any material currently available on the market.

GREATLY REDUCE BURN THROUGH

Epoxy fiberglass bends and elbows have a strong resistance to being cavitated or pierced due to rope pull.

LOW COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION

Lower coefficient of friction than steel and considerably lower than PVC. Less friction allows electrical cables to be pulled through easier, resulting in labor-savings

LIGHTWEIGHT

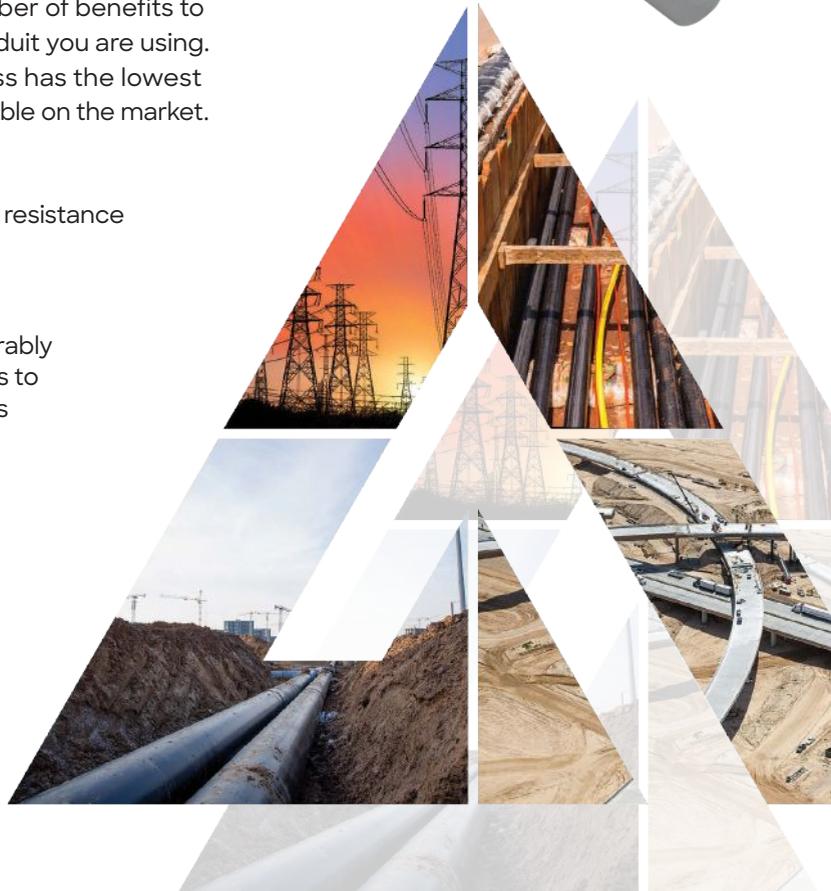
Considerably lighter than steel conduit and PVC coated conduit

CORROSION RESISTANT

Epoxy fiberglass is not affected by water and does not degrade in corrosive environments

COST-EFFECTIVE

Lower cost of shipping and installation, compared with steel elbows



Learn more here - [Atkore.com/FRE](https://www.atkore.com/FRE)

Features

14

2021 Ditchdigger of the Year: Fred Chesney

Fred Chesney of Centerline Utilities Inc. earns NUCA's most prestigious award.

18

2021 NUCA Associate Member of the Year: Michael Sturgill

Xylem Dewatering Solutions' Michael Sturgill recognized for his dedication to NUCA.

22

NUCA Convention & Exhibit Recap

A look back at NUCA's annual convention, which was held March 2-5, 2022, in San Antonio Texas.

30

How Telematics Help Kentucky's Largest Heavy Highway Contractor Better Utilize Equipment

Scotty's Contracting & Stone turns to FleetWatcher in managing more than 400 pieces of heavy equipment a day.

32

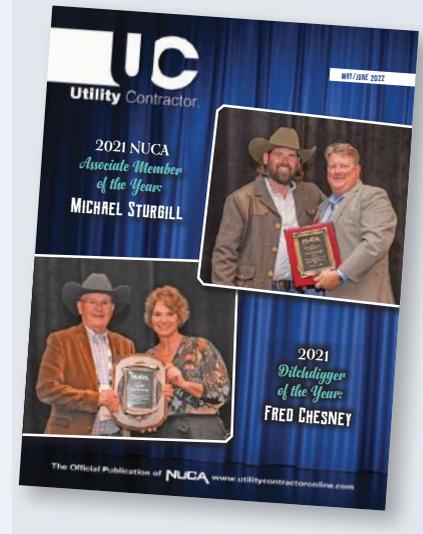
Microtunneling Market Strong in North America

Continued advancement drives growth in new installation projects.

34

Top Jobs: Excavation/Site Development

96th Street & Frederick Street Emergency Culvert Construction.



On The Cover:

2021 NUCA Associate Member of the Year: Michael Sturgill

2021 Ditchdigger of the Year: Fred Chesney

Benjamin Media Publishing Team

Robert Krzys, President
robk@benjaminmedia.com

James Rush, Editor / Publisher
jrush@benjaminmedia.com

Maura Bourquin, Advertising Sales Representative
mbourquin@benjaminmedia.com

Sarah Haughawout, Senior Graphic Artist
shaughawout@benjaminmedia.com



May/June Volume 45, Number 3, *Utility Contractor* (ISSN 1098-0342) publishes 6 issues per year (bi-monthly) for the National Utility Contractors Association by Benjamin Media Inc., 10050 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, OH 44141. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, OH and additional offices. One year subscription rates: Complimentary in the USA & Canada and \$99 in foreign countries. Single copy rate: \$10.00. ©2022 NUCA. All rights reserved by the National Utility Contractors Association for articles contained herein except where otherwise noted. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted by any means without written permission from the publisher. Printed in the U.S.A.

Subscription Info. / Address Changes (Postmaster):
Utility Contractor Magazine,
10050 Brecksville Road,
Brecksville, OH 44141
330-467-7588
subscriptions@benjaminmedia.com

Departments

- 8 News
- 42 The Pipeline
- 42 Advertisers' Index

NUCA Departments

- 6 Chairman's Message
- 36 Inside Washington
- 38 Safety Management
- 40 SafetyWORKS



SAFE DIGGING MADE EASY

GET DIGGING WITH TRUVAC

A dedicated brand of vacuum excavators designed to work SIMPLE, work SAFE, and work SMART.

Offering a variety of training, service and support options.

LEARN
MORE
TODAY



TRUVAC.COM



©2022 Vector Mfg., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

NUCA Chairman's Message

What's Your NUCA Legacy?

Father's Day is just on the horizon, so I wanted to take a minute to introduce you to Bud Kinning.

Bud is my dad and I learned everything I know about utility construction from him. While I could spend this entire column sharing those lessons with you, I want to focus on one thing in particular that he taught me.

Dad worked in the field his whole career. He started our company with other investors in 1971. He had bought them out within 15 years and even though he could have easily transitioned into the office he chose to be the one running the lead excavator digging in the pipe. He was known around our area as "Backhoe Bud" because of his skills running his Drott excavators.

Dad was very proud to be a member of NUCA. He and Mom attended several National Conventions over the years. While Dad didn't have the time to take a leadership position in NUCA, he supported it in every way he could. He told us that he liked knowing that NUCA had his back, and he stressed the importance of being involved in an association.

When I was given the opportunity to help start a NUCA chapter in Nebraska in 2009 Dad encouraged it. He said that was his only regret with NUCA was that they weren't able to make a chapter work when they tried in the 1980s. He gave me advice and support that helped me during that process.

I'm guessing if you had asked Dad what his biggest contribution to NUCA was, he would have probably said the dues he paid or the conventions he attended. If you asked me, I'd tell you that his biggest contribution was passing his passion for NUCA to his sons. His support made it easy to step up when the time came to do my part. I would have never joined an association if I hadn't been taught the importance of one from the person I looked up to the most.

I know that many of our members don't have the time or means to take a leadership role in NUCA. But for every business owner that can't do it there is one or two good candidates in their business. Most of our chapters struggle to fill their Boards and committees with volunteers. Having someone from your company serve your local chapter is an honor. There is no better tool for professional or personal development than leading your peers.

If you can't serve, please find someone within your company that can. You never know, they might end up serving as Chairman of NUCA someday.

Sincerely yours,

Ryan Kinning

NUCA Chairman of the Board / Penro Construction Company



Holly, Ryan, Bud and Charlene Kinning at the 2018 NUCA Convention.

NUCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ryan Kinning, **Chairman of the Board**
Tom Butler, **Vice-Chair**
Tony Privitera, **Treasurer**
Matt Mingus, **Secretary**
Lauren Atwell, **Immediate Past Chair**

Yvonne Bland, **At-Large Executive Committee Member**
David Barbera, **At-Large Board of Director**
Scott Knoblauch, **At-Large Board of Director**
Andy Williams, **At-Large Board of Director**
Janet Seelhoff, **Executive Director**
Council Chair
Doug Carlson, **Assistant Secretary/CEO**
Chris Barrett, **Chief Operating Officer**

NORTHEAST REGION

Tony Raposo, **NE Regional Vice-Chair**
Steve D'Angelo, **Chapter Representative, PA**
David Duff, **Chapter Representative, CT**
Jim Rudolph, **Chapter Representative, NJ**
Gabriel Santos, **Chapter Representative, Metro D.C.**

SOUTHEAST REGION

Kevin Cripps, **SE Regional Vice-Chair**
Kirk Blomgren, **Chapter Representative, N. FL**
Mike Hewitt, **Chapter Representative, Carolinas**
Paul Knight, **Chapter Representative, S. FL**
Kevin McLaughlin, **Chapter Representative, SUCA**

CENTRAL REGION

David Howell, **Central Regional Vice-Chair**
Darren Cleary, **Chapter Representative, Mid-TN**
David Doggette, **Chapter Representative, KY**
David Hurst, **Chapter Representative, E. TN**
Tom Lingvai, **Chapter Representative, OH**
Terry St. Clair, **Chapter Representative, Central & S.W. VA**
Kurt Youngs, **Chapter Representative, IN**

MIDWEST REGION

Jason Clark, **MidWest Regional Vice-Chair**
LA Bankler Beck, **Chapter Representative, San Antonio**
Robert Garner, **Chapter Representative, Gulf Coast**
Tony Privitera, **Chapter Representative, Kansas City**
John Rathje, **Chapter Representative, IA**
Brad Wegner, **Chapter Representative, NE**
Bree Wink, **Chapter Representative, N. TX**

