Convention
Safety Congress
Mid Year Meeting
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Like geese escaping a brutal winter, over 600 DCA members and guests, including a record number of first-time attendees, migrated south from across the U.S. and Canada to the Bahamas for a week of warm, sunny weather at the 2019 DCA Annual Convention. The 58th annual event took place at the Grand Hyatt Baha Mar Resort in Nassau, March 4-9 and was a perfect balance of business, fun and relaxation. Guests enjoyed a wide variety of events and activities that included a traditional Bahamian celebration, engaging guest speakers, a “you’re not gonna believe this” costume party, and many optional activities such as golf, a Nassau walking tour, snorkeling, and swimming with dolphins.

As business got underway on Tuesday, first time convention attendees were treated to an orientation luncheon where DCA Board and Leadership Council members reviewed the week’s upcoming activities and encouraged newcomers to get better acquainted with one another.

During the week, the DCA Board of Directors, Leadership Council, and Working Committees all met and elections were held for the 2019 Board of Directors. For a complete write-up on meetings, please see page 10. For a list of 2019 Board of Directors, see page 5.

Dan Shumate of FMI discussed upcoming market trends and challenges at the Business Session. His in-depth presentation ended with audience discussion about whether workforce growth can keep up with demand and the effects of poor public relations for the oil and gas industry. Dan urged the audience to remind the public that oil and gas keep the lights on when the sun’s not out and the wind dies down.

After a long day of meetings, it was time to relax as the official welcome dinner brought a taste of island life inspired by Junkanoo, a native Bahamian festival. As members enjoyed a feast of Caribbean dishes, wildly colorful Junkanoo dancers bedecked in feathers and ribbons paraded through the gardens as fire dancers twirled about. An energetic local band kept the party going long after dark.

Wednesday introduced the first of the week’s keynote speakers, Derreck Kayongo. After escaping Idi Amin’s reign of terror in Uganda as a child and finding his way to America, Derreck’s keen eye for opportunity and unsinkable enthusiasm for helping people led him to found the Global Soap Project, which recycles used soap from hotels and distributes it to countries where proper sanitation is in desperately short supply. His attitude was so infectious that by the end of his presentation, he had the entire room on their feet singing a traditional Swahili song along with him.

Throughout the convention, awards, and recognitions were given to many members for their support of the DCA. Jay Osborn of Primoris Services Corp., the 2018 DCA President, was recognized and thanked for his leadership. Retiring from the DCA Board of Directors are: Dale Mykyte, Pe Ben USA; Pat Michels, Michels Corp.; and Randy Hayes of Vacuworx. They were thanked for their service to the organization. DCA Executive Vice President Rob Darden was also recognized for his 10-year employment anniversary.

Winners of the 2018 Arthur T. Everham Safety Award were announced at the Town Hall meeting on Wednesday; please see page 5 for a list of recipients. Later that evening, the DCA Annual Auction raised over $970,000 to support DCA education programs and scholarships.

Thursday’s keynote featured Dr. Richard Harris and Dr. Craig Challen, who were instrumental in the daring extraction of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach from a flooded cave in Thailand. The expert cave and
rescue divers gave the audience an inside view into the safety calculations it took to pull off such a difficult and dangerous operation.

The DCA Golf Tournament on Thursday sported a field of about 130 golfers at the Royal Blue Golf Club at Baha Mar. Congratulations go to the first-place team: Bill Solomon of Vacuworx, Dennis Springer of The Hallen Construction Co., and Jaeson Osborn of Primoris Services Corp. Tom Krug of Express 4x4 Truck Rentals and Shara Davis were the longest drive winners, and Earl Eldridge of ARB, Inc. had the closest shot to the pin.

Navy fighter pilot Carey Lohrenz took the stage Friday morning to impart lessons from her career becoming the first female F-14 Tomcat carrier pilot. She detailed the Navy's battle-tested training to keep taking action and avoid analysis paralysis in order to succeed, as well as personal revelations from her own struggle to break into the "boy's club" of fighter jocks and prove she belonged. Above all, her message was BE TENACIOUS: find a third way, keep your goal out front, and chunk the impossible.

