In the stifling heat of July, DCA members and their families trekked deep into the Laurel Highlands of southern Pennsylvania for the annual Mid-Summer Meeting, which kicked off on Wednesday, July 17. An hour and a half south of Pittsburgh in the Allegheny Mountains, the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort offers lush accommodations (plus amenities like ski slopes, shooting ranges, a rock climbing wall, and more) in an area once trod by such luminaries as George Washington and Frank Lloyd Wright.

As guests arrived and got settled in on Wednesday evening, they mingled around the open bar for pre-dinner cocktails; later that night they enjoyed a shotgun shooting demonstration and live music.

Thursday morning marked the start of business. First, the group met for breakfast and a performance by “America’s Got Talent” contestant Nick Uhas, also known as “The Mad Scientist.” He “experimented” on unsuspecting audience members Dale Anderson, Miller Pipeline; Doug Anderson, INTREN; Ben Nelson, Michels Corp., and Ray Swerdfeger, K.R. Swerdfeger Construction, Inc., then helped DCA President Mike Hickey, The Hallen Construction Company, disappear behind a steam cloud of liquid nitrogen and boiling water. The group managed to set off the fire alarm only once!

Workforce Development Opportunities Abound
After breakfast, the Workforce Development Committee discussed Jason Dorsey’s upcoming playbook. As the beta group continues to test its strategies in the field, committee representatives offered high praise for the playbook and encouraged all members to attend the September Workforce Summit in Dallas to learn more. The committee also noted that recent changes in leadership at the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) offered some opportunities and recommended attending its November meeting in Washington, D.C.

The next big topic of discussion was DCA’s demonstration at the recent SkillsUSA competition. It was well-received, but getting people to help, as one participant put it, “was like herding cats.” In addition to encouraging attendees to get more involved with organizations like SkillsUSA and CEWD, DCA Executive Vice President Rob Darden and others stressed the importance of promoting these activities at the local level, and of engaging with kids in the community who haven’t settled on a career path. To that end, committee members discussed starting a youth competition based around pipeline skills. Hickey noted regional differences in how SkillsUSA operates, and he stressed the need for their representatives to be ambassadors for the pipeline industry.

Location Industry Update from One Call Veterans
Next up, the Safety and Risk Management Committee featured speakers Allison Evanitz and Bill Kiger from Pennsylvania One Call. Evanitz went over recent changes to Pennsylvania excavation laws as well as ticket area definitions, line marking responsibilities of owners versus excavators, and best practices for preserving markings and dealing with compromised markings. After opening the floor for questions, Kiger, a 45-year veteran of One Call, expressed concern that the location industry was in crisis, noting the uptick in location failures. The meeting concluded with a legal update from DCA’s Washington, D.C. representative Eben Wyman on the status of API Recommended Practice 1173 and the SMS template.

Great Adventures for Everyone
After a break for lunch, it was time for the DCA Great Adventure Challenge. Dressed for action and ready for fun, DCA members and their families faced off in a variety of games and team-building activities, from coming up with their own “team cheer” to filling a leaky pipe, climb-
ing the rock wall, building a tower, and shooting sporting clays. The Adventure Challenge was all set to finish up with a giant tug-of-war, but the DCA proved to be so strong that the rope snapped just seconds after the call to battle!

The evening ended at the Sundial Lodge. Guests enjoyed pasta, wings, sliders, and tacos before hitting the game room for bowling, pool, foosball, ping pong, a TopGolf Swing Suite, and a giant Connect 4 board.

Joint Session Covers Considerable Ground

Friday morning started with a short and sweet Membership Committee breakfast. Committee co-chair Woody Ferrell announced that he was stepping down from the committee since he had been elected to the DCA board of directors, and that Scott Cooper would be taking over in his place. After Cooper introduced himself, the committee made note of the growing number of contractor members and encouraged attendees to see which contractors were attending meetings before adjourning.

After breakfast, the Town Hall was held in joint session with the Government Relations Committee. The meeting began with the treasurer’s report, member statistics, pictures from the recent D.C. fly-in and SkillsUSA conference, information about students and job statistics, and promotion of the upcoming Workforce Summit in Dallas and the Fall Meeting in New York City. Eben Wyman spoke about the pipeline safety bill proposed by senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey in the wake of the Merrimack incident, which requires a licensed professional engineer (PE) on site to approve work packages. He outlined the reasons that the association should oppose onsite PEs, including:

• Shortage of available PEs versus the number of work sites
• PEs are not necessarily qualified, particularly on OQ
• The bill does not hold PEs responsible after they sign off

Wyman also discussed a Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) proposal that includes criminal penalties for unlawful protesting, noting that PHMSA needed more data on SMS implementation and how vandalism affects pipeline safety. One member who took part in the fly-in mentioned that the trip was an eye-opener, and the team did a great job of preparing everyone.

The meeting continued with a quick update on the OQIP program, noting that the pilot program in New Mexico was yielding results and a report would be forthcoming, and that an OQ website is currently under construction. A brief recap of the SMS guidelines project was followed by a lively discussion on damage prevention. Kiger encouraged any contractors working in Pennsylvania to attend a One Call board meeting “in force” to emphasize the problem. Dave Wisnewski concluded the meeting with an update on NiSource, reviewing talks with different agencies and a proposed panel on doing contracts together.