WEST REGION

Mark Scoccolo, **West Regional Vice-Chair**
Kurt Brna, **Chapter Representative, Las Vegas**
Ben Goddard, **Chapter Representative, AZ**
Ryan Harada, **Chapter Representative, HI**
Rick Oliver, **Chapter Representative, E. WA & N. ID**
Gary Silbernagel, **Chapter Representative, CO**



NUCA STAFF

Chief Executive Officer
Doug Carlson — doug@nuca.com
Chief Operating Officer
Chris Barrett — chris@nuca.com
Director of Communications
Robert Baylor — robert@nuca.com
Director of Marketing
Cheryl Stratos — cheryl@nuca.com
Staff Editor
Zak Jordon — zak@nuca.com

CUTS SAFE + SQUARE

HPC8+ GUILLOTINE PIPE CUTTER



- **Lighter tool weight** — 22%+ weight reduction*
- **Greater pipe capacity** — up to 9.06" O.D. fits true 8" DIPS and IPS for PE
- **Minimal clearance required** — only 4" – 6"
- **Increased tool strength** — 20% greater rigidity
- **Clean and safe** — no chips to clog valves and apertures



*Non-stick,
made in
USA blade*



*Hinged to open
for placement
around pipe*



**VIDEO
TRAINING**

**Versus prior HPC8 model*



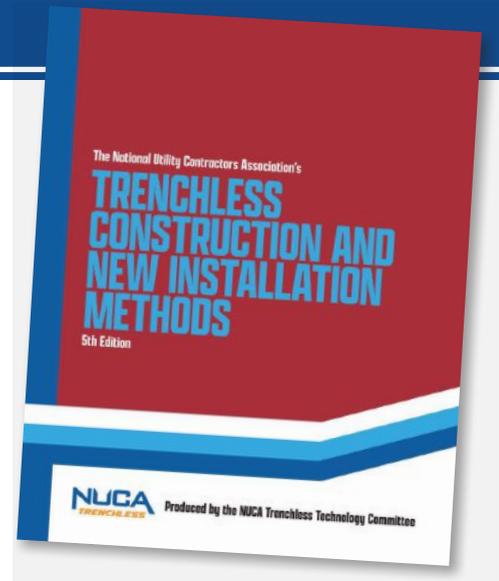
PIPE TOOLS & VISES
SINCE 1896

Reed Manufacturing • Erie, PA USA

+1-814-452-3691 • 800-666-3691

reedsales@reedmfgco.com • www.reedmfgco.com

New Trenchless Technology Manual Illustrates Cost-Saving Options



Trenchless technology continues to expand at a very rapid rate, as more contractors recognize the efficiency and cost-savings that can be recognized in its usage. To help more of its members understand trenchless tech, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) released this month its updated “Trenchless Construction and New Installation Methods” manual.

“The intent of this manual is to enhance the body of knowledge in our industry about trenchless techniques,” said Doug Carlson, NUCA Chief Executive Officer. “It provides a central place that provides input from utility contractors who work every day to build underground infrastructure and provide safe and successful projects. The manual’s main focus is on constructability.”

The 148-page, full-color illustrated manual carefully addresses and explains the most common trenchless installation methods. This manual was written by construction industry experts, describing both the contractors’ and manufacturers’ perspective with the goal to educate and guide others in

choosing the best subsurface method to completing a project.

As the industry continues to grow, many contractors are adding trenchless projects to their operations. Some bid trenchless projects without the proper knowledge to complete the job as specified, or their inexperience results in major project problems and costs.

Several years ago, the committee became concerned that there is a lack of understanding of what is needed to produce successful trenchless projects from the contractors’ perspective. This manual, four years in the making, is to help utility owners and engineers specify the right trenchless method that meets their specific project needs.

In previous editions of this manual, both new installation methods and renewal methods were presented. NUCA’s Trenchless Technology Committee members decided the focus of the manual’s fifth-edition should be just on the newest trenchless installation methods.

The manual describes in-depth these trenchless methods: 1) auger boring, 2)

pipe jacking and utility tunnelling, 3) microtunneling, 4) pipe ramming, 5) horizontal directional drilling, 6) soil compaction methods, 7) direct pipe, 8) pilot tube, and 9) pipe bursting. The manual also addresses geotechnical conditions in the use of trenchless methods, as well as safety and legal obligations.

Trenchless technology can deliver a broad family of methods for installing pipelines and cables with minimum disruption to the environment and a community. Owners, engineers, and contractors need to be knowledgeable about potential methods that can be cost-effectively used for their utility construction projects. This manual also can provide a decision-making process to assist users in selecting an appropriate trenchless method for subsurface projects.

This edition was prepared by the Trenchless Technology Center at Louisiana Tech University under the supervision of NUCA’s Trenchless Technology Committee. Benjamin Media, Inc. of Brecksville, Ohio, and its staff kindly assisted in the composition and production of the manual.

The manual is available exclusively from NUCA.

It can be ordered online via www.nuca.com/trenchlessmanual for US\$99.95 plus shipping.



New President Named at SSC Underground

Specialized Services Co. (SSC), recognized as one of Arizona's leading underground construction companies since 1969, has named 30-year company veteran Arvid Veidmark III as its new President to lead its continuous growth plans. After serving for more than 21 years as its previous President, Marcia Veidmark is taking on the role of CEO and Chairman of the Board.

In March 2022, SSC was recognized as the "Contractor of the Year" by Equipment World, and Veidmark's vision is directly positioned to continue the future-forward focus of recession-proofing the company. SSC has been strategic in this approach by implementing additional services they have determined will better serve their cli-

ents, such as the vacuum excavating service that allows them to be involved at different phases of the project. Even before holding the official position of President, Veidmark has been brainstorming ideas on how SSC can create invaluable improvements to leverage a quicker turnaround for jobs.

While maintaining SSC's current level of production, coupled with its vacuum, hydrovac and trenchless services, Veidmark is leading the company to further implement its Trenchless Constructability and Design (TCD) consulting arm. The TCD growth will make SSC the go-to firm to provide input on designing tunneling and other trenchless projects proactively.

"It is an honor to be serving my fam-

ily's company of over 50 years, and like all the other roles I've served at SSC since the age of 10 and full-time since 1993, I do not take this role and its responsibilities lightly," said Arvid Veidmark III, President at SSC. "My vision for enhancements to the company's offerings also include expanding a well-rounded leadership team with experience in all facets of the business to keep SSC not only sustained, but growing for the next 50 yrs."

On that note of building up its leadership, an immediate order of business was promoting Michelle Walker to Vice President of Operations and Steve Walker to General Manager. With these transitions, SSC sees an opportunity for growth throughout its region.

GEONEX HORIZONTAL HAMMER BORING EQUIPMENT

GROUND BREAKING TECHNOLOGY FOR BREAKTHROUGH RESULTS



- ✓ FAST SET-UP / NO THRUST WALLS OR FOUNDATIONS NEEDED
- ✓ OVER 50,000 PSI ROCK IS NO PROBLEM
- ✓ SAME DRILLING TOOL FOR EVERY GEOLOGY
- ✓ NO FLUIDS NEEDED
- ✓ WIDE DIAMETER RANGE 5"-48"



HAVE A PROJECT IN MIND?
Email info@geonex.fi or visit
www.geonexgroup.com



HCSS Announces CEO Retirement and Succession Plan



Steve McGough

Mike Rydin

HCSS, a leading integrated software solution company that helps contractors from estimating and bidding through project completion, announced on April 19 that the Board of Directors appointed Steve McGough to President and Chief Executive Officer. He succeeds Mike Rydin, who founded HCSS and served as CEO for more than 35 years.

“I am honored to take the reins and to have the opportunity to work with our talented employees to advance HCSS’ profitable growth strategy,” McGough said. “I want to thank Mike Rydin for his partnership at HCSS and also the Board for its confidence in me as I step into this new role.”

“It has been a privilege to lead the HCSS team. I want to offer my sincere thanks to our employees whose hard work and dedication have allowed us to achieve so much,” Rydin said. “I am proud of what our leadership team has

accomplished over the years and am confident that they will continue to make HCSS a stellar company.”

“On behalf of the entire Board, the management team and HCSS, I’d like to thank Mike for his leadership and impact over his more than three decades leading the organization,” said A.J. Rohde, a Senior Partner at Thoma Bravo. “Under his leadership, HCSS has transformed into a world-class software company that delivers best-in-class solutions to the construction industry. The Board is sincerely grateful to Mike for his dedication and wishes him nothing but the best.”

Rohde continued, “Steve’s leadership has helped drive HCSS to success for more than 17 years and we are confident that he is the right leader to execute on the company’s strategic priorities and accelerate growth.”

Steve McGough joined HCSS in 2005 as Chief Operating Officer, responsible

for driving operations, sales, accounting, and finance and was later named to President in 2015. Prior to HCSS, McGough held multiple leadership roles in the construction industry. He has been active with several industry associations. He is the immediate past Chairman of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and is a member of their Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Additionally, he is a member of The Beavers and the current Chairman for TRIP, a national transportation research group that promotes transportation policies that help relieve traffic congestion and its impact on air quality, improve road and bridge conditions, make surface travel safer, and enhance economic productivity. McGough received his bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University and his Master of Business Administration from Tulane University.



Kabourek Named Director of Operations at General Excavating

General Excavating announced the addition of Jerry Kabourek to the management team. Kabourek brings over 30 years of experience in the civil construction industry to General Excavating. Possessing a construction management degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha along with many years of field experience, Kabourek’s diverse background will help ensure resources are

used effectively toward the successful completion of a wide variety of public and private underground utility projects.

“Jerry’s hand-on management style, close relationships with clients, and different viewpoint on how we do our work will be very impactful,” said Scott Fitzgerald, president of General Excavating. “Jerry’s skill set is a great compliment to our current team and his experi-

ence in our industry is critical as we look to train our next generation of field staff.”

General Excavating is “Your Underground Partner” specializing in utilities, excavation shoring, environmental remediation, trenchless construction, hydro excavation, communications, hourly service work, and the sale of landscaping supplies, on projects throughout the Midwest.

WHERE SERVICE MEETS EXPERTISE.

IN-HOUSE ENGINEERING | ALUMINUM BOXES | ROAD PLATES
TRENCH BOXES | PIPE PLUGS | SLIDE RAIL | TRAFFIC SAFETY



**NATIONAL
TRENCH SAFETY**



888.234.9244 | WWW.NTSAFETY.COM

Microtunneling Short Course Held in Arizona

The 28th annual Microtunneling Short Course was held April 27-29, 2022, at Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Arizona. The new location, the spring training home of the San Francisco Giants, marked the first time the course was held outside of Colorado. The course also returned from a two-hiatus since last being held in 2020; the 2021 course was cancelled due to the pandemic.

More than 160 people attended Microtunneling Short Course, which was founded in 1994 and continues to be the go-to event for those in the microtunneling industry. The course agenda comprises experts from around the world from the contracting, engineering and manufacture/supply fields, as well as others.