For the final evening of the convention, the President's Reception and Dinner brought back the 1970s in all their glory. Guests gathered in the hall for drinks and appetizers in all manner of colorful 70s “finery,” and a bit of 60s and 80s too – lots of wigs, bell bottoms, fake mustaches, platform shoes, psychedelic clothes, a few TV and movie characters, flowers in hair, disco outfits, shades, neon, and more. Many guests barely recognized each other under such transformation, and the laughter was loud and often. After dinner and formalities, a bell-bottomed band took the stage.

The DCA would like to thank Jaeson and Kayla Osborn of Primoris Services Corp. for their service as the 2019 Convention Chairmen and their assistance in making the event run smoothly.

The next gathering will be the Mid Year Meeting on July 17-20, 2019, at the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, Pennsylvania. Registration is open on the DCA website at www.dcaweb.org.

The DCA 2020 Convention will be February 24-29 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, in Boca Raton, Florida. ▲

2019 DCA Arthur T. Everham Safety Award

Each year at the annual convention, the DCA recognizes the outstanding importance of safety by presenting the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award to contractors who demonstrate exceptional safety programs. The award was established in 1986 and is highly coveted as recipients are recognized and honored by competitors. Judging criteria include:

- Number of OSHA lost workday cases
- Number of OSHA restricted duty days
- Number of first-aid cases
- Number of fatalities
- Presence of a documented safety program
- Use of a drug-testing program
- The company’s Experience Modification Rate

The winners recognized at the 2019 convention for exceptional performance in 2018 are:

### Under 199,000 hours:

**First Place (tied):**
- Aaron Enterprises Inc., York, Pennsylvania
- Alvah Contractors Inc., South San Francisco, California
- Atlas Trenchless LLC, Rockville, Minnesota
- Brotherton Pipeline Inc., Gold Hill, Oregon
- NuLine Utility Services LLC, Gold Hill, Oregon

### 200,000 to 599,000 hours:

**First Place** – Southeast Directional Drilling, Casa Grande, Arizona

**Second Place** – Primoris Distribution Services Inc., Dade City, Florida

### 600,000 to 2,000,000 hours:

**First Place (tied):**
- Blackeagle Energy Services, Berthoud, Colorado
- United Piping Inc., Duluth, Minnesota

**Second Place** – J.F. Kiely Construction Co., Tinton Falls, New Jersey

### Over 2,000,000 hours:

**First Place** – ARB Inc., Lake Forest, California

**Second Place** – Q3 Contracting, Little Canada, Minnesota ▲

2019 DCA Board of Directors

President - Mike Hickey, The Hallen Construction Co., Inc.; Vice President - Ben Nelson, Michels Corporation; Treasurer - Ray Swerdfeger, K. R. Swerdfeger Construction, Inc.; Immediate Past President - Jay Osborn, Primoris Services Corporation; Executive Vice President - Rob Darden, Distribution Contractors Association; Past President Director - Dave Nelson, Michels Corporation; Director at Large - Mark Albert, AGI Construction Inc.; Director - Doug Anderson, INTREN LLC; Director - Jeff Green, InfraSource LLC; Director - Kevin Parker, Mears Group, Inc.; Director - Jim Lagios, Atlas Trenchless, LLC; Director - Steve Dockendorf, NPL Construction Co.; Director - Daniel Carson, Carson Corporation; AM Director (Senior) - Vince King, McElroy Manufacturing; AM Director (Junior) - Woody Ferrell, Komatsu America Corp.
2018 Board of Directors
The 2018 DCA Board of Directors met for the last time on Monday, March 4, at the Grand Hyatt Baha Mar in Nassau, Bahamas. Board members:

• Reviewed the 2019 convention schedule, convention sponsorship, the auction, and the safety award recipients.
• Approved a donation to the industry promoting Facebook video project Mike Rowe Knows.
• Reviewed the results of the 2018 Impact Purchasing survey that will be published in the 2018 DCA annual report, Benchmarks. The board noted that 55 percent of the DCA contractors completed the study, a drop of about 1 percent from 2017.

Outgoing board members Dale Mykyte, Pe Ben USA, Houston, Pat Michels, Michels Corp., Brownsville, Wisconsin, and Randy Hayes of Vacuworx, Tulsa, Oklahoma, were thanked for their time and contributions.