HDD Committee Speakers Address Safety Issues

Next up was the final business meeting of the week, held by the HDD Committee. The committee reviewed recent changes to the HDD flyer and discussed its distribution. A possible partnership with Trenchlesspedia.com came up for discussion, along with the need for better organization of the Wikipedia article on HDD. Tim Poyzer, training and development lead for Vermeer, gave a presentation on bare planning; Susan Harmon of Charles Machine Works followed with an overview of incidents across the country in which inadequate safety measures resulted in injuries, fatalities, and severe property damage. Among the common links she identified were:

• All were preventable accidents
• All were performed by subcontractors
• Most were working for utilities, particularly telecoms
• Many of the sites had basements or were in frozen ground
• Many of the sites had no potholing performed to test the subsurface

She pointed out that some contracts don’t pay for potholing, and this is even less likely for deeper levels of subcontractors. Municipalities that don’t allow breaking the pavement compound the problem, and utilities are frequently difficult to reach and fail to attend Common Ground Alliance (CGA) sessions where these problems are being raised. Poyzer implored the members to always be on the lookout for things that weren’t located, and all agreed on the need to do a better job of getting the message out about HDD best safety practices.

Cheers to DCA

On Friday afternoon, members and their families set off for a variety of activities: hiking, biking, whitewater rafting, touring Frank Lloyd Wright’s iconic Fallingwater house, golf, sporting clays, and paintball.

The day ended with a final dinner in the lodge’s main ballroom. The theme was “Team Spirit Night,” and attendees came dressed in their favorite sports gear. The ballroom was decorated with foam fingers and pom-poms, and cheerleaders and costumed mascots fired up the crowd to the sounds of college fight music. After dinner, it was time for the big team cheer competition. The DJ introduced each team as their coaches pumped them up. Some cheers included tumbling and lifts, some cheered for the DCA, and some cheered for beer, but everyone showed great enthusiasm and the event ended in raucous laughter. From there, dancing and karaoke carried the party late into the night.

For photo highlights of this year’s Mid Year Meeting please see pages 3 – 7, for a summary of the committee meetings, please see page 8.

The DCA Fall Meeting will be October 28-30 at the Westin Hotel in Times Square, New York City. ▲
Board of Directors
The 2019 Board of Directors met Wednesday, July 17, at the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, Pennsylvania. Board members approved the 2018 audit report and noted that total assets remained steady at $4.2 million. The Board of Directors received an update on a variety of projects that DCA is involved in, including:

- **June 2019 SkillsUSA Conference** – Several DCA member companies teamed up to demonstrate important pipeline industry tasks such as a service hook-up, electric fuse tee, and mechanical tee. Ditch Witch, InfraSource, Miller Pipeline, Michels Corp., NPL Construction, Newman Tractor, and Hallen Construction received special thanks for their demonstrations.

- **Workforce Summit** – The 2nd Workforce Summit is scheduled for September 18-20 at the Four Seasons, Las Colinas, Texas. The results of the playbook compiled by the Center of Generational Kinetics (CGK) will be presented along with other important data and tips on working with the millennial generation. Members of the DCA Board of Director were encouraged to send at least one employee from their company to the event.

- **Mike Rowe Project (The Way I Heard It)** – DCA and Michels Corporation are partnering with Mike Rowe Works Productions to create a couple of Mike Rowe Minutes, a part of the video series called The Way I Heard It. The Minutes will focus on job opportunities and working in the oil and gas industry. The videos will be filmed throughout the remainder of 2019 and ready for Facebook streaming in mid-2020.

Leadership Council
The Leadership Council also met Wednesday, July 17. The council reviewed actions of the DCA Board of
Directors from their earlier meeting. Each DCA working committee chairman gave a brief outline of the topics their committee would be discussing in their individual meetings. The Leadership Council is made up of the elected chairs and vice chairs of each of the committees, the president and vice president of the board, and the executive vice president. The purpose of the Leadership Council is to coordinate the strategic direction of the DCA, as directed by the Board of Directors.

Workforce Development Committee
The Workforce Development Committee met Thursday, July 18, in conjunction with the DCA Mid-Year Meeting. The committee had several discussion items to focus on.

• **CGK Playbook** – The 96-page playbook is complete and will be used at the upcoming DCA Workforce Summit. After the event, members will receive a link to download the electronic version to share with company personnel. A special thank you was given to the eight DCA member companies that provided their input for the project: Miller Pipeline, Mears Group/InfraSource, Loy Clark Construction, NPL/Next Centuri, Charles Machine Works, Vermeer Corp., McElroy Manufacturing and Energy WorldNet.

• **Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD)** – The committee provided an update on the current changes at CEWD. CEWD was formed to help utilities work together to develop solutions to the coming workforce shortage in the utility industry. It is the first partnership between utilities, their associations, contractors, and unions to focus on the need to build a skilled workforce pipeline that will meet future industry needs. All DCA members were encouraged to have their companies become involved with CEWD.

• **SkillsUSA Update** – The committee attendees had a very active discussion on becoming involved with SkillsUSA at the state level. SkillsUSA currently has 24 active chapters throughout the United States; a subcommittee is forming to develop partnerships with them. Being part of a state organization gives DCA members access to more students.

The charge of the Workforce Development Committee is to develop, coordinate, and implement strategies to support the growth of the expanding workforce needs within the industry. This will be done through the promotion of our industry as a career by using the vast knowledge and leadership of the DCA membership and promoting coordination with other industry professionals and national organizations. Vivek Arora of Mears Group and Randy Rupp of Subsite Electronics are co-chairmen.

Safety/Risk Management Committee
The Safety/Risk Management Committee also met on Thursday, July 18. Alison Evanitz, Liaison Representative, Pennsylvania One Call System, presented on Pennsylvania 8-1-1 efforts.

It was noted that the 2019 Safety Congress had more than 70 attendees. Travis Flowers of Brotherton Pipeline and Brooks Scott of Miller Pipeline were named 2018 DCA Safety Director of the Year and Person of the Year, respectively. The 2018 Safety Benchmarking Survey had 45 submissions and a summary of the statistics was sent to all participants.