Topics include equipment technology, design and planning, case studies, legal considerations, support equipment, microtunneling pipe, shaft construction and more. One highlight of the agenda was a contractor's panel discussion highlighting the issues facing the industry today and what can be done to improve it.

In addition to the classroom-based instruction, the Microtunneling Short Course is known for its networking opportunities, which included an opening welcome reception and a closing awards banquet. The annual North American Microtunneling Association also holds its annual meeting in conjunction with the course.



About 170 people attended the course, including many NUCA members. Among NUCA members in attendance or speaking were representatives from Akkerman, Barbco, Bradshaw Construction, BTrenchless, Hobas Pipe, Michels, Olson Construction Law and Trinity Products.

Additionally, Maynard Akkerman, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Akkerman Inc., was one of five recipients of the Microtunneling Achievement Award, given to those who have made a meaningful and lasting impression in the field of microtunneling. Other award winners were Dawn Lowers-Davis, Lowers Welding & Fabrication; Mike Garver, BRH-Garver Construction; Don Gonzales, Northwest Boring Company; and Gilbert Kimpel, MTS Perforator.

The course is organized and presented by Tim Coss, Microtunneling Inc., Levent Ozdemir, Ozdemir & Associates, and Benjamin Media Inc.



Cemen Tech Announces Leadership Changes



Brian Kenoyer

Mark Rinehart

Cemen Tech announced two significant staff changes. Recently, Mark Rinehart has been promoted internally to Vice President – Sales and Marketing while newcomer Brian Kenoyer has been hired as Director of Engineering. The key leadership moves are part of the company's focused effort to grow production and take a technology-first approach to its product design and development.

"Employees are the life-blood of any company," said Connor Deering, CEO & President. "And I want to make sure we're hiring and promoting people to be inspiring, forward-thinking leaders for

their employees and the organization as a whole. Mark and Brian are already doing that for us in their new roles."

"Our goal is to educate all of construction contractors on the value of volumetric technology and how it can improve their field operations by taking full control of their concrete needs," Rinehart said. "Cemen Tech, in conjunction with its North American dealer network, strives to help customers diversify their business and become more vertically integrated."

Rinehart has a deep background in construction technology-related sales which has been a huge asset to Cemen

Tech's customers as they adopt ACCU-POUR™, the company's fleet management software. Prior to joining Cemen Tech, Rinehart worked in various roles for Ziegler Caterpillar, including Director of Technology where he managed all construction, agriculture, and mining technology for the dealership.

Kenoyer brings a methodical, disciplined approach to product R&D, specifically for American markets. Prior to joining Cemen Tech, he served as Director of Engineering for Fives Landis Corp., a company that serves the aerospace, automotive and energy industries.

PRECISION AUGER BORING



Michael Byrne now provides a quick connect package for your Akkerman Guided Bore Machine.

Save the expense of purchasing the Akkerman power pack when you use the **industry-leading auger boring power pack**.

Our experienced sales team is ready to help you with your next critical line and grade bore.

It really is as easy as a flip of a switch with our new remote control, standard on all new 42" and larger machines.

**RELIABLE - ACCURATE -
ECONOMICAL**



MICHAEL BYRNE MFG

1855 Earth Boring Rd • Mansfield, OH 44903

(419) 525-1214

www.ByrneGroup.com

Fred Chesney (left) receives the Ditchdigger of the Year Award from Kara Habrock.



Ditchdigger of the Year Award:

**FRED CHESNEY,
CENTERLINE UTILITIES INC.**

In recognition of his lifelong service to the utility construction industry, as well as his numerous contributions to the National Utility Contractors Association, Fred Chesney of Centerline Utilities Inc., Palm City, Florida, was recognized as the Ditchdigger of the Year by the association at its annual convention in March in San Antonio, Texas.

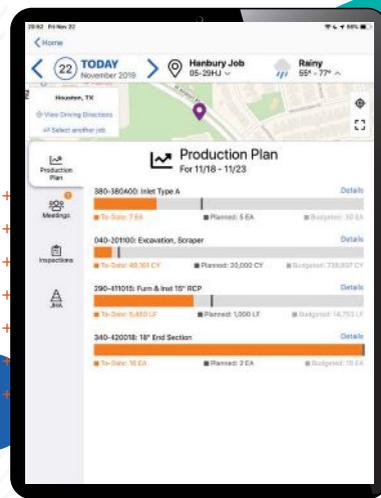
“Fred has passionately dedicated his time, talent and treasure to promoting NUCA and the industry for more than 30 years,” said Doug Carlson, NUCA Chief Executive Officer. “With his many years of commitment, it would be next to impossible to list all of Fred’s contributions to advancing the underground utility industry over the years, but Fred has made his mark on this industry and our association.”

Chesney has dedicated his entire life to the underground utility industry. Chesney earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida in Building Construction Management before starting his business Centerline Utilities Inc. four years later. He founded Centerline in 1980 and continued to serve as the company’s president until his retirement last year.

Under Chesney’s management, Centerline became a well-respected underground utility contractor located in the South Florida area. The company joined the local chapter NUCA of South Florida (then known as the Utility Contractors Association of South Florida) in 1986 and has been involved since then on the local, state, and national levels.

Chesney has been long involved in the industry’s associations, including on his local industry chapter. He

Software built for construction that fits your needs and workflow at every stage of work.



Scan this code using your phone’s camera or visit learn.hcss.com/nuca to take our fit quiz



Innovative Software
for the Construction Industry



“WHEN I FIRST JOINED UCA OF SOUTH FLORIDA IN THE 1980S, IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT 30 YEARS LATER I WOULD BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION”

served on that chapter's board of directors beginning in 1989, and before assuming the chairman's title for NUCA served as the national association's Chairman-elect, Vice Chairman, and Secretary, and as a Contractor director since the early 2010s.

His industry accomplishments are numerous, proving his dedication to the utility contractors' local and national associations over the last 40 years. Chesney's Centerline Utility was named his local chapter's Member Company of the Year in 2009 and 2010; Contractor of the Year in 2010, 2012, and 2014; and NUCA of Florida Contractor of the Year in 2016. He has been a major sponsor of his chapter's events, actively recruits new member to the association, and has been an ever-present participant to NUCA's Washington Summit lobbying events, national conventions, and industry meetings.

Most recently, Chesney served as the past chairman of NUCA National in 2020-21. He led the organization through the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and through his leadership expanded the ranks of the National Association with his NUCA+1 membership growth initiative. His knowledge of this industry and loyalty to NUCA is unmatched.

“When I first joined UCA of South Florida in the 1980s, it never occurred to me that 30 years later I would be Chairman of the national association,” Chesney said when he accepted the chairmanship. “But once you get involved with your local chapter and know what you can achieve as a volunteer, you realize how much you can give back to the industry that has given you so much.”

A focus of Chesney's term as chairman was on increasing membership. He dubbed his growth campaign as NUCA+1 to encourage every NUCA

member to recruit at least one new member during the course of the year. During his term, two new chapters were added, and the association reported a 5 percent increase in membership.

His chairmanship, however, was marked by the unexpected and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that altered businesses around the globe. NUCA's emphasis shifted toward working with the federal government to ensure that the utility construction industry was deemed “essential.” Additionally, Chesney and the board oversaw a period of transitional leadership at the national level, which included the first year of Doug Carlson's tenure as CEO.

His term as chairman not only saw increased growth while navigating the pandemic, it also helped set the stage for the future growth of the association.

This Ditchdigger of the Year Award is presented to a NUCA contractor member who has made a significant contribution to NUCA and the underground utility construction and excavation industry.



– NUCA DITCHDIGGERS OF THE YEAR –

1971 – Peter Ellis, Rockville, MD
1972 – Joe D’Annunzio, Scotch Plains, NJ
1973 – Sam Luciano, Hazlet, NJ
1974 – Fred Campagni, Cortland, NY
1975 – William Feather, Marlton, NJ
1976 – David Shevock, Dover, DE
1977 – Leonard Genghini, Elkins Park, PA
1978 – John Felton, Missoula, MT
1979 – Robert Griffith, Aldie, VA
1980 – Rick Egge, Woodinville, WA
1981 – D.A. Foster, Merifield, VA
1982 – Joe Corrado, New Castle, DE
1983 – Loretta Simmons, Rochester, NY
1984 – Vic DiGeronimo, Independence, OH
1985 – Leon Asadoorian, Salem, NH
1986 – Bill Burgett, Fredericktown, OH
1987 – Ben Luster, Tucson, AZ

1988 – Ed Cruz, Holmdel, NJ
1989 – Harold Ruf, Pleasant Grove, UT
1990 – Jay Matricciari, Baltimore, MD
1991 – Andy Mayta, Palm Harbor, FL
1992 – Gerry Kenny, Wheeling, IL
1993 – Harold Mueller, New Berlin, WI
1994 – Delaine Nelson, New Berlin, WI
1995 – Mark Harris, Lake Mary, FL
1996 – Richard Foster, Newtown, PA
1997 – Tom Henkels, New Berlin, WI
1998 – Mark Accetturo, Fairburn, GA
1999 – Jim Barron, Baltimore, MD
2000 – Jim Stutler, Denver, CO
2001 – Steve Theis, Rolling Meadows, IL
2002 – James King Jr., Conyers, GA
2003 – Greg Strudwick, Copell, TX
2004 – Lyle Schellenberg, Salem, OR

2005 – Terry Dillon, West Lafayette, IN
2006 – Cheryl Yoder, Jacksonville, FL
2007 – Larry Fortin, Las Vegas, NV
2008 – Jim Giannelli, Albuquerque, NM
2009 – Glenn Ely, Newtown, PA
2010 – Ryan Schmitt, Jacksonville, FL
2011 – Dan East, Dallas, TX
2012 – Ryan Schmitt, Jacksonville, FL
2013 – Jeff Rumer, Denver, CO
2014 – Florentino Gregorio, Washington, D.C.
2015 – Warren Graves, Roanoke, Texas
2016 – Bruce Wendorf, Punta Gorda, FL
2017 – Ryan Kinning, Pender, NE
2018 – Kara Habrock, Omaha, NE
2019 – Mark Fuglevand, Bellevue, WA
2020 – Dan Buckley, Chantilly, VA
2021 – Fred Chesney, Palm City, FL

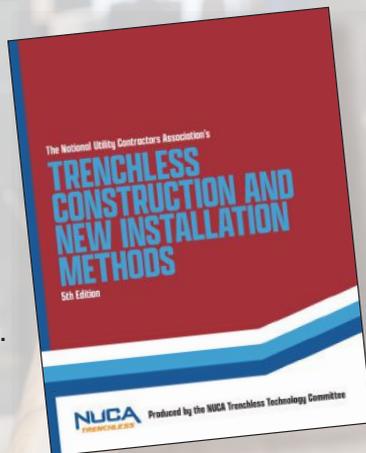
NOW AVAILABLE! *Trenchless Construction and New Installation Methods 5th Edition*

The industry’s go-to manual for trenchless technology is now updated and available to utility construction industry professionals.