Leadership Council
The Leadership Council also met Monday, March 4. The council reviewed actions of the DCA Board of Directors from their earlier meeting. DCA working committee chairmen each gave a brief outline of the topics their committee would discuss 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.

Membership Committee
The focus of the March 5 Membership Committee meeting was reviewing and discussing the 2018 accomplishments and 2019 goals as they relate to the membership committee charter. The committee reviewed the list of inactive contractors and noted that the list had shortened since the October meeting. The committee also noted that several inactive members were attending the convention.

Attendees reviewed the membership report presented to the DCA Board of Directors. Since the October Board of Directors meeting, five new contractor members and five new associate members have joined DCA. One contractor member and two associate members have dropped their memberships. Membership totals showed 91 contractor members and 141 associate members. Members of the committee were encouraged to welcome the 55 first-time attendee members and other guests to the convention and the association.
The committee also reviewed the results of the 2018 DCA Impact Purchasing survey that will be published in the DCA annual report Benchmarks.

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. Woody Ferrell of Komatsu North America, Rolling Meadows, Illinois, and Dustin Mykyte of Pe Ben USA, Houston, serve as co-chairmen of the committee.

Safety/Risk Management Committee
At the Safety/Risk Management Committee meeting on March 5, attendees were treated to a presentation from Perry Redman, Corporate Account Manager for Caterpillar Inc., Peoria, Illinois, who discussed Advancing Safety; New Equipment Features and Manufacturing/ Production Safety Practices.

Committee members discussed the revised category distribution for the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award. Forty-eight contractors completed questionnaires for the 2018 award, one more than the previous year. See page 5 for the list of 2018 Everham Safety Award recipients.

The committee also reviewed plans for the 2019 DCA Safety Congress, April 1-3 at the Hutton Hotel in Nashville. Justin Hutchens of Miller Pipeline, Indianapolis, and David Steinberg of Carson Corp., Lafayette, New Jersey, are co-chairing the event. Members attending the committee meeting were encouraged to send their safety professionals to the two-day conference.

The charge of the Safety/Risk Management Committee is to review all information concerning safety in the industry and safe job-site practices. The committee also has oversight for the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award and the Annual Safety Congress. Bill Colson of PreTec Directional Drilling, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Dana Heieie of Southeast Directional Drilling, Casa Grande, Arizona, serve as committee co-chairs.

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Committee
Attendees of the March 7 HDD meeting reviewed the committee’s 2018 achievements and 2019 goals, and received updates on several discussion points from the October 2018 meeting.

Dave Wisniewski of Vermeer Corp., Pella, Iowa, briefed attendees about an HDD flyer the committee is creating to explain Horizontal Directional Drilling. The next steps are to present the document to a test group and possibly add a web link and contact information.

Members were reminded that the March 2017 Best Practices Guidelines is available in several languages. The current version received valuable comments during development.

An update on the January UCT Inadvertent Returns (IR) panel focused on fluid disposal was well received by audience members.

Eben Wyman of Wyman Associates, Falls Church, Virginia, informed the committee about the current status of several legislative bills that affect the HDD industry. He encouraged members to register for the upcoming DCA & AGA Workshop, April 22-24, at the Four Seasons in Chicago.

The charge of the HDD committee is to support safety, training, technical developments, and voluntary operational guides that sustain professional practices and contractors in HDD. The co-chairmen of the committee are Jeff Green of InfraSource, Lenexa, Kansas, and Randy Peterson of Mi-SWACO, Houston.

Government Relations Committee
The Government Relations Committee reviewed the status of several ongoing items, including:

- **Pending Pipeline Safety Reauthorization** - The 2019 pipeline safety bill will focus on the pipeline incident in Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts. Possible topics for the bill are:
  - Overpressure protection
  - Accelerated pipe replacement in the distribution sector
  - Possible regulation regarding work plans, contractor oversight, management of change (MOC), etc.
  - Emergency shutdown valves, communications, and overpressure protection
  - New deadlines for outstanding rulemakings from prior statutory mandates
  - Cybersecurity
  - Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK): Criminal penalties for criminal protesting

At meeting time, hearings in House and Senate subcommittees were in the works. DCA planned to attend the hearings and conduct follow-up visits with committee member offices.