The charge of the Safety/Risk Management Committee is to review all information concerning safety in the industry and safe jobsite practices. The committee also has oversight for the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award and the Annual Safety Congress. Bill Colson of Pretec Directional Drilling and Dana Heieie of Southeast Directional Drilling serve as the chairman of the committee.

The 2020 Safety Congress will be March 30-April 1, at the Hyatt Regency Austin in Austin, Texas.

Membership Committee
The focus of the Friday, July 20, Membership Committee meeting was reviewing the list of inactive contractors, which decreased since the February meeting. In addition, several inactive members attended the February convention and the July meeting. The committee also reviewed the membership report presented to the DCA Board of Directors. Since the March committee meeting, three new contractor members and eight new associate members have joined the DCA. One contractor and seven associate members dropped their memberships. Currently, there are 93 contractor members and 142 associate members.

Attendees reviewed a draft of the 2019 DCA Impact Purchasing Survey that will be sent to DCA contractors in October with comments due back by December 19. The committee emphasized that many DCA associate members use the compiled data to justify their DCA membership, sponsorship, and auction contributions.

The charge of the Membership Committee is to actively solicit and evaluate potential DCA members and make recommendations on member programs and awards to help recruit and retain members in the association. Scott Cooper of Caterpillar and Dustin Mykyte of Pe Ben USA serve as chairmen.

(continued on pg.12)
Government Relations Committee
The Government Relations Committee received an update on several items:

- **Pending Pipeline Safety Reauthorization** – Several Congressional committees with oversight jurisdiction over the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the nation’s pipeline safety program are scheduling hearings regarding pending pipeline safety legislation. In June, several DCA members went to Capitol Hill to lobby Congress on several issues under consideration in this year’s pipeline safety debate. For a complete account of the topics that were discussed, please see page 24.

- **OQ Integrity Program (OQIP) Update** – Members are refining and polishing loose ends and assisting the New Mexico Gas Company in the beginning stages of piloting their OQIP program. Conversations with New Mexican contractors have helped them understand the OQIP process and the elements included in the program. OQIP is now gathering data, identifying and applying audit KPIs, and preparing to deploy the next round of piloting OQIP in the state of Washington.

- **Pipeline Safety Management Systems (SMS)** – DCA continues to work with other pipeline construction associations to develop a template for contractors to refer to when implementing SMS or improving existing SMS in their operations. When the template is rolled out, the committee’s work on promoting transition to SMS in the industry will be complete, other than addressing proposed SMS requirements in public policy (such as lobbying related to the pipeline safety bill).

- **Damage Prevention Enforcement** – DCA added its signature to several industry letters encouraging enforcement action on two underground facility operators who had failed or were late to respond to tens of thousands of locate requests, resulting in long delays of a range of infrastructure projects. See page 23 for more details.

Horizon Directional Drilling (HDD) Committee
The HDD Committee also met on Friday, July 20. Susan Harmon of Ditch Witch and Tim Poyzer of Vermeer Corp. teamed up to give attendees a panel presentation on HDD Safety. Poyzer shared “Best Practices and the Need for Planning” and “Harmon shared instances of Things Gone Wrong”.

The committee discussed developing a panel for the upcoming UCT, January 28-30, 2020 in Fort Worth, Texas. John Tully, NPL Construction; Jim Lagios, Atlas Trenchless; Bill Colson, Pretec Directional Drilling; and Dan Sharpe of Sharewell volunteered to develop the panel.

Attendees reviewed the draft of the HDD flyer. The tri-fold document will be given to homeowners and government entities to explain HDD. Once finalized, a PDF will be available for DCA members to download from the DCA website and distribute.

Attendees also volunteered to update the Wikipedia HDD information. The current information is not up-to-date and needs to be refined. Dustin Kraft, Vermeer Corp.; Grady Bell, J.T. Miller; and Dan Sharpe, Sharewell, volunteered to research the document and develop updated content.

The charge of the HDD committee is to support safety, training, technical developments, and voluntary operational guides that sustain professional practices and contractors in of HDD. The chairman of the committee are Jeff Green of InfraSource and Randy Peterson of Underground Magnetics.

The next Board of Directors and committee meetings will be in conjunction with the 2019 DCA Fall Meeting, October 28-30, at the Westin New York Times Square in New York City, New York.
DCA FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 28-30, 2019
WESTIN HOTEL • NEW YORK CITY, NY.

Registration is Open at www.dcaaweb.org!
Overcoming Workforce Challenges Takes Constant Communication
In October 2009, the U.S. unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent. Nearly 10 years later, it’s at 3.7 percent – or three-tenths of a percentage point below the 4 percent figure that is considered full employment. In theory, everyone who wants a job has one. This leaves the U.S. with a major dilemma – there are over 7 million jobs available and unfilled in the U.S. today.

Many of these jobs are in the construction industry, a business few young people seem attracted to. According to the Associated General Contractors of America, 70 percent of construction companies are having trouble finding qualified workers.

In an article by John McManus in Builder Magazine, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) surveyed young adults (18 – 25). Seventy-four percent said they knew what career field they wanted to go into, but only 3 percent of those were interested in the construction trades.

A Hard to Fill, Wide Open Job Market
Of that 3 percent interested in the construction trades, how many are aware of careers in the gas and pipeline industry? Gas distribution is a rapidly growing industry because of the repair and replacement of aging systems and new construction. There are 2.2 million miles of gas distribution pipelines, much needing replacement. Most of the work done on the pipeline system is done by skilled labor – pipe welders and fusers, heavy equipment operators and laborers, horizontal directional drill operators, safety, quality and compliance coordinators, and foremen and crew leaders.