Prepared under the direction of the NUCA Trenchless Technology Committee, this comprehensive book now includes the latest thinking about trenchless technology methods available for underground projects.

Trenchless technology has the promise to fulfill your project parameters in a cost-effective and timely manner. NUCA’s new manual will help your engineers realize its potential.

Order yours today at nuca.com/trenchlessmanual



\$99.95/EACH

Extensive technical information and discussion of trenchless methods are included within these chapters:

- Geotechnical Considerations
- Auger Boring
- Pipe Jacking & Utility Tunneling
- Microtunneling
- Guided Boring Method
- Small Horizontal Directional Drilling
- Large Horizontal Directional Drilling
- Pipe Ramming
- Pipe Bursting
- Safety
- Risk Management
- Legal Aspects

NUCA
We Dig America

Mike Sturgill of Xylem Dewatering (left) receives the NUCA Associate Member of the Year Award from NUCA CEO Doug Carlson.



Associate Member of the Year:

MICHAEL STURGILL,
REGIONAL SALES MANAGER, XYLEM DEWATERING SOLUTIONS

Xylem's Michael Sturgill knows a thing or two about teamwork. Whether it is on the gridiron or in the boardroom, Sturgill has learned how a group of people working toward the same goal came accomplish great things. Recently, Sturgill has focused his energies growing the NUCA team, playing an integral role in the development of new chapters in East Tennessee and the Gulf Coast (Texas).

In recognition of his achievements, NUCA honored Sturgill with its prestigious Associate Member of the Year award at its annual convention March 5 in San Antonio. The Associate Member of the Year award is presented annually to an associate member who has made a significant contribution to NUCA and the underground utility construction and excavation industry.

"Mike's hard work and dedication to this association and its members was exceptional," said Doug Carlson, NUCA Chief Executive Officer. "Helping to establish two new NUCA Chapters over the space of the last 18 months is an extraordinary achievement. Mike's tireless efforts to help establish and expand both chapters made a big difference in their rapid growth. It's members like Mike that make NUCA stronger each year, and we are thankful Xylem and him are part of this association and our industry."

Sturgill's indispensable work to help establish three new NUCA chapters made him a top choice to receive the award. He is a dedicated industry professional who helped establish and grow NUCA's East Tennessee Chapter. This new local chapter was officially chartered in 2021. Sturgill provided industry guidance, connected us with his industry resources, and delivered incred-

TRI-LOC

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

Trinity Products' Tri-Loc

Combining our state of art spiralweld pipe mill & our A.I.S.C. certified fabrication facilities, our **Tri-Loc weldless interlock system** creates a cost effective method for pipe installation while also improving job site efficiencies.

CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS

800.456.7473



TRINITYPRODUCTS.COM

ible support to many of East Tennessee's local events.

Sturgill also played a large part in the growth and success of NUCA Texas through his company Xylem, who is a Premiere Partner for NUCA Texas. Sturgill went the extra mile and throughout late 2021 dedicated much of his time toward the establishment of the NUCA Gulf Coast Chapter. He also serves as a part-time board of director of the Gulf Coast chapter. That chapter was officially chartered in March 2022 at NUCA's annual meeting and covers the Houston, Galveston, and Beaumont, Texas, region for utility contractors. Additionally, Sturgill helped to launch the San Antonio chapter.

"Working to help grow new chapters has been a lot of fun," Sturgill says. "Each chapter is different in terms of what their needs are, but essentially it's all about taking care of the membership."

The key to success, Sturgill says, is showing prospective members how they can benefit from being a member. "The best way to show them the benefits is getting them to see it first-hand," he says. "Invite them to attend events and see for themselves how like-minded companies are getting involved. Whether it is safety or government relations, when they see the benefits, they are able to see the value of joining NUCA and their local chapter."

In addition to the new chapters, NUCA has recently welcomed chapters back to the fold, with the hope of more new and old chapters alike joining soon.

Sturgill is a utility construction industry veteran. He has been in the Pump Rentals and Sales Industry for 16 years with the last 12 years with Xylem Dewatering Solutions, Inc. a division of Xylem, Inc., and also a 2022 NUCA National Partner.

Sturgill's path to the utility construction industry came in part to happenstance. As a graduating senior at Jacksonville University in his home state of Florida, Sturgill was looking for a job that would keep him active and outdoors in preparation for a tryout with the Orlando Predators of the Arena Football League. So, he went to work as a laborer for an underground utility company that was building infrastructure for a mall complex. When the football dream didn't go as planned, Sturgill stayed with the company for four years before joining Godwin Pumps (now Xylem) 13 years ago.

At Xylem, he worked in various roles from outside sales representative, to branch manager, and currently

is the Regional Sales Manager covering 10 direct-to-market facilities in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and East Tennessee, managing a team of about 25 sales representatives. Sturgill is based out of Naylor, Georgia, located in the southern part of the state.

Sturgill says that working in the utility industry has been a fulfilling career, personally and professionally. "Utility construction is an exciting industry – it is always changing so you don't see the same thing every day," he says. "And, whether it is a months-long project or an emergency repair – you are creating infrastructure that millions of people rely on. We provide clean water; we make sure that sewage isn't backing up into people's houses or into rivers; and we help rebuild after natural disasters. It is an unsung group that doesn't get a lot of credit, but it is rewarding valuable work."

**“UTILITY CONSTRUCTION IS AN
EXCITING INDUSTRY – IT IS AL-
WAYS CHANGING SO YOU DON'T
SEE THE SAME THING EVERY DAY”**

The industry is in a good place now. A historic investment in infrastructure by the federal government, with the help of NUCA's lobbying effort, promise a bright future for the next several years. "Utility construction is such a big space now with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and if we are able to get everyone working on the same page, we'll be able to make it successful and beneficial for contractors and associates alike."

Likewise, NUCA is continuing an upward trajectory. "We are adding chapters and have had chapters that left and are now coming back, so that proves that proves that we're heading in the right direction. There is great leadership at the national level, and there are good processes in place. As a result, we are seeing a growing membership that only means the association is getting stronger."

Your Chance to Win a

TRAEGER SMOKER!



Renew your free subscription to
Utility Contractor for a chance
to win a Traeger Smoker!

Visit benjaminmedia.com/sweepstakes for full rules.
This giveaway is in no way associated with Traeger Grills.
Offer only valid to existing subscribers.



NUCA 2022 Convention & Exhibit



Wrap Up

Our 2022 Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas was a huge hit and members from all corners of the nation took the time to network with fellow members, participate in the exciting events including educational opportunities, informative speakers and industry specific topics designed to help streamline underground utility operations, receptions, and awards ceremonies, and do so in a beautiful resort setting.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The return of the “CEO Bobble Head Open” featured the resort’s golf courses as our members competed to raise money to benefit NUCA’s scholarship program.



NUCA'S 2022 NATIONAL PARTNERS & EXHIBITORS

This year, our 61 exhibitors included National Partners who know the value of displaying their latest technologies to the utility construction industry's decision makers. We also had a good number of new members who found their first-time at the NUCA annual exhibit to be very worthwhile in gaining new leads and product orders. All in all, we had more Partners and Exhibitors on hand than in many years.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOHN REGISTER

Our keynote speaker, two-time Paralympian, Paralympic Games Silver Medalist, Persian Gulf War veteran John Register was energetic and engaging! As he discussed the struggles of his injuries and how he eventually overcame them, he related his own experience to the "New Normal" in the world of utility construction.

Sponsored by : 



WELCOME RECEPTION

Ending the first day of the convention, the night's lively reception at Henry's Hollow. Attendees enjoyed the beautiful weather, tasty appetizers, cool drinks, and the joy of spending time with their long-time colleagues and new friends alike.

Sponsored by :



TEAM BUILDING: DIGGER DASH

Sponsored by :



Our team building event was as wild as it gets: Teams worked together to create a team flag, take a turn on a wild bull, race armadillos, and more! While there could only be one official winner, everyone had a blast!





2022 GALA & LIVE AUCTION

Sponsored by :



The Gala Dinner and live auction this year celebrated our members successes and recognized the industry's brightest! Besides a great dinner, our guests congratulated the Award of Excellence, Safety, and Top Jobs winners. New Chairman Ryan Kinning delivered his inaugural speech and plans for his term-of-office – and how to lead NUCA to continued growth and success. Those who bid on auction items and participated in the raffles helped fund the association's programs. Thanks to our new National Partners Big Iron Auctions for helping make the event truly successful!

They live in a pit beneath the surface of construction sites all over the globe.
Stronger and more powerful than anything of it's kind.

THEY'RE BIG, MEAN AND GREEN.
INTRODUCING THE NEW LINE OF ABM'S BY BARBCO

We've unleashed our newest line of auger boring machines now offering unmatched power, durability, performance and safety over our competition.

If you're looking for a beast in the pit, call Barbcó.
#MEANGREENMACHINE

Barbcó[®]
INC.

Call 1-800-448-8934 • Visit barbcó.com
PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA

2022 UTILITY CONSTRUCTION ECONOMIC FORECAST WITH ANIBAN BASU

Associated Builders & Contractors' Chief Economist Aniban Basu returned to the NUCA convention, to discuss and analyze changes ahead for the utility construction industry in 2022, particularly considering the challenges that the industry and nation face in 2022 and beyond.



Sponsored by : 



TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP

The reins of Chairman of the Board are passed from Immediate Past Chairman Lauren Atwell to newly appointed Chairman Ryan Kinning.



AWARDS



Associate Member of the Year –
Michael Sturgill - Xylem



Chapter Merit Awards



Ditchdigger of the Year – Fred Chesney

2021 TOP JOBS COMPETITION

NUCA's Seventh Annual Top Jobs Awards were presented during the 2022 Convention. The awards recognize outstanding member projects that went above and beyond, overcoming unique challenges on their jobsites or demanding project details.

NEWLY CHARTERED CHAPTERS: AZUCA, NUCA Gulf Coast, and NUCA San Antonio

Presiding over the new charters as the previous newest chapter, NUCA New Jersey welcomed an astounding 3 new chapters: AZUCA (the Arizona Chapter of NUCA), and two new chapters from Texas, NUCA Gulf Coast and NUCA San Antonio! Presiding over the new charters as the previous newest chapter, NUCA New Jersey welcomed an astounding 3 new chapters: AZUCA (the Arizona Chapter of NUCA), and two new chapters from Texas, NUCA Gulf Coast and NUCA San Antonio!