- **Pipeline Safety Management Systems** - The DCA task force on Safety Management Systems (SMS) recently reviewed and approved an SMS template aimed at helping contractors implement and/or improve their SMS systems. The latest version of the template includes several elements of the American Pipeline Institute (API) Recommended Practice 1173 and the API 1177 on Quality Management Systems. Both documents include several construction practices that are likely more appropriate for contractor SMS.

- **OQ Integrity Program Update (OQIP)** - The Operator Qualification Integrity Program completed a document that provides a “roadmap” to enhance OQ integrity though increased consistency and standardization of operator OQ programs. The OQIP addresses the people, processes, and program validation elements that should be included in an effective OQ program. Updates on the program were planned for the April 1-3 DCA Safety Congress and April 22-24 DCA & AGA Workshop.

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• **HDD Advocacy Effort** - Members of the task force met with Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania to develop a list of best practices in HDD. The task force was created in 2018 and is a combined team of HDD and Government Relations Committee members. The task force is also planning to meet with representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in the coming months to educate them about HDD operations and how the industry identifies and mitigates incident reports encountered on the job. This is a long-term subcommittee that will continue to educate state policy makers as well as federal agencies.

• **2019 DCA & AGA Workshop** - A preliminary schedule for the 2019 DCA & AGA Workshop, April 22-24 at the Four Seasons in Chicago, was presented. Attendees were encouraged to register for the one-and-a-half-day event. The workshop will feature panel discussions about “lessons learned” from the Merrimack Valley pipeline incident, pipeline safety management systems, mutual aid, HDD, the OQIP, technology, and challenges related to deployment of fiber-optic broadband infrastructure.

The charge of the Government Relations Committee is to target specific regulatory and legislative items and report their findings through the following publications: DCA Insights, DCA News, and the DCA website. The co-chairmen of the committee are Mark Albert of AGI Construction, Smithfield, Rhode Island, and John Lamerton of Wyo-Ben, Billings, Montana.

**Workforce Development Committee**

The Workforce Development Committee met Wednesday, March 6. Attendees reviewed the 2018 accomplishments and 2019 goals for the committee before turning their focus to several current discussion items.

• **Center for Generational Kinetics (CGK) Implementation Action Plan** – The 84-page action plan draft is completed and needs to be organized into sections. After the reorganization, it will be sent to the Beta group for their comments. After the Beta group review, CGK will host webinars to fine tune the plan. The action plan should be ready for the September 18-20 DCA Workforce Summit at the Four Seasons, Las Colinas (Dallas), Texas.

• **Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD)** – The committee briefly reviewed the events of the November 2018 Annual CEWD Summit and the background of 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 National Leadership and Skills Conference, June 24-28, Louisville, Kentucky** – DCA will host a booth and serve as an official partner of the June SkillsUSA event. The four-day event is expected to host more than 450,000 middle and high school and college students who are considering technical and trade schools for training. The organization anticipates growing to more than 1 million students over the next five years. DCA members were encouraged to host a booth at the conference.

The charge of the Workforce Development Committee is to develop, coordinate, and implement strategies to support the growth of the expanding work force needs with in 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 the coordination with other industry professionals and national organizations. Vivek Arora of Mears Group, Houston, and Randy Rupp of Subsite Electronics, Perry, Oklahoma, are the vice-chairmen of the committee. Members interested in participating on the committee should contact the DCA office.

**2019 Board of Directors**

The 2019 DCA Board of Directors had their first meeting as a board on Thursday, March 8. President Mike Hickey welcomed new board members Doug Anderson of INTREN, Union, Illinois, Jeff Green of InfraSource, Lenexa, Kansas, and Junior Associate Member Director Woody Ferrell of Komatsu America, Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

Board members received updates on and discussed the 2019 DCA budget, the 2019 calendar of events, improvements to the DCA auction and convention, and DCA’s participation in workforce efforts. The board also discussed their 2019 goals and objectives of focusing on the value of membership, especially in the areas of workforce development and government relations.

The next Board of Directors, Leadership Council, and working committee meetings will be held in conjunction with the DCA Mid-Year Meeting, July 17-20, at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Farmington, Pennsylvania.