Today, there are roughly 20,000 skilled labor jobs available in gas distribution across the U.S., and between aging systems, new construction, and the fracking-generated American energy boom, the vacancies are likely to grow. The American Petroleum Institute (API) projects overall industry employment will reach 1.3 million by 2025 and 1.9 million by 2035, and employers will be willing to pay more for skilled workers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that average wages in the natural gas and oil industries currently exceed $100,000 – nearly double the U.S. average.

At this point, the general population is generally unaware of the energy industry. A recent study by the Center of Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) showed the energy literacy of a high school student at 48 percent on how things work, how the lights come on, how a car runs, how they charge their phone, etc. Of all the construction trades, the pipeline industry faces an additional unique hurdle that dampens would-be worker enthusiasm: hostile press coverage, negative association with climate change, and distorted facts about energy production and safety. These hurdles can make attracting new talent harder than ever and especially apply to the underground construction.

Finding the Right People is a Challenge
It’s not enough to just find job-fillers; companies need to find the right people. According to SkillsUSA, 55 percent of employers experience a negative impact due to job vacancies. Employers need workers with technical knowledge plus the soft skills that apply to any industry – integrity, work ethic, professionalism, responsibility, adaptability, flexibility, self-motivation, but are having a difficult time finding them. Language barriers are also an issue. There are smart people available who want to work, but aren’t qualified or can’t pass the testing, especially in the gas industry because of the specialized training. The
good news is that some community colleges have started utility and pipeline training programs, but false guarantees of a job after graduation frequently attract students who may not qualify for other reasons. Drug testing is another common problem. On average, 30 percent of potential workers fail the drug test.

One factor that can’t be overlooked is how high schools encourage students to go to college as a way of boosting their own rankings. Many young adults can’t afford college, but don’t realize there are alternatives such as skilled trades. Others may be put off by the idea of hard work or a dirty job. A college degree can be accompanied by mountains of student loan debt. Right now, 44 million borrowers owe around $1.5 trillion.

According to the BLS and the Economic Policy Institute’s Current Population Survey:

- 43 percent or 16.3 million of all 16-24-year-old kids are not in school.
- 31 percent of high school students don’t attend college, and of those who do go to college, 40 percent don’t finish.
- Of those who do graduate from college, 37 percent are in jobs that only require a high school diploma.
- The average hourly wage for a college graduate is $20.37 ($42,000 per year).
- Today, over seven million job openings exist in the economy, 75% of which don’t require a college degree. The average pay for those jobs is $55,000 per year.

According to a study by the Manufacturing Institute, SkillsUSA and The Student Research Foundation, 63% of students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses see their own interests and experiences as a major influence in their career pathway with parents being second at 32%. 35% of CTE students say they have had no contact with potential future employers, with only 12% experiencing a site visit and 20% having a pathway-related summer job. CTE teachers believe industry-recognized credentials are valuable to students beginning their careers.

**Overcoming the Workforce Challenge**

The U.S. has an enormous amount of untapped potential workers, but the pipeline industry needs to do a better job of promoting itself and exposing students, parents and schools early on to the benefits of a career in skilled labor. The message to students, parents, educators, and academic and career counselors is clear and compelling:

- Companies that provide safe, affordable, and reliable energy are crucial to the American economy.
- People employed in the energy industry directly support their communities’ economic growth through work and volunteerism.
- The industry is an exciting place to work as advancements in energy production and delivery are developed to meet customers’ changing energy needs.
- The industry provides stable employment and career growth opportunities to a broad range of skilled workers. It is committed to workforce diversity and ensuring that their workforce reflects the communities they serve.
- Jobs in energy offer highly competitive and above average pay, as well as opportunities for personal challenge and growth.
- Energy jobs require foundational knowledge, skills, and abilities that are transferrable across states, regions, and other industries.
- Jobs are often filled locally and generally are not threatened by outsourcing or offshoring.
- Jobs are frequently open to job seekers as current employees progress in their careers and retire.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM JOHN MCMANUS’S REPORTING ON THE NAHB SURVEY OF YOUNG ADULTS

Compensation Level Necessary to Increase Chance You Would Consider a Career in the Construction Trades (% of respondents who reported little to no chance they would work in construction):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compensation Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000+</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Amount</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young Adults’ Perception of Pay in the Construction Trades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pay Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $25,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 – 50,999</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$51,000 – $75,999</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$76,000 – $100,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 and up</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young Adults Think the Typical Salary is $56,150.

The Most Common Reasons for Not Wanting a Career in the Trades:

- Want a less physically demanding job: 48%
- Construction work is difficult: 32%

A few take-aways from this survey:

1. Immigrant labor is not taking jobs from young American adults.
2. Misgivings and misperceptions about what a skilled labor career path looks like and what it yields in terms of a gratifying livelihood may be at the core of the challenge of attracting more young people to the field.
3. It’s not all about the money, though there are lower expectations and assumptions about the pay young adults think they would earn.
Save the Date for the Annual Convention

February 24 - 29, 2020
Boca Raton Resort & Club, Boca Raton, Florida
EEIA State of Play in Energy Infrastructure

Since its establishment in 2013, the Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance (EEIA) has served as a main voice of the energy supply chain, representing the full spectrum of construction companies and equipment, materials, and service providers for energy production and infrastructure. EEIA members speak for tens of thousands of companies and millions of workers in all 50 states, supporting energy production facilities, transmission and distribution pipeline operators, and downstream infrastructure for power generation, storage, processing, and export.

In July, EEIA released its latest publication, entitled The State of Play in Energy Infrastructure, reporting that more than a half trillion dollars of oil and gas-driven infrastructure investment is anticipated over the next 10 years, including $83 billion in major new pipelines (those costing more than $400 million). According to EEIA, “new supplies have lowered costs to consumers, raised manufacturing competitiveness, generated huge gains in employment and economic growth, and conferred on America historic geopolitical advantage versus our unfriendly competitors.” These gains are largely driven by skyrocketing production from U.S. shale formations.