Overall Winner:

Cleary Construction,
Tompkinsville, KY -
Veterans Memorial
Force Main



Jack and Bore

Hand Mining

Horizontal Directional Drilling

Rehabilitation

Pipe Ramming

6814 W 350 N.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317.545.1335

[f](#) [i](#) [in](#) [t](#)
Midwestmole.com



National Leadership Award –
Theresa Mannix, SUCA



The 2020 Safety Awards –
Overall Winner, Foremost Pipeline, Inc.

2021 TOP JOBS COMPETITION

Category Winners:



Communications:

Cleary Construction, TARI Telecommunication Duct Bank



Gas Distribution:

Cleary Construction, North Second Street Bridge Natural Gas Main Replacement Project



Trenchless Technology:

Iowa Trenchless, Lower Conner Creek Interceptor



Excavation/Site Development:

Roloff Construction, 96th Street & Frederick Street Emergency Culvert Construction



Water Distribution:

TA Loving, Neuse River Raw Water Intake Screens

PROFIT PIPELINE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

This year's profit pipeline included a panel of past NUCA chairs, including Kara Habrock, Fred Chesney, and Lauren Atwell, and was moderated by Chairman Elect Ryan Kinning. The program also included a deep dive into the recent 811 study, headed by Mark Bridgers of Continuum Capital.



INDUSTRY HOT TOPICS

This year's convention featured 8 different hot topic discussions covering a wide range of issues, including: Growing Your Chapter in 2022 presented and Moderated by Mark Levin, CAE; Reliance on Boring Logs Presented by Shawn Farrell, Partner - Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC; Trenchless Technology Update; Construction Technology and the Coming Tide in Equipment Management Presented by Russ Young,

Vice President – Tenna; NUCA WINS Panel Discussion Presented by Jim Messina, Chief Marketing Officer – Compatica and Brad Wegner, Vice President – Midlands Contracting, Inc.; Infrastructure & Legislative Update Eben Wyman & Zach Perconti, Wyman Associates; Workforce Development Panel Discussion; and, Deep Dive in Current Utility Contractor Industry Loss Trends Presented by Cory Rimmer & Nick Renfro, CNA.



The End-to-End Electrification Solution



Vanair® is leading the charge in end-to-end electrification solutions by offering 100% of the components needed for a complete system. Powered by Vanair's specially developed line of Lithium Iron Phosphate ELiMENT™ batteries, the patent pending EPEQ™ system delivers power for: air, electrical, fluid transfer, EV charging, and welding. From van fleets to work trucks, an EPEQ™ system delivers:

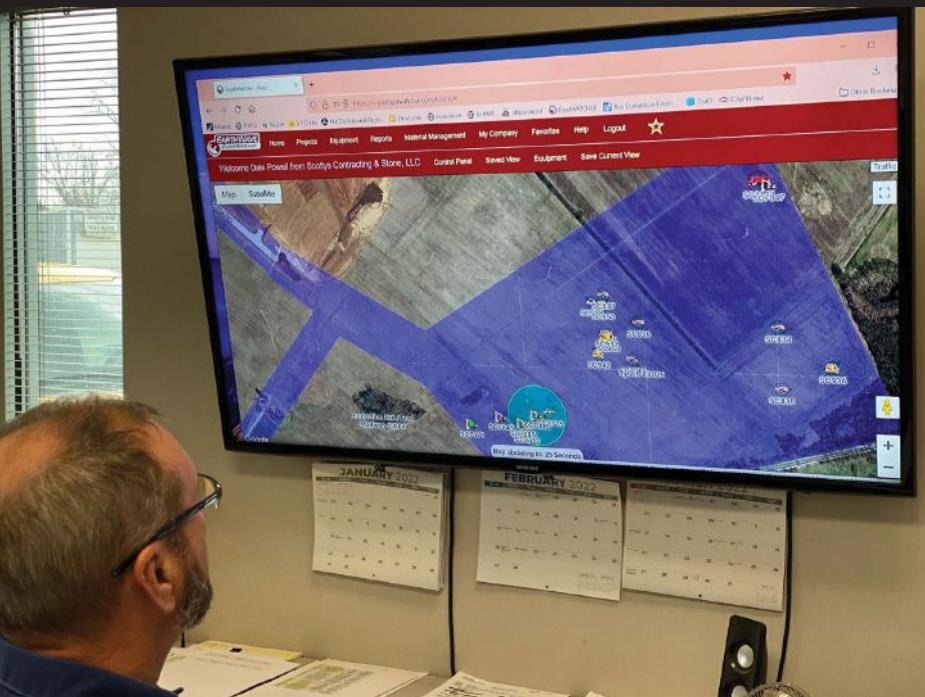
- Zero emissions
- Clean, quiet, fossil-free power
- Adaptability to meet future state needs
- Efficient, powerful, and rugged performance
- Reduced maintenance and fuel costs

The answer to your electrification is EPEQ™.
Contact us at 800.526.8817.



EPEQ.com [in](#) [v](#) [f](#) [t](#)

How Telematics Help Kentucky's Largest Heavy Highway Contractor Better Utilize Equipment



If you've ever felt like you're juggling too many projects at once, you're not alone. Chris Higgins, the Vice President of Engineering and Construction at Scotty's Contracting & Stone can empathize. He wakes up every day with 400 pieces of heavy equipment to allocate across projects throughout Kentucky. On a good day it's a challenge. On a rainy day it's fire drill. But Higgins is prepared, thanks to a telematics tool that collects and displays data across his entire fleet, bridging the gaps between a dozen different equipment manufacturers.

Getting over growing pains

Scotty's Contracting & Stone is a heavy civil and paving contractor that has served a geographic footprint that ranges from Louisville to Nashville for 50 years. In that time the company has grown from 10 employees to over 600, dispatching more than 100 trucks a day through their 14 asphalt plants and 5 stone quarries. Third party trucks are supplied with FleetWatcher as well, so that all haul trucks have the same visibility. Visibility into the entire haul fleet allows Scotty's to see bottlenecks

in real time and re-route trucks around them to shorten cycle times.

Throughout Scotty's growth their key has been getting the right equipment in the right place at the right time. "Utilization is a hot topic every day with multiple phone calls and discussions trying to get it right," Higgins explained.

Utilization has always been a priority, but it was easier when Scotty only had 12 grade jobs on any given day. Now, with 70 grade jobs taking place at once, the process is considerably more complicated. But for Higgins it all starts, literally, at the starting line.

"First thing you have to do is try and figure out where your pieces are. For us that starts with looking at Fleet-Watcher." Earthwave Technologies' FleetWatcher is a fleet management telematics platform that helps Higgins connect the dots between disparate equipment, regardless of manufacturer or class. Unlike OEM telematics that provide machine level data, FleetWatcher provides fleet level data, moving beyond "when is that excavator due for an oil change" to "how can I best use the equipment to keep projects on track and on budget."

"All my Caterpillar pieces are connected to communicate real-time machine health data, which lets mechanics see what's wrong with a piece before it leaves the shop, and another piece of software helps us diagnose machine problems," said Higgins. But none of that was helping with utilization...until now.

A day in the life

Higgins wakes up at 4 AM. The first thing he notices is that it's raining. For most of us, morning rain would have people searching for a rain slicker, but for Higgins the rain means he will spend the day doing his best Peyton Manning impression, calling audibles left and right. To help make these calls, Higgins leverages utilization stats from FleetWatcher over the last seven to 30 days, to see which machines are being used and which ones aren't.

"Everybody wants all the equipment on their job, but they might not necessarily have a current need for them," Higgins explained. While a project foreman or manager may feel like they just used a piece of equipment, the data lets Scotty's see actual utilization.

“It’s easy to spot underutilized equipment because I can look right away and tell if it’s not being used so I can take it somewhere else instead.”

Once Higgins identifies equipment pieces that aren’t being fully utilized the series of calls begin to reshuffle his equipment to meet the needs of the day. This heavy equipment game of musical chairs not only helps Scotty’s increase their efficiency, but also save money in potentially costly equipment rentals. For Higgins this flexibility is essential with a workforce that is used to switching between multiples pieces of equipment during a single shift.

Scotty’s also uses FleetWatcher for location services, which helps their operations and security. All of Scotty’s lowboys are equipped with Fleet-Watcher, so foreman and project managers can see real-time GPS data on how far out their equipment is during transportation. This same technology also helped when a mini excavator was

prematurely moved from one jobsite to another. Thankfully Higgins was able to use the utilization and location services to source another mini excavator to the original jobsite in need. Fleet-Watcher has also helped customers like Scotty’s and law enforcement to track down stolen equipment with the breadcrumb feature showing where the equipment travelled.