If you are interested in becoming an active member of any of the working committees, please contact the DCA office.
DCA gave nine students a financial boost at the 58th Annual DCA Convention in March when they received the DCA-Dale R. Michels Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship was founded in 1998 in honor of deceased DCA honorary member and Past President Dale R. Michels from the proceeds of the DCA annual auction. The scholarship committee announced that with DCA members’ generous support of the auction, they were able to award $110,000 this year—a record amount of scholarships for both students starting college or returning to college.

The recipients for the 2019-20 academic year are:
- Benjamin Funk, RDO Equipment Co. - $5,000
- Fredricah Gardner, Primoris Services Corp. - $6,000
- Bruce Halfmann, Henkels & McCoy Inc. - $10,000
- Tiffney Jackson, Minnesota Limited LLC - $15,000

Three students were selected to receive the DCA-Curtis Allen Scholarship at the 2019 DCA Convention. The scholarship was founded in 2010 in honor of the late Curtis Allen to support students entering a vocational, trade, or technical school. The scholarship receives funding from the DCA auctions and Halliburton. The recipients for the 2019-20 academic year are:
- Jamie Blache, J.F. Kiely Construction Co. - $11,333
- Mateo Delaguila, Price Gregory Int’l Inc. - $11,333
- Jacob Stiles, Henkels & McCoy Inc. - $11,334
- Benjamin Kinczkowski, InfraSource LLC - $4,000
- Keagan Sherry, Miller Electric Mfg. Co. - $10,000
- Cole Sutyak, The Lincoln Electric Co. - $15,000
- Jordan Thibodeaux, Price Gregory Int’l Inc. - $20,000
- Ashley Trapp, Michels Corp. - $25,000

The 2019 DCA-Dale R. Michels Scholarship committee included DCA President Jay Osborn, Primoris Services Corp.; DCA Treasurer Ben Nelson, Michels Corp.; Immediate Past President Dale Mykyte, Pe Ben USA; Past President Director Pat Michels, Michels Corporation; Associate Member Director Randy Hayes, Vacuworx; Chad Davis, Miller Pipeline; Woody Ferrell, Komatsu America Corp.; Jeff Green, InfraSource LLC; Jeremy Neill, United Rentals Trench Safety; and Dennis Springer, The Hallen Construction Co. Inc. Ruth Michels of Michels Corporation sits permanently on the committee.

The 2019 DCA-Curtis Allen Scholarship committee was comprised of: DCA Vice President Mike Hickey, The Hallen Construction Co. Inc.; DCA Director at Large Steve Dockendorf, NPL Construction Co.; DCA Associate Member Director Vince King, McElroy Manufacturing; and Dustin Kraft, Vermeer Corp. Halliburton representatives Don Dell and Chris Bower of Bentonite Performance Minerals sit permanently on the committee.
Safety Director & Safety Person of the Year Awarded During the Safety Congress

Travis Flowers was named 2018 Safety Director of the Year and Brooks Scott took home Safety Person of the Year honors at the 24th Annual Safety Congress.

The event, April 1 – 3 at the Hutton Hotel in Nashville, attracted a record number of construction industry safety professionals—75 in all—who gathered to network, share creative training concepts, discuss trends, and to hear from leading safety training consultants, other safety directors, and risk management executives.

Flowers is Environmental, Health and Safety Manager at Brotherton Pipeline, Inc., Gold Hill, Oregon; Scott is the Safety, Quality, and Compliance Coordinator for Miller Pipeline in Indianapolis. DCA President Mike Hickey, The Hallen Construction Co., presented the awards.

Flowers, who has been with Brotherton Pipeline for four years, is credited with changing the company’s safety culture through their “Good Catch” incentive program, implementing a GPS tracking system to manage equipment and drivers, and moving reports, forms, and inspection sheets to a web portal and safety meeting app. Scott has been with Miller Pipeline southern region for six years and has been instrumental in developing and improving crew relationships and building a strong safety culture in Mississippi and Arkansas.

In addition to Flowers, Safety Director of the Year nominees were:
- Tony Hartman, Oz Directional Drilling, Scottsdale, Arizona
- Chris Moulden, ARB, Inc., Lake Forest, California
- Tony Sandwick, Q3 Contracting Inc., Commerce City, Colorado
- Mike Villa, United Piping Inc., Duluth, Minnesota

Doug Fleming of Primoris Distribution Services, Dade City, Florida, was also nominated for Safety Person of the Year.