The State of Play report states that U.S. natural gas production stands at approximately 90 billion cubic feet per day, an 11 percent increase from 2017 to 2018, and 66 percent since 2005. Altogether, there are 51 new major natural gas, crude oil, and natural gas liquids transmission pipelines under construction or pending, making for potentially 16,200 miles of pipeline infrastructure and reflecting $83 billion of capital expenditure (capex).

Electric power generation continues to depend on natural gas. In fact, EEIA contends that gas-fired power generation will add 235 gigawatts of capacity between now and 2050, and that $200 billion of natural gas-dependent chemical manufacturing and processing capacity has recently been planned or under construction. Four liquified natural gas (LNG) terminals are now in operation, seven more are under construction, and 21 are currently in the permitting process. Altogether these pending projects represent over $200 billion of capex.

EEIA attributes this successful production to the critical role played by pipelines, which ensure these energy sources are delivered to market. The State of Play report describes a range of pipeline projects that are either under construction or planned, including:

- 30 new natural gas pipelines covering 6,200 miles, valued at $45 billion
- Seven natural gas liquids (NGL) pipelines, covering 3,500 miles at an investment of $8.5 billion
• 14 crude oil pipeline projects of 6,500 miles and $30 billion capex.

This EEIA report only tallies big projects with capex over $400 million. However, the countless smaller yet imperative gas distribution projects, as well as running laterals to power plants, manufacturing facilities, and export terminals, are obviously also important keys to ensuring a robust energy network.

In EEIA’s view, the positive outlook is clouded by: “uncertainty related to the 2020 election cycle; the attendant risk of reversal of recent regulatory gains and the imposition of a newly restrictive permitting regime; and the growing opposition of a large and well-funded anti-fossil fuel environmental NGO community. Climate change politics have risen to the top of the political debate.”

The State of Play report specifically cautions about the influence of the opponents of fossil fuels who are increasingly concentrating on obstructing new infrastructure projects and even shutting down existing infrastructure. The bottom line is that the primary strategy of pipeline opponents is to restrain both production and consumption. Therefore, pipeline transportation makes for an obvious target.

Protesters and environmental groups are well funded and skilled at mobilizing grassroots networks and generating political opposition, and they have a growing record of successful court challenges to show for it, delaying project permits and shutting down or preventing important energy construction projects. They have gained influence in state legislatures as well, and in many states the hostility to natural gas and oil has driven some states to repeatedly deny permits.

EEIA suggests this challenge can be met and overcome with strong engagement by business leaders and workers whose businesses, careers, families, and communities depend on natural gas and oil infrastructure. DCA has remained an active EEIA member since its inception, and we will continue to do our part to rebut shortsighted attacks on what is clearly a robust and critical American energy source.

**Excavation Groups Call for Enforcement of One-Call Violations**

DCA has been a member of the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) since 2013 and serves on several CGA working committees. Excavators in all utility markets have long suggested that while calling 811 and conducting safe digging practices are imperative to excavation damage prevention, the importance of accurate and timely locating and marking of underground facilities are just as important. However, complaints about neglecting locating responsibilities or responding late to locate requests often fall on deaf ears, or has been an afterthought at best. Until now...

In June, local media sources in Minneapolis reported that CenturyLink, a telecom carrier and global technology company, had not responded or was late in responding to more than 68,000 locate tickets in the state of Minnesota over the course of only a few months. Ten thousand of those incidents were completely unanswered since April of this year. Because Minnesota state law requires all underground facility operators to locate and mark their facilities within 48 hours of notification or face a fine of up to $1,000 per violation per day, several excavator associations signed on to a letter to enforcement authorities in Minnesota encouraging them to take action against CenturyLink for failing to meet its locating and marking responsibilities.

In early spring – the start of the so-called “dig season” – CenturyLink released their primary locator (USIC) in several states, including Minnesota, Arizona, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin. USIC remains the largest facility locating company in the country, accounting for performing approximately 80 percent of locating and marking of underground facilities.

When several road construction projects were facing delays in Minnesota due to late responses to locate requests, a local Fox station reported that CenturyLink could potentially face up to $100 million in fines as a result of neglect to meet their responsibilities in the damage prevention process. This prompted the industry to collectively encourage Minnesota to take enforcement action. Letters were also sent to the other states aware of the potential problems associated with locating/marking to suggest that they monitor the situation in their area.

Only weeks later, it was reported that Consumers Energy was under the gun for failing to meet locate and mark gas distribution lines in Michigan. It wasn’t long before more letters were sent to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and to the Michigan Public Service Commission reminding both agencies of their enforcement authority over the pipeline operator and encouraging them to use it.

In addition to PCCA, organizations that signed on all or some of these letters include:

- American Pipeline Contractors Association
- American Road and Transportation Builders Association
- Associated General Contractors of America
- Distribution Contractors Association
- National Utility Contractors Association
- National Utility Locating Contractors Association
- Pipe Line Contractors Association

Installation of underground facilities is increasing nationally and has been for some time. While fundamental to public safety, the responsibilities in this process are as clear as they are important. Unfortunately, fines associated with locating responsibilities are not normally held in the same regard as calling 811 and safe digging practices. However, enforcement action could certainly make decision makers from these companies think more thoroughly about the importance of meeting their locating and marking responsibilities.