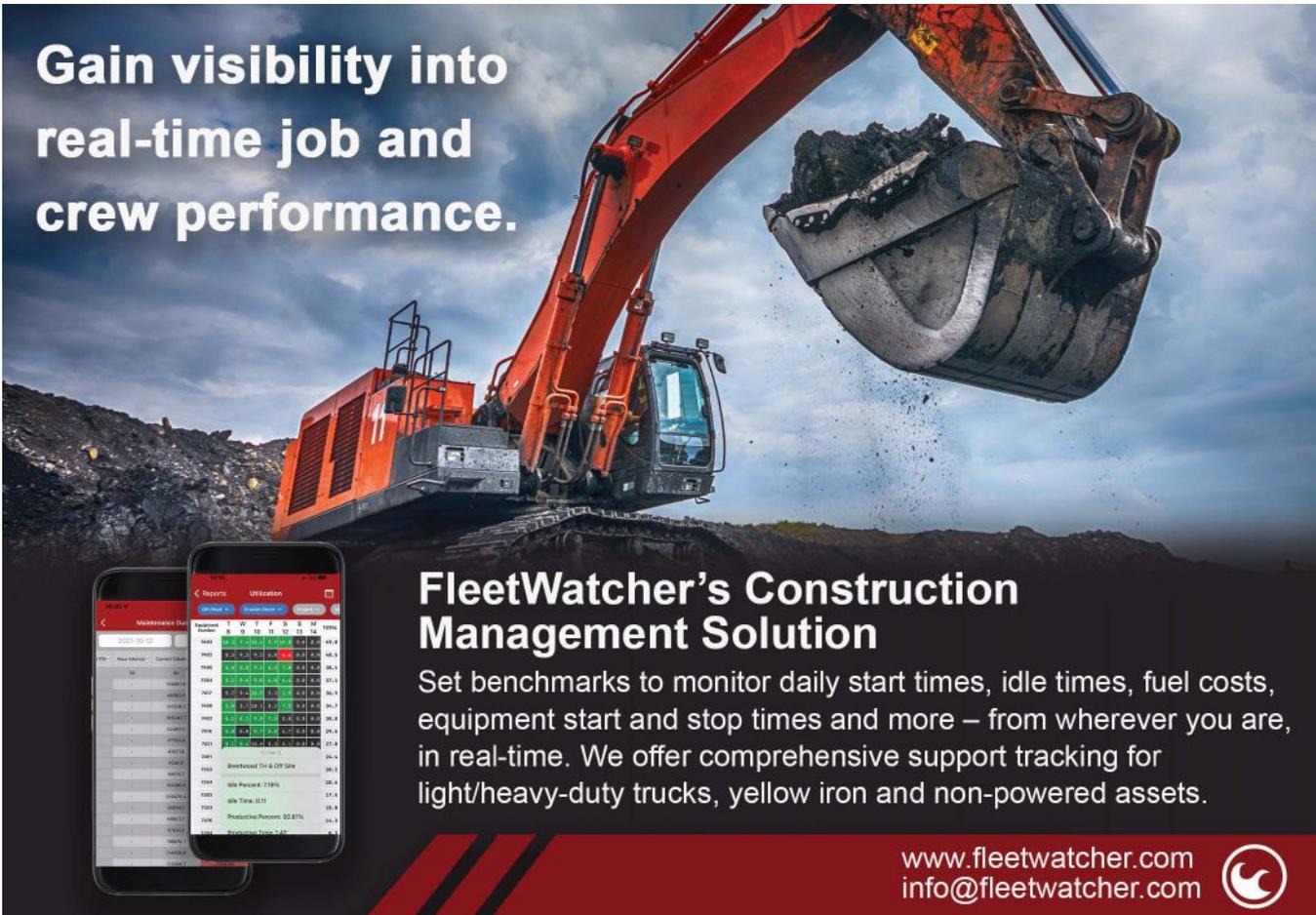
How it works

FleetWatcher helps customers better utilize their construction equipment fleet through real-time tracking and status information. FleetWatcher’s construction management solution was developed specifically for heavy equipment contractors to provide timely and accurate information on equipment start and stop time, engine run and idle times, and more. This information empowers companies to make informed and data driven decisions to effectively manage their equip-

ment and employees.

Easy to install hardware connects all equipment from excavators to loaders and dozers to an online platform that’s accessible via a desktop or mobile app. Customized data reports with hundreds of filtering options can be set up to be automatically delivered at frequent intervals throughout the day to give owners and operators fleet information at their fingertips.

Equipment utilization is just one aspect of FleetWatcher that helps companies achieve better efficiency on construction projects of all sizes. Scotty’s successfully navigated an enormous company growth spurt by upgrading from machine level to fleet level analytics. While the company has made leaps and bounds, Higgins is always looking toward the next step. “I’m not going to say we’ve got daily equipment optimization figured out yet, but we definitely wouldn’t even be close without FleetWatcher.”



**Gain visibility into
real-time job and
crew performance.**

FleetWatcher’s Construction Management Solution

Set benchmarks to monitor daily start times, idle times, fuel costs, equipment start and stop times and more – from wherever you are, in real-time. We offer comprehensive support tracking for light/heavy-duty trucks, yellow iron and non-powered assets.

www.fleetwatcher.com
info@fleetwatcher.com





MICROTUNNELING MARKET STRONG IN NORTH AMERICA

Continued Advancement Drives Growth in New Installation Projects

By Bradley Kramer

The microtunneling market is steady and healthy in North America, according to experts in the field. As larger and more complex projects have been completed, project owners are becoming more comfortable with the steerable pipe jacking technology.

However, there are some challenges in the market that could hamper growth, such as labor shortages and project backlogs.

Tom Pullen, who has broad experience in microtunneling an associate with Brierley Associates, describes the market as cyclical and currently dominated by a numerous shorter microtunneling projects.

“You had your cities with big CSO programs driving the market, and now we’re starting to see smaller programs come up,” Pullen says. “These projects are not the headline-making microtunneling projects, but a high volume of projects that are sustaining the market.”

Comfort and familiarity with the technology are driving the market forward, Pullen adds. While smaller projects may not be as glamorous as larger ones, he says they represent a “critical path” and are integral to the success of the project and the industry at large.

“You don’t want to overlook any project,” Pullen says. “Even though it might be a smaller crossing, it’s still a critical path. One hiccup or black eye on those can really hurt the market.”

In addition to “pent-up demand” from the 2010-2014 housing recession that affected funding for municipal projects, another factor that is driving the microtunneling market is technological advances, according to Lester Bradshaw,

president of Bradshaw Construction Corp.

“Technology advances in microtunneling being accepted by owners and engineers,” Bradshaw says. “Drive lengths increasing to regularly over 1,000 ft, curved drives being designed and or accepted as VE changes on projects, industry knowledge of microtunneling spreading throughout the marketplace, expanded ground conditions for the microtunneling application and expanded diameter of microtunneling with 8-10 ft diameter becoming common.”

Additionally, expanded knowledge in general are helping to improve the market, says Jason Holden, vice president and chief revenue officer for Akkerman Inc.

“A solid understanding of when, where, and how to apply the microtunneling method is a key to a successful installation,” Holden says. “There are several educational opportunities throughout the year along with many great resources just a few clicks or a phone call away. Just like anything, knowledge is power. The more we understand how trenchless systems work and why the equipment is designed to do what it does, the better we can select the right tool for the job.”

While microtunneling is a trenchless method that can be used in any region across North America, Holden says there is some variation in where the market share of projects is concentrated.

“Nearly 95 percent of microtunneling projects are funded through municipal, state, county and federal funding,” Holden says. “In the past five years, there has been an uptick in the trenchless market in states such as Texas, California, New York, Illinois and Florida.”

Holden adds that those states are also slated to get a larger percentage of funding passed down through the Infrastructure Bill that as of press time was still being debated in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Even though we don’t know the final outcome of the infrastructure package at this time, we can be certain that the passage will stimulate growth for the future of our industry across all of North America,” he says.

Focusing on microtunneling technology itself, Pullen adds that geology is another major factor in how the market varies from state to state and region to region, in addition to population and the density of existing infrastructure. Because microtunneling can go deeper than other trenchless installation methods, it can be advantageous in more crowded areas such as New York City.

Compared to other parts of the world, Pullen says that the North American microtunneling market is continuing to develop.

“The contracting and engineering framework is different here than it is internationally,” Pullen says. “In North America, during the last five to 10 years, there have been alternative delivery methods that encapsulate the engineer-contractor framework and the sharing of risk. Internationally, that’s the way it’s done. We’re getting better in North America, but we still fall short there in the sharing of risk vs. how they do it internationally. We need to do a better job of working together to accomplish common goal.”

Bradshaw sees changes in the contracting method as one of the greatest trends in the microtunneling market.

“We see the proliferation of design-build with guaranteed maximum price contracting, which places enormous risks on the contractor design-build team,” Bradshaw says. “Often, the microtunneler is a subcontractor on such design-build teams and had to recognize that they are often the riskiest part of the project, yet may not have the contract protections they are used to.”

As the microtunneling market has evolved over the last 10 years, the market has also experienced increased availability of new technologies and improved capabilities. One such development is the increased quality and availability of jacking pipe, says Rory Ball, senior project manager at Wade Trim.

“The availability of better jacking pipe,” Ball says, “is one of the main aspects of what has benefited the microtunneling market in North America, leading to more challenging geometry in projects.”

Ball also highlights advances in underground survey controls and the equipment itself, leading to better data management during the last decade.

“With the way that the market is, the more quality successful projects there are and the more that owners are exposed to microtunneling, then the more comfort there will be with the technology in the industry,” Ball says. “We still

need better education in the industry, through conferences, white papers, seminars, workshop, brown bag lunch-and-learns. There seems to be an understanding in the industry during the last 10 years that sharing knowledge benefits everyone.”

Like every other business, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to some challenges in the microtunneling market, Ball says, most notably regarding the uncertainty surrounding available materials and cost. Additionally, social distancing measures have also resulted in fewer people visiting jobsites.

“Some challenges are a little more logistical in nature,” Ball says. “There have also been less visitors on jobsites, and I don’t think that’s a good thing. It’s good to have owners and engineers out and see projects being built. It’s better for everyone’s knowledge. On the logistical side, companies are keeping people in smaller cohorts or groups on jobsites. The implementation of these measures is less ideal for efficiency, but necessary to reduce the shut down of a project.”

Pullen adds that the impact of the pandemic on the supply chain has led to reduced effectiveness and efficiency, conditions which continue to persist today. Furthermore, the pandemic has interrupted training and the availability of skilled labor in the microtunneling field.

Additional challenges facing the industry, Pullen says, is unreasonable cost projections on the front end of project planning.

“In the very early stages of projects, when microtunneling is expected to be part of a project, it’s usually a small part of larger project,” Pullen says. “When cost projections are communicated to the sponsor or utility company, and then they go into a design-build scenario, then they see where those early cost projections are incorrect, and the project just dies because of unreasonable cost projections at beginning.”

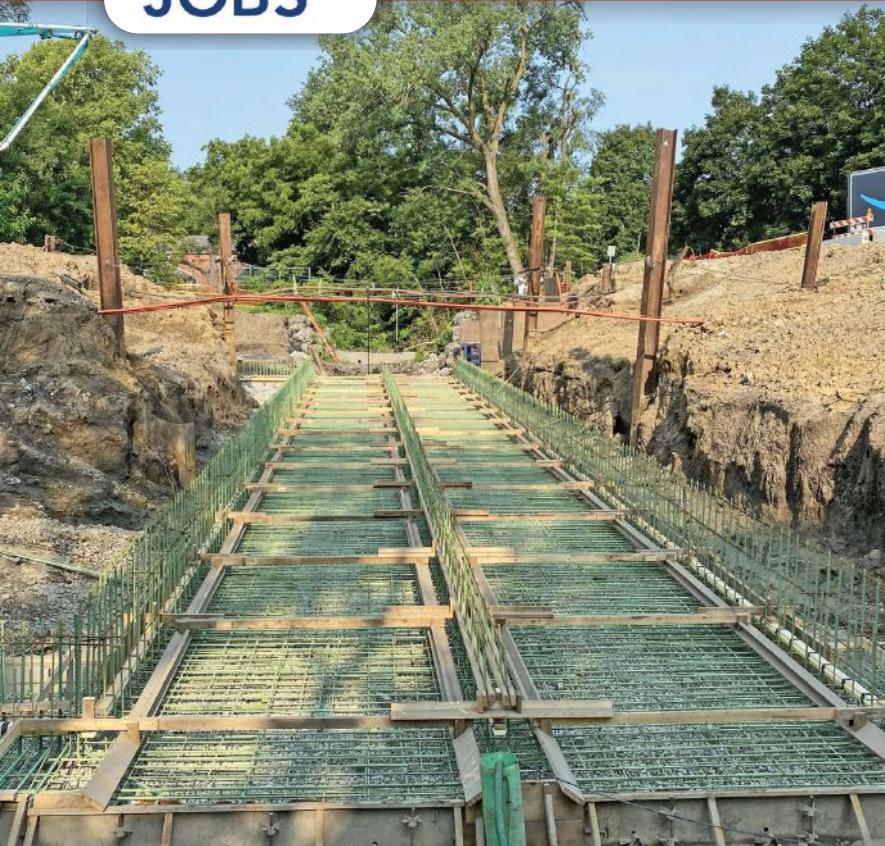
Despite these challenges, Holden believes that the short-term and long-term outlook for the microtunneling market in North America are positive.