The DCA Safety Director of the Year award began in 1998 to recognize the importance of the safety director’s role in today’s construction industry. The winning safety director must first be nominated by the management of their company. The finalists are selected by members of the DCA Safety Committee and then voted on by their DCA peers. The winner receives a $1,000 cash prize and plaque.

The Safety Person of the Year award, which recognizes an individual who has made a lasting impact on safety,
was suggested at a Safety Congress a few years ago. Nominees can come from any department within a DCA member company.

This year’s Safety Congress included presentations on important issues affecting the industry and the United States. Topics included:

- The Buried Truth Uncovered - Eric Giguere, Safety Awareness Solutions
- Fatigue in the Workplace, Emily Whitcomb, National Safety Council
- Aftermath of the Pella, Iowa Tornado - Steve Flann, Vermeer Corp.
- HDD Safety Panel - Stacy Moore, Ditch Witch and Dan Vroom, Vermeer Corp.
- OQ Update - Brad Heck, Miller Pipeline
- PSMS: It’s a Journey, Not a Destination - Geoff Isbell, Energy Worldnet

DCA wishes to thank the 2019 Safety Congress Co-Chairmen, Justin Hutchens, Corporate Safety Specialist at Miller Pipeline, and David Steinberg, Environment, Health and Safety Manager at Carson Corporation for their efforts in organizing this year’s Safety Congress.

American Gas Association (AGA), in coordination with the regional gas associations, Canadian Gas Association, American Public Gas Association, and the Distribution Contractors Association, will host a Mutual Aid Leading Practices and Incident Response Workshop scheduled on June 17-19 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. The workshop will feature lessons learned and case studies from companies who have implemented mutual aid or who have had to bring together a large contingency of workers to respond to an incident or natural disaster.

Some areas of interest that will be covered during the event include:

- Steps you can take now to prepare for a potential event
- Preparing a boilerplate response and recovery plan, and adjusting it to meet the needs of the event
- Determining Mutual Assistance needs and requesting that assistance
- Preparing and executing a logistics plan to house, feed, and equip Mutual Assistance responders; preparing on-boarding protocols to ensure that personnel are qualified and that their assignments and locations can be tracked
- Implementing an internal communications plan that considers your own employees, mutual assistance responders, on-site supervision, and their work/personal needs back home
- Coordinating your internal communications plan with your corporation’s external communications plan (customers, government representatives and the public)

Registration for the 2019 Mutual Aid Leading Practices and Incident Response Workshop is now available and up on the AGA website at www.aga.org. AGA will host a welcome reception on Monday evening, June 17 at AGA’s office from 6 – 8 pm. The workshop will begin on Tuesday morning and conclude on Wednesday afternoon at the Hyatt Regency hotel. The hotel cut-off date is Thursday, May 16.
2019 Mid Year Meeting
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Farmington, Pennsylvania
July 17-20, 2019
Registration is Open at www.dcaweb.org!
Industry News

Trump Signs Orders Making It More Difficult To Block Pipelines
President Donald Trump’s support for shifting more power to states faded next to his affinity for oil and gas production, as he aimed to make it harder for states to block pipelines and other energy projects due to environmental concerns.

At the urging of business groups, Trump on April 10 signed two executive orders designed to speed up oil and gas pipeline projects. The action came after officials in Washington state and New York used the permitting process to stop new energy projects in recent years, prompting complaints from Republican members of Congress and the fossil fuel industry.

“Too often badly needed energy infrastructure is being held back by special interest groups, entrenched bureaucracies and radical activists,” Trump complained before signing the orders.

The Trump administration insisted it was not trying to take power away from the states but, rather, trying to make sure that state actions follow the intent of the Clean Water Act. Under a section of the law, companies must get certification from the state before moving ahead with an energy project.

Washington state blocked the building of a coal terminal in 2017, saying there were too many major harmful effects including air pollution, rail safety and vehicle traffic.

New York regulators stopped a natural gas pipeline, saying it failed to meet standards to protect streams, wetlands and other water resources.