(continued on pg. 24)
DCA Sees Progress on Pipeline Safety Following June Fly-In

As previously reported, a group of 15 DCA representatives traveled to Washington, D.C. in June to lobby Congress on pending pipeline safety legislation, which is now largely focused on distribution systems in the wake of the pipeline incident in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts last fall. Since then, two pipeline safety bills have been introduced and approved by oversight committees in the House and Senate, and there have been developments on DCA issues.

A week after DCA members were on Capitol Hill, the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Energy and Power Subcommittee held a “mark-up” of the Safer Pipelines Act of 2019 (HR 3432) where the legislation was approved by voice vote. About a month later, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee approved the “PIVES Act of 2019” on July 31st. This bill was also passed unanimously following adoption of an amendment with new requirements on currently unregulated gathering pipelines.

The following is a report on the status of where things stand on DCA’s primary issues in this year’s bill:

Pipe Replacement Programs – DCA informed lawmakers that distribution pipe replacement programs are already operating at an aggressive pace, and requirements for quicker replacement will only compromise the safety of workers and the public if crews are split up in order to expedite projects.

Status: DCA is happy to report that while language exists that would require distribution operators to report on and evaluate risks associated with remaining cast-iron pipelines in their systems, no language to require accelerated pipe replacement programs has been approved by any House or Senate panel with oversight jurisdiction.

Professional Engineers and Work Packages – DCA opposes language that would require that professional engineers (PE) approve and sign off on work packages and/or operator qualifications (OQs) related to a pipeline project for two main reasons. First, a PE doesn’t necessarily have the knowledge and experience needed to sign off on work packages and OQs. In addition, today’s workforce capacity challenges facing the pipeline construction industry include construction engineers, and there simply aren’t enough PEs out there to review and approve work packages involved in the gas distribution market.

Status: The House Energy and Commerce bill (HR 3432) does not propose requirements for approval of work packages and/or OQs by a PE. While the bill approved by the Senate Commerce Committee did not require PE sign-off of work packages, it does require operations and maintenance manuals for distribution pipelines to “ensure that relevant qualified personnel, such as an engineer with a professional licensure, subject matter expert, or other employee who possesses the necessary knowledge, experience, and skills” regarding distribution systems review and certify construction plans. This is a big win for DCA, who lobbied hard for lawmakers to allow for an SME or other individual with the knowledge and experience to continue to be responsible for approving work packages.

Mandated SMS – While DCA remains committed to promoting concepts of pipeline safety management systems (SMS) in the gas distribution construction industry, we question how the federal government can enforce SMS requirements to instill and maintain a “culture of safety” in the industry. DCA continues to develop a template for contractors to use while implementing SMS or improving existing SMS programs.

Status: The Senate Commerce Committee bill would not require use of SMS, but would require PHMSA to report to Congress on:

• The number of operators who have implemented SMS
• Progress made by operators in implementing SMS
• The feasibility of an operator to implement SMS based on number of customers and amount of natural gas they transport

The bill would also require PHMSA to provide “guidance or recommendations” to promote further adoption of SMS and assess SMS frameworks, using third-party auditors if necessary.

Criminal penalties – DCA supports legislative language proposed by PHMSA that would apply criminal penalties for damaging or destroying a pipeline facility, including pipeline facilities under construction.

Status: Unfortunately, language that would hold vandals and criminal protesters more accountable is on shaky ground. Lawmakers are more than reluctant to approve policy that even looks like it may abrogate individuals’ First Amendment rights. DCA will continue to advocate for inclusion of this language in a final bill, but so far we’ve seen increasing pushback from some in Congress and certainly by pipeline industry watchdog groups and “environmental” advocacy organizations.

In summary, DCA has made progress in this year’s pipeline safety debate, but there is much more to be done. HR 3432 was pulled from a large mark-up held by the House Energy and Commerce Committee in July, so that bill must still be approved by the full committee. Another bill is expected from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee which will have to be marked up and voted on. Once both House bills are reconciled and approved, a final bill will have to be hammered out and then debated and approved by the House and Senate.

Whether all this can be accomplished by September 30, when PHMSA’s current reauthorization expires, remains to be seen. ▲
Calendar

DCA & Industry Events

2019

SEPTEMBER 18-20
DCA Workforce Summit
Four Seasons Resort & Club Dallas at Las Colinas
Irving, Texas
www.dcaweb.org

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 4
International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors Association (IPLOCA) 2019 Convention
Shangri-La Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand
www.iploca.com

OCTOBER 1-3
International Construction & Utility Equipment Exposition (ICUEE)
Kentucky Exposition Center
Louisville, Kentucky
www.icuee.com

OCTOBER 12-15
Australian Pipelines & Gas Convention (APGA)
Adelaide Convention Centre
North Terrace
Adelaide, South Australia
www.apga.org.au

OCTOBER 28-30
2019 No-Dig North Show
Telus Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
www.nodignorth.ca

OCTOBER 28-30
DCA 2019 Fall Meeting
Westin NewYork Times Square
New York City, New York
www.dcaweb.org

NOVEMBER 6-7
Pipeline Leadership Conference
Hyatt Regency Houston
Intercontinental Airport
Houston, Texas
www.plconference.com

2020

JANUARY 28 - 30
Underground Construction Technology (UCT)
The Underground Utilities Event
Fort Worth Convention Center
Fort Worth, Texas
www.uctonline.com

JANUARY 29
HDD Reunion 2020
Location TBD (in conjunction with UCT)
Fort Worth, Texas
www.HDDreunion2020.com

FEBRUARY 24 - 29
DCA Annual Convention
Boca Raton Resort & Club
Boca Raton, Florida
www.dcaweb.org
Doosan Announces Bobcat of Springfield as a New Authorized Dealer Serving Central Illinois

Doosan Infracore North America, LLC, Suwanee, Georgia, has expanded its dealer network with the addition of Bobcat of Springfield, Springfield, Illinois, as an authorized sales, service, parts, and rental provider of Doosan® equipment.