“The short-term outlook appears to be good,” he says. “Several contractors are busy with backlogged work to perform into early 2022. The increasing cost of consumables by as much as 25 percent or more will affect contractors with existing obligations while potentially delaying new starts.”

Holden says the Infrastructure Bill could impact the long-term outlook.

“The long-term outlook is expected to be very positive,” Holden says. “The highly politicized infrastructure bill has emphasized the importance of the trenchless industry in North America and the future passage of the bill will ultimately create new funding for future water and sewer programs.”

Bradley Kramer is managing editor of North American Oil & Gas Pipelines and a contributing staff editor for Trenchless Technology.



LEFT: Roloff subcontracting reinforcing steel installation, allowing crews to form and pour concrete more efficiently.

RIGHT: The approximately \$2 million design-build project fixed the issue of settlement, increases safety for motorists and pedestrians, and allows for future capacity improvements in the future.

Excavation/Site Development: **96th Street & Frederick Street Emergency Culvert Construction**

Editor's Note: In each issue, *Utility Contractor* will profile NUCA's Top Job winners. These projects present the association's best and most innovative work that keep our country's utility networks operating at peak performance. To nominate your project for Top Jobs, visit: nuca.com/topjobs

Our nation's infrastructure is in critical need of repair and the 96th Street & Frederick Street Emergency Culvert Construction project in Omaha, Nebraska, was just another example.

96th Street, one of Omaha's major collector roadways, began to show

signs of settlement in spring 2021. Further investigation into the settlement led to the decision to close the street and replace a culvert under the street.

"The hazard was created by a deteriorated corrugated steel plate culvert. Corrosion at the invert of the culvert led to material loss and a loss of structural resistance to lateral earth forces. We witnessed a significant and sudden settlement event on March 25, 2021 that raised concern to the level of an imminent collapse, and we made

the decision to close the roadway," said Austin E. Rowser, PE, Construction Engineer, City of Omaha, Public Works Department.

The 96th Street and Frederick Street Emergency Culvert Construction project consisted of removing an existing 18-ft by 12-ft CMP elliptical pipe culvert, and the construction of a twin 10-ft x 12-ft box culvert and associated storm inlet piping, as well as street reconstruction. The primary goal of the project was to design a new culvert that exceeds the existing cul-

vert's hydraulic performance, while limiting the impacts to the channel and surrounding area. The project was delivered using design-build contract delivery, which allowed construction to begin well head of final design. The contract was award to Omaha-based contractor L.G. Roloff Construction Co. Inc., with Nexus Alliance as the engineer.

Channel flows were a major factor on this project for a couple reasons. First, there was no historical information to determine anticipated flows in the channel for either dry or wet weather events. Second, the project location was in an established neighborhood, so the construction footprint had to be kept to a minimum. Roloff determined the flows from wet weather events could not be pumped and crews would have to do their best to work around wet weather events.

Roloff deployed a bypass system that would handle the usual dry weather flows, and closely monitored the forecast to avoid any major setbacks due to channel flows after wet weather events.

As with many projects on existing roadways, utility coordination is critical to a project's success. Given the emergency status of this project, there was no utility coordination up front. Due to the design-build delivery method of the project, Roloff was able to work with the utilities during design to figure out the most cost-effective solution for all parties involved. This resulted in some temporary removals and some temporary relocations.

Teamwork

Roloff self-performed 90% of the project scope. For the first time in company's history, Roloff utilized Reinforcing Steel Installers (RSI) as a subcontractor to install the reinforcing steel. The use of this subcontractor allowed Roloff to form and pour sections



The roadway was restored and back to normal just before the holiday season.

of the structure much more quickly vs. relying on its our own people. RSI turned out to be a valuable partner. They were there when they said they would be there and were very efficient. This approach will now be considered on future projects.

Ready Mixed Concrete Co. supplied the concrete for the cast-in-place box culvert. The concrete design mix was perfect for the job and there were no quality issues. Ready Mixed Concrete Co. has a long history of providing quality material and this job was no exception. Drake-Williams Steel supplied the reinforcing steel for the culvert. Their team worked closely with Roloff to deliver steel as areas reached final design and as schedule demanded. ASP Enterprises consulted on the stream bank stabilization and furnished the gabion baskets to complete the work.

Project Benefits

The first and most important benefit of the project is safety. Had the settlement problem not been discovered and fixed immediately, it could have led to accidents or injuries for motorists or pedestrians and a public relations problem for the City of Omaha. Roloff Construction's rapid response and flexibility related to project design and the City's decision to completely close the roadway to provide adequate space for construction created efficiencies that resulted in higher production and an earlier project finish.

The roadway was restored, and things were back to normal just before the holidays. Due to increasing congestion in the area, there are plans to widen 96th Street in the future. The upside of the emergency nature of our project is that a future street-widening project can now be completed without box culvert construction, which should shorten the duration of that project.

"The timeline for completing this approximately \$2 million project was very quick, especially given the size of the culvert and the needed utility relocations," Rowser said. "The city is very happy with the outcome of this project, the timeliness of Roloff, the quality of construction, and the urgency with which Roloff conducted the work."

Quick Facts

Project Name:

96th Street & Frederick Street Emergency Culvert Construction

Construction Category:

Excavation/Site Development

Project Owner:

City of Omaha

Contractor:

L.G. Roloff Construction

Engineer:

Nexus Alliance

City / State Project:

Omaha, Nebraska



The Power of Private Activity Bonds

Why is Congress Blocking Much-Needed Investment in Our Nation's Water Infrastructure?

Last year, Congress gave the American people the largest infrastructure investment in decades, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Signed into law by the president on Nov. 15, 2021, its \$1.2 trillion package of resources will deliver jobs, projects, and improvements to all sectors of the economy and all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

It's a great start to the investment we need in our nation to update obsolete water and wastewater systems, new highways and bridges, and modern port facilities. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimated in 2021 that we need about \$434 billion more by 2039 in just our sector alone to keep up with our infrastructure needs. Overall, there is about a \$2.5 trillion in additional needs over the same time period for all sectors of the economy.

That's a lot of money. Where is it going to come from? For Congress, the beleaguered U.S. taxpayer is seem-

ingly the first one chosen to pay these enormous bills. But there are other options available for infrastructure, and for the heavy civil engineering sector, private activity bonds (PABs) can be tapped for these future resources.

First, what are private activity bonds? Private activity bonds are a qualified tool used by a private entity. In order for a private activity bond to become qualified and available for public use, it must meet two requirements set by the U.S. tax code. The first requirement is a 'use test', where more than 10% of the proceeds are confirmed to be used for any private business use. The 'security test' comes next, where the payment of more than 10% of the proceeds are confirmed to be secured by interest in property or derived from payments in respect to property. If the bond issue passes both tests, the qualified private activity bond is born and can qualify for tax-exempt financing under the law.

There's more, and it gets compli-

cated. In the tax code, there is also a list of "qualified private activities" that are granted special status. Only twelve activities were originally defined as qualified private activities by the 1968 law authorizing these funds for public projects, but now the list has grown to thirty activities.

What do private activity bonds have to do with water infrastructure? Well, our industry is always looking for more ways to invest in the nation's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and private activity bonds represent another avenue of investment. Over the next 20 years, there is an ongoing gap of around \$500 million in investment funding for upgrades and repairs to public water and wastewater systems. Private activity bonds could be used to fill that gap, but two hurdles remain in the way.

Drinking water and wastewater projects are eligible today for private activity bonds usage, but there are two obstacles that diminish the investment

potential. Annual state volume limits (or separate national aggregate limits) originated in the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, where Congress shared a high concern for “the volume of tax-exempt bonds used to finance private activities” that is now outdated given the urgent needs for our nation’s infrastructure financing.

The second obstacle is the restriction of different qualified private activities. Certain qualified private activities are not subject to the volume cap, like government-owned airports, municipal-owned solid waste disposal facilities, recovery zone facility bonds, and other green building and educational facilities. Unfortunately, private activities like water furnishing facilities, sewage facilities, broad-band projects, small issue bonds, and redevelopment bonds are subject to the restricting volume cap.

In 2022, the volume cap is the greater of \$110 per capita or \$335 million. The \$335 million floor causes a bit of an imbalance, where many smaller states are allowed to issue relatively more private activity bonds (based on the level of state personal income) than larger states.

If Congress allowed private developers and operators to access tax-exempt interest rates, the cost of capital would decrease significantly and enhance investment prospects. Lifting the cap would allow for more public-private relationships in state and local governments where mutually beneficial infrastructure projects can become a reality. Simple regulatory changes to outdated concerns could unlock \$43 billion in incremental water infrastructure investments and \$25 billion in wastewater investments.

There are two clear solutions ahead for NUCA members. First, Congress needs to increase the volume cap for investments in our nation’s drinking wa-

ter, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. Volume cap exemptions are currently provided for facilities like airports, ports, housing, high-speed intercity rail, and solid waste disposal sites.

Second, water infrastructure projects need to be included in the qualified private activities. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) expanded the list of eligible activities for exempt facility bonds to include qualified broadband projects, carbon capture facilities, and highway and surface freight transfer facilities.

NUCA members highlighted this issue to their Congressional lawmakers at our May Washington Summit, but an advocacy program is a long-term commitment. Legislation is required, along with Congressional supporters

and champions. We believe that the next Congress (2023-24) may be the better environment to introduce and pass these changes. For this Congress, NUCA is seeking out bill sponsors in both parties and will have more to report on this topic in the 12 months ahead.

For more information, check out our advocacy resources online at NUCA.com, and at NUCA.com/fixwater, where you can find state-by-state water needs assessments, White House/USDOT infrastructure fact sheets, and more information about private activity bonds.

Ryan Lake Schrader of Wyman Associates is a registered lobbyist for NUCA and can be reached at ryan@wymanassociates.net.