Less than a week ago, nearly a dozen business groups told Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler that the environmental review and permitting process for energy projects “has become a target for environmental activists and states that oppose the production and use of fossil fuels.”

The groups said in an April 5 letter that individual states shouldn’t be able to use provisions of the Clean Water Act “to dictate national policy, thereby harming other states and the national interest and damaging cooperative federalism.”

Trump singled out New York for his harshest criticism, saying “obstruction” by the state “was hurting the country.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, D-N.Y., called Trump’s executive order a gross overreach that would undermine his state’s ability to protect water quality and the environment.

“States must have a role in the process for siting energy infrastructure like pipelines, and any efforts to curb this right to protect our residents will be fought tooth and nail,” Cuomo said.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a candidate for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination, issued a joint statement with the state’s attorney general, Bob Ferguson, calling the executive orders “an unprecedented assault on the right and obligation of every state to protect their waters and their communities.”

“We intend to challenge any attempt by the administration to illegally constrain Washington’s authority to protect our state’s natural resources,” the governor and attorney general said.

One of Trump’s executive orders calls for the EPA to consult with states, tribes and others before issuing new guidance and rules for states on how to comply with the Clean Water Act.

The order also directs the transportation secretary to propose a rule allowing liquefied natural gas to be shipped in approved rail tank cars, and directs the labor (continued on pg. 20)
secretary to review whether investment fund managers who invest based on social goals are fulfilling their responsibility to maximize shareholder returns.

Environmental groups described Trump’s order as an effort to short-circuit a state’s ability to review complicated projects. The environmental group Center for Biological Diversity said the orders would mark the fourth time Trump has used executive actions to streamline permits for fossil-fuel infrastructure.

“Trump’s developing an addiction to executive orders that rubber-stamp these climate-killing projects,” said Brett Hartl, the center’s government affairs director.

Trump has linked growing gas and oil production in the U.S. with the creation of jobs and a reduction in fuel prices for consumers. He signed the orders while visiting the International Union of Operating Engineers International Training and Education Center, a union-run facility northeast of Houston.

Trade groups representing the oil and gas industry applauded the orders and said greater access to natural gas benefits families and the environment.

“When states say ‘no’ to the development of natural gas pipelines, they force utilities to curb safe and affordable service and refuse access to new customers, including new businesses,” said Karen Harbert, president and CEO at the American Gas Association.

The second executive order is designed to ease the process for energy projects that cross international borders.

Currently, the secretary of state has the authority to issue permits for cross-border infrastructure such as pipelines. The executive order clarifies that the president will make the decision on whether to issue such permits.

The move follows Trump’s decision last month to issue a new presidential permit for the long-stalled Keystone XL oil pipeline — two years after he first approved it and more than a decade after it was first proposed.

Trump signed the orders in between campaign fundraisers in San Antonio and Houston that were expected to net at least $6 million for Trump’s re-election effort and the Republican Party.
Mark your calendar to join Jason Dorsey and the Center for Generational Kinetics for an informative 2-day Workforce Summit.

- Follow-up to the hugely successful first Workforce Summit held in May 2018. This event will build on the findings presented at the Summit, but you need not to have attended the first Summit. There will be a review of the findings, but more importantly this will present a “how to guide” to engaging and onboarding the future generation of workers.

- Take home “Playbook” incorporating the findings and strategies from the research on recruiting and retaining Millennials and Gen Z employees.

Preliminary Schedule:

**Wednesday, September 18, 2019**
Opening Reception

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**
Full Day session

**Friday, September 20, 2019**
Half Day session

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN MID-JULY AT WWW.DCAWEB.ORG
Pipeline Safety Hearings Set the Stage for Intense Debate
As previously reported, legislation to reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is currently under development. This year’s pipeline safety bill will address many issues surrounding a pipeline incident where gas distribution system released high-pressure natural gas into a low-pressure system in the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts.

Pipeline safety reauthorization usually begins with hearings in the House and Senate, and this year’s pipeline debate began with a hearing of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials on March 29. Witnesses included PHMSA Administrator “Skip” Elliott, Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), followed by a panel several industry stakeholders. The following week, the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety held its own hearing, again featuring PHMSA, NTSB and pipeline industry groups.

The following describes the main issues addressed at these hearings, and what we can expect in this year’s pipeline safety bill.