Bobcat of Springfield offers a range of Doosan equipment, including crawler excavators, wheel excavators, material handlers, log loaders, and wheel loaders in central Illinois. It is a branch of Bobcat of St. Louis, a dealership enterprise based in St. Louis, Missouri, with 11 locations in five states and more than 200 employees.

“The Bobcat of St. Louis dealer network is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service to ensure long, reliable equipment performance,” Dave Timpone, Marketing Manager, Bobcat of St. Louis, said. “Doosan offers durable machines, and we are looking forward to introducing them in the Springfield market.”

Bobcat of St. Louis was established in 1990 with one location and 11 employees. It began carrying Doosan machines in 1997.

“With our 11-location dealer network and the size of our sales and rental fleet, we provide our customers the right machine for their job,” Timpone said. “Our continued expansion demonstrates our commitment to our customers to provide them with reliable Doosan machines, parts, and service throughout our network.”

Michels Integrates Pipeline Construction, Power Leadership

Michels Corporation, Brownsville, Wisconsin, has integrated the leadership of the Pipeline Construction and Power operating groups to better serve our customers in the energy industry.

Robert Osborn has been promoted to Senior Group Vice President, Energy, and Matt Westphal has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Pipeline. Mark Harasha will continue as Senior Vice President, Power.

Osborn grew up in the pipeline construction industry and has nearly 40 years of experience, from being a laborer to executive. Since joining Michels in 2001, he has been integral to the company’s expansion of operations and industry prominence. In his newly created role, he will oversee all pipeline construction and power operations, including mainline, transmission, distribution, stations, facilities, fabrication, and emergency response.

Westphal has more than 30 years of experience in pipeline and power construction, starting at Michels as a laborer before entering college and working continuously to rise through the ranks. In 2006, he was promoted to a general manager in the Pipeline Construction Group and was named vice president in 2013. In his new role, Westphal will be responsible for all aspects of pipeline construction operations, including mainline, transmission, distribution, facilities, maintenance, and fabrication.

Harasha has more than 30 years of experience in power construction. He joined Michels in 2008 as a senior manager and was promoted to general manager, vice president, and senior vice president. He oversees all power construction operations, including mainline, transmission and distribution, emergency response, and inside wiring.

The decision to blend the leadership of these operating groups is the result of Michels’ drive to meet the energy industry’s need for infrastructure construction.

“These internal promotions are a testament to my family’s belief that our team includes the best players in the
industry," said Pat Michels, President and CEO. "From our senior vice presidents to our crews in the field, our people are united in a commitment to maintaining our reputation for excellence in safety and performance."

Brandt Named Exclusive American Augers Dealer for Canada

American Augers, West Salem, Ohio, has named the Brandt Group of Companies the exclusive dealer for American Augers and Trencor products across Canada.

American Augers has been a fixture in the underground utilities and pipeline industry across North America for over 50 years. Adding the full line of American Augers and Trencor products to Brandt’s existing underground equipment offering improves Canadian support and distribution for a complete line that covers all sizes of equipment.

"Brandt’s strong infrastructure makes our premium equipment much more accessible to the Canadian market," said Joe Smith, American Augers’ Director of Sales and Marketing. "It’s an exciting opportunity for contractors and American Augers."

Canadian contractors will now have easier access to the largest equipment available, from auger boring machines with up to 1,200,000 lbs. of maximum thrust to industry-leading directional drills with up to 100,000 ft-lbs of maximum torque.

John Deere Launches Apprenticeship Program

John Deere is helping to address the widespread shortage of service technicians, especially in rural areas, through a new Registered Apprenticeship Program it is making available to its dealers.

John Deere has received approval from the U.S. Department of Labor for the new program, which provides dealers with a formalized, on-the-job and technical training plan to help them develop more highly skilled employees.

Through participation in the apprenticeship program, dealers formally commit to developing additional talent in an earn-while-you-learn program. A participating apprentice benefits from structured, on-the-job training in partnership with an experienced mentor. As training progresses, apprentices are rewarded for new skills acquired.

“The new Registered Apprenticeship Program complements our existing John Deere TECH program," said Grant Suhre, Director, region 4 customer and product support, for John Deere Ag & Turf. “In addition to the on-the-job training experience, an apprentice will receive technical instruction and be assigned a personal mentor as a part of the highly organized training structure. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, he or she will receive a nationally recognized journeymen certificate.”

According to Tim Worthington, Manager, customer support, for the John Deere Construction and Forestry Division, participating dealerships will see numerous benefits.
“Because of the earn-while-you-learn nature of the program, it will help dealers more easily recruit new employees and further develop a highly skilled workforce,” Worthington said. “This can improve a dealer’s productivity and profit potential as employee turnover costs are reduced and employees are retained longer. In addition, John Deere customers benefit from access to more highly skilled dealer personnel who are servicing or supporting their equipment.”

John Deere dealers can collaborate with any number of local organizations as part of the Registered Apprenticeship Program. These organizations include, but are not limited to, the John Deere TECH Program, K-12 schools, community colleges, labor organizations, economic development groups, foundations, and workforce development boards.

John Deere dealers who wish to participate can receive support and technical assistance from John Deere and JFF (Jobs For the Future, a U.S. Department of Labor intermediary), who will expedite the registration process with their state or federal apprenticeship agency. After registering, dealers can immediately enter employees into the Agriculture Equipment Technician or Heavy Construction Equipment Mechanic programs. In addition, they can select other occupations for the apprentice program, including sales professionals, parts professionals, accountants, or many other occupations, and develop appropriate work processes for those jobs. Next, dealers will identify master-level employees who are capable of and willing to mentor apprentices. Finally, dealers will identify potential candidates or incumbent workers who would benefit from the apprenticeship program and enroll them.