The advertisement features a woman in a hard hat and safety vest, smiling, with a construction site in the background. The text reads: "The FUTURE OF FUSION" in a green box, "Home IN TIME FOR THE BIG GAME." in large white letters, and "Productive equipment helps you be more efficient on the job. McElroy's line of fusion machines and accessories has been trusted on the jobsite for over fifty years for that very reason. Finish your job in less time, with the confidence and data that it's done correctly." At the bottom, it says "© 2022 McElroy Manufacturing, Inc. MMI block is a registered trademark of McElroy Manufacturing, Inc. All rights reserved." and the McElroy logo.



Heat Related Injury and Illness:

Keeping Your People Safe on Those Hot Summer Days

With summer right around the corner, Company leaders, foremen, and crew leaders should start considering the long hot days ahead. Knowing the signs and symptoms of heat related illness will help leadership limit exposure and severity when these issues do occur and ensure that employees get home safe to their families at the end of the workday.

Beyond simple employee safety, fatigue from heat expo-

sure can factor into how safely an employee operates. Heat related fatigue can impair employee judgement. Employees with impaired judgement can have reduced reflexes and focus, which could make an employee a higher risk for other workplace accidents, injury, or even death for the fatigued employee and others onsite. Additionally, heat related fatigue can lower an employee's drive and overall performance on the jobsite.



Lower the risk of heat related injuries by limiting the amount of time your employees are directly in the sun. If feasible rotate employees between different jobs to limit sun exposure. Ensure there is a shaded areas available and encourage employees to take short breaks throughout the day. Having plenty of water available is critically important. One thing to note is that although cold water is refreshing, room temperature water will be absorbed into the body at a faster rate, thus helping your people to stay hydrated.

When possible, consider starting the workday earlier to avoid working in the hottest part of the day, and if that's not possible, try to schedule easier work during that period. Again, consider rotating workers regularly to limit the time spent in the heat. It is also your field leadership's

responsibility to make sure that employees have the appropriate PPE for conditions, i.e., hats or other style covers, when hard hats are not required. Ensuring your employees are taking short 10-minute breaks routinely and hydrating is important.

Conducting toolbox talks on the signs and symptoms of heat related injury and illness with employees and how to recognize these signs is highly important. Make sure that employees understand that abnormal behaviors such as an employee being unusually lethargic, disoriented, or displaying altered speech can all be signs of heat related injuries.

As I mentioned earlier proper hydration is the best way to limit heat related injuries. Making sure that employees know that proper hydration starts the day before. Water is the best source of hydration, particularly when working in hot conditions. So-called "Sports" Drinks that contain a lot of sugar like Powerade and Gatorade can provide much needed electrolytes, but they should not be the sole source of hydration. There are many drink additives on the market that can be added to water to help with flavor and provide electrolytes without the added sugar.

One thing that is often overlooked is extended exposure to sunlight and UV rays. Not only can this cause sunburn and possibly sun poisoning, but it can also cause long term effects such as skin cancer, including melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer). Long term exposure to the sun can increase fatigue and employees can become lethargic, leading to more significant forms of heat illness.

One option is to have your employees limit their exposed skin by ensuring appropriate clothing. Another option is to ensure that proper sunscreen is readily available and that employees cover all exposed skin throughout the day with reapplication. This includes the back of the neck and behind the ears.

When taking these factors into account, company leaders and foreman can limit the hazards of heat related illness and injury on those the hot (and busy) summer days ahead.

Mike Flowers is Director of Safety, Training and Education for National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA).





2021 NUCA Safety Award 0-100,001 Manhours: *Fehlinger Construction Group*

By Robert Baylor, NUCA Director of Communications

SafetyWORKS is a regular column highlighting NUCA's William H. Feather Safety Awards winners. If you would like to be considered for these prestigious NUCA awards in 2022, please submit your entry by the end of December 2022. Award details can be found at nuca.com/safetyawards.

"Safety is part of each employee's job" reads Fehlinger Construction Group's safety program statement. It's been in place for 13 years, the same length of time since the company was founded by Herb and Charles Fehlinger. Safety has been part of this company since the first day of business.

Safety breeds success. NUCA awarded Fehlinger Construction a 2020 William H. Feather Safety Award in the 100,001-200,000 manhours category at last year's Convention, and was proud to award again the 2021 Safety Award in the 0-100,000 manhours category to Fehlinger at our March convention in San Antonio, Texas.

As *Utility Contractor* wrote last year in our July-August 2021 issue about Fehlinger's previous successes, safety remains part of this Pennsylvania company each day. Each week Fehlinger continues to hold a company safety meeting with all employees, encouraging each person to participate by expressing their opinions and any concerns about each jobsite and task. In encouraging this open expression from those on-site each day, the company found that it had a positive effect on overall safety performance and

cooperation between supervisors and employees.

Fehlinger knows that safety is also linked to training. The company encourages their employees to attend the Pennsylvania One-Call annual safety day, a program supported by NUCA and NUCA of Pennsylvania. This event provides important learning sessions for excavation and trench safety, confined spaces, and other jobsite areas demanding attention.

The company also believes in rewarding its employees for their safety awareness. As an incentive, Fehlinger employees are made aware that yearly pay bonuses will also reflect the employee's record of safety throughout the year and their cooperation in the company safety program. Pay raises and promotions determined through employee evaluations also reflect an employee's safety record and work performance.

This policy is stated directly in their safety program statement: "Active participation and adherence to the Safety Program is a condition of each employee's employment. No employee is required to work at a job that he or she knows is not safe. Therefore, we must work to make every workplace safe by detecting and correct unsafe working conditions, as well as the detection of unsafe work practices."

Fehlinger's safety officer Robert Samanas also credits NUCA of Pennsylvania for keeping the company informed on important current safety

topics and updates on federal regulations. NUCA's bi-monthly publication "NUCA Safety News" and its many articles on jobsite safety are also used as learning tools for employees and distributed to them during company meetings. Samanas's own 45 years of industry experience and training includes OSHA 500, OSHA 501, and DOT Supervision training certificates.

Safety is simply an integral part of the company's culture. NUCA recognized Fehlinger's superlative performance and program ideals when it awarded the company similar national safety awards in 2014, 2015, and 2016. NUCA was proud to award Fehlinger Construction William H. Feather Safety Awards in 2017, 2018 and 2020. This is a NUCA member company who recognizes what safety can achieve in a workplace and for their business success.

NUCA companies who go above and beyond to keep their most important asset—their hardworking employees—serve as an inspiration to the rest of the NUCA membership. Fehlinger record of safety should inspire each NUCA member. Safety is not just a concept—it's reality each day on this company's jobsites.

NUCA encourages you to take Fehlinger's award-winning commitment to employee safety into your own company's daily work.

Robert Baylor is NUCA's Director of Communications.



Productivity Starts with Preparation

CNA's Risk Control experts know the right planning can make all the difference. With our Return to Work Program, utility contractors get the training they need for when accidents catch them off guard, and guidelines for timely reporting that gets employees back on the job.

Learn how our steady pipeline of risk control programs helps keep NUCA members on solid ground. Contact your independent agent or visit cna.com/nuca.

THE PIPELINE

 <p>Mark One Electric Company, Inc. <i>The Mark of Electrical Excellence</i></p> <p>Anthony L Privitera II Executive Vice President</p> <p>816.842.7023 ext. 1126 Direct. 816.303.4126 Cell. 816.918.1428 Fax. 816.842.8955 tony.privitera@markone.com</p>	<p>Mark One Electric Co., Inc.</p> <p>Headquarters Missouri 1414 Genessee Kansas City, MO 64102</p> <p>Kansas 1414 Genessee Kansas City, KS 66103</p> <p>www.markone.com</p>	  <p>Producing: Large Diameter Casing Pipe & Caissons</p> <p>Diameters 24" - 204" Wall Thickness .250" - 2.00" DSAW - 20 Ft. Straight Seam</p> <p>800.821.3475 www.ArntzenPipe.com PipeSales@ArntzenCorp.com</p>
---	--	--

AD INDEX

Company	Website	Page
American Shoring Inc.....	americanshoring.com.....	43
Arntzen Pipe.....	arntzenpipe.com.....	42
Atkore FRE Composites.....	atkore.com/fre.....	3
Barbco.....	barbco.com.....	23
CNA.....	cna.com/nuca.....	41
Earthwave Technologies.....	fleetwatcher.com.....	31
Geonex.....	geonexgroup.com.....	9
HCSS.....	learn.hcss.com/nuca.....	15
John Deere.....	deere.com/excavators.....	back cover
Mark One Electric Company.....	markone.com.....	42
McElroy.....	mcelroy.com.....	37
Michael Byrne Mfg.....	byrnegroup.com.....	13
Midwest Mole.....	midwestmole.com.....	27
National Trench Safety.....	ntsafety.com.....	11
NUCA.....	nuca.com/trenchlessmanual.....	17
Reed.....	reedmfgco.com.....	7
Trinity Products.....	trinityproducts.com.....	19
TRUVAC.....	truvac.com.....	5
United Rentals.....	unitedrentals.com.....	2
Utility Contractor Sweepstakes.....	utilitycontractoronline.com/trgr.....	21
Vanair.....	epeq.com.....	29

AMERICAN SHORING INC.

Leader in High Quality Trench Shoring

We can provide you with the world's largest or smallest trench box or shoring system. Get high production numbers while keeping your workers safe. We will show you how with our on-site supervision. Contact us for the world's very best shoring. We will deliver on time, every time.

RENTALS | SALES | SERVICE REPAIRS

★ Trench boxes ★ Rock boxes ★ Slide Rail Shoring ★ Road plates ★ Aluminum trench boxes ★ Hydraulic shoring

MADE IN THE USA
FACTORY DIRECT STORES

www.americanshoring.com
Email us at: sales@americanshoring.com

800-407-4674

FACTORY & CORPORATE OFFICE

207 LAKE STREET (Route 32)
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
1.845.562.4477

Call us for local Metropolitan New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut Inquiries

LOCATION

REET
01545
2822
*e, Vermont,
tern NY State*

BALTIMORE AREA LOCATION

506 PULASKI HIGHWAY
JOPPA, MD 21085
1.443.313.3461

For the Mid-Atlantic Region, Eastern PA, So. Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, & Virginia





35 TON SCALPEL.

NEVER IDLE

Power is nothing without control. That's why we're constantly innovating workhorses to be more precise. With integrated tech that enables machines to know how deep and where to dig – even under water or in the dark. Or see what the crew can't for added safety. Allowing a less-seasoned operator to trench, load, and drill like a surgeon.



JOHN DEERE

[DEERE.COM/EXCAVATORS](https://www.deere.com/excavators)