When apprentices participate, they track and report their on-the-job learning and technical training time in conjunction with their employer. The dealer’s program administrator then inputs this data into the appropriate state or federal database. To ensure high standards are maintained, dealers are required to follow specific guidelines, developed over years of apprenticeship experience, after they are registered.

To simplify participation for its dealers, John Deere created national guideline standards for the Registered Apprenticeship Program that have been shared with its dealer channel. They are also providing technical assistance to dealers interested in participating.

“These guidelines provide a consistent apprenticeship program template that any dealer can implement if they participate,” Suhre explained. Dealers can utilize these national guideline standards to have a program approved and operating in a very short timeframe.

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JohnDeere.com/Country

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www.dcaweb.org
Vermeer Corporation Holds Commemoration in Honor of Year-One Tornado Recovery Efforts

Vermeer Corporation, Pella, Iowa, recently held a groundbreaking for a monument commemorating the buildings destroyed by an EF3 tornado in July 2018. At the same time, employees celebrated the strength of the Vermeer team and the growth and progress that is happening along the company campus, which is known as the Vermeer Mile.

The EF3 tornado hit around 4:15 p.m. July 19, 2018. “The tornado was the greatest challenge Vermeer has ever faced. I am incredibly proud to say our team has turned it into an opportunity. Not only are we rebuilding what we had, but we’re becoming stronger than ever before,” said President and CEO Jason Andringa.

With three new facilities underway at the Pella headquarters, Vermeer is investing heavily in the future. The first facility scheduled to open this summer is a new engineering and R&D building named Shop 48. The name stems from founder Gary Vermeer’s shop where his innovations came to life and led to the founding of Vermeer Corporation in 1948. The facility has more than 100,000 square feet of space dedicated to building and testing new equipment. Team members will begin to move into the space in August.

“We’re very fortunate at Vermeer to have a 71-year history of innovation. Shop 48 will take our innovation and growth opportunities long into the future,” said President of Industrial Solutions Doug Hundt.

Plant 7 is the new facility being built where plants 5 and 6 once stood. Nearly 500,000 square feet of manufacturing and office space will expand beyond the original manufacturing footprint of less than 400,000 square feet. The new facility will connect to the original Plant 7 that was damaged in the tornado but repaired in the months afterward; together, they will take on the name Plant 7. Scheduled to be completed in Fall 2020, this facility is being built to keep team members safe at every touchpoint on the job, create ultimate productivity, be a collaborative and engaging space for team members, and allow for growth long into the future. Incorporating advanced manufacturing techniques and continuous improvement best practices will help drive world-class manufacturing.

“Looking ahead, this facility is going to be world-class in every feature. We’re advancing our paint technology, coat technology, and the space for our team,” said Vice President of Operations Bill Blackorby.

During the tornado commemoration, Vermeer also recognized the new Eco-Center. Replacing the one lost in the tornado, the new building will be placed behind Plant 1 and open its doors in January 2020. The Eco-Center helps responsibly process and manage waste along the Mile.

“Our customers depend on our ability to get high-quality equipment to them; this new facility makes us excited to continue to deliver on this promise into the future,” said Executive Vice President of Forage and Lifecycle and Chief Marketing Officer Mark Core.

(continued on pg. 30)
KS Energy Services Hires New Director of Procurement, Promotes Longtime Employee to Fleet Manager

KS Energy Services has named a 17-year veteran of procurement and supply chain management as its director of procurement and has promoted a longtime employee to fleet manager.

Shane Wolf joined KS Energy Services as director of procurement July 1. At the same time, Chris Brouwers was promoted to fleet manager. Both are based at the New Berlin, Wisconsin shop.

In his new position, Wolf is responsible for directing supplier strategy, managing vendor relationships, and systematizing our process in alignment with overall company objectives. Wolf will partner with the company’s business leaders and ensure its suppliers, subcontractors, and processes meet its organizational needs. Working closely with the company’s Fleet Team, he will oversee KS equipment procurement, rental, and leasing.

Wolf has more than 17 years of procurement and supply chain experience, including strategic sourcing, relationship building, and negotiating skills. During the last five years he held leadership positions at Waukesha Foundry, Waukesha, Wisconsin. Prior to that he was in the supply chain teams at Harley-Davidson Motor Company and The Brewer Company, both located in the Milwaukee area. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

As fleet manager, Brouwers is responsible for overseeing deployment, maintenance, utilization, and DOT compliance for vehicles and equipment across KS. He replaces Shawn Klumb, who retired at the end of July.

Brouwers will manage fleet logistics, the company’s mechanics, and DOT compliance. In addition, he will take the lead on the company-wide deployment of Collective Data, a tool to enable better management of our equipment resources.

Brouwers joined KS as an operating foreman in 2006 and was Chicago region shop manager for two years. He brings over 25 years of utility construction experience to his new role.

DCA MEMBERS - SEND US YOUR NEWS!

DCA would love to publish your company news in upcoming issues of the DCA newsletter and on the DCA web site. Please send news items, press releases, images or videos to cgreen@dcaweb.org.
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Brownline USA
www.drillguide.com

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Challenger Services
www.challengerservices.com

Challenger Services offers utility and pipeline construction equipment to onshore contractors throughout the world. They focus on both equipment and support items. Their equipment capability includes pipelayers, pipelayer attachments, pipe benders, vacuumlifts, pipercarries, low ground pressure pipe trailers, hydrotest pumps and other specialized equipment. Support items include welding machines, holiday detectors, slings, spreader bars, external clamps, pipe locators and accessories.