Role of Professional Engineers
Shortly after the Merrimack Valley incident, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker signed emergency legislation that requires a licensed professional engineer to approve plans for the construction, operation, and maintenance of natural gas infrastructure. NTSB supported that policy when discussing board safety recommendations, stating that “NTSB believes that it is critical that an engineer with appropriate qualifications and experience review engineering plans for a gas company, if not develop them. Massachusetts’ exemption for the requirement of PE licensure to perform ‘industrial’ and public utility work forecloses an opportunity to detect this design oversight.”

Safety Management Systems
DCA is leading an industry effort to promote Safety Management Systems (SMS) in the pipeline industry. Pipeline SMS is a cyclical approach to pipeline safety, one that requires buy-in from senior management, top-to-bottom understanding of a company’s safety program, and dedication to strive for continuous improvement. Pipeline operator associations such as the American Gas Association (AGA), American Pipeline Institute (API),
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), and the American Public Gas Association (APGA) are focusing on API Recommended Practice 1173 on SMS, a highly regarded industry standard considered by many to be the “go to” document on SMS.

DCA and other pipeline contractor associations are developing an SMS template for contractors to consider when implementing SMS or improving existing SMS in their operations.

SMS was a hot topic, especially in the Senate hearing, when Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) hammered all witnesses on whether a pipeline operator should have an SMS, and whether SMS should be required. There was no doubt where Sen. Markey was coming from. When a witness representing pipeline operators stated that while industry supports SMS, many do not believe it should be regulated, Markey replied “voluntary is fine for good companies, voluntary is terrible for bad companies.”

API, the author of RP 1173, said that SMS “provides the framework for managing complex operations with safety as the top priority. It provides operators with established guidelines to manage risk, promote best practices, continuously improve safety performance and build a strong organizational safety culture from the leader of a company all the way to an individual working in the field.”

**Automatic Shutoff Valves**

Much attention was paid to the mandate to require automatic shutoff valves, requiring pipeline operators to install automatic and remote-controlled shutoff valves, or equivalent technology, on new pipelines constructed or fully replaced. PHMSA reported the status of a developing rulemaking that “proposes revisions to the pipeline safety regulations for newly constructed or entirely replaced natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines. In doing so, the rule is intended to improve rupture mitigation and shorten the time it takes to shut down a pipeline segment. The rule will also address recommendations from the NTSB and is expected to help reduce the serious consequences of large-volume releases of natural gas and hazardous liquids.”

**Criminal Penalties and Liabilities**

Over the past year, DCA and other contractor organizations have supported language in state legislation that would increase civil and criminal penalties for criminal behavior during pipeline projects. A pipeline industry witness touched on this during the House pipeline hearing, stating Congress needs to focus on “protecting public safety and the environment from attacks on pipelines. Pipelines are the safest way to deliver the energy American families and consumers use every day. However, pipelines are industrial facilities we must respect to keep them operating safely. Recent attacks on pipeline, either by turning valves in ways that threaten ruptures or shooting guns or blowtorch holes into pipelines are dangerous. Members of the public, surrounding communities and the environment are put in danger by attacks on pipeline facilities that could easily result in a spill or explosion. Congress should deter future attacks against pipeline facilities by closing loopholes in the scope and criminal liability placed in current federal pipeline safety law by previous Congresses on a bipartisan basis.”

DCA agrees wholeheartedly. However, we believe Congress should consider language that would include criminal vandalism of construction equipment located on a pipeline project. Lighting a backhoe near a gas or oil pipeline on fire should be consider as dangerous as turning valves or blowtorch holes into pipelines.

**Permit Reform for LNG**

While most of these hearings were spent hammering PHMSA on finalizing incomplete mandates, PHMSA was able to touch on a few other issues such as PHMSA support for state pipeline safety programs, damage prevention, and efforts to “advance domestic energy,” where he said “PHMSA established a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that eliminates unnecessary and duplicative regulatory reviews by both agencies when permitting new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export facilities.” DCA supports this MOU as it supports our ongoing efforts to update the permit process of energy infrastructure projects.

While other issues of interest to DCA were discussed, such as if and how federal regulations should address Management of Change (MOC) procedures, and whether federal regulations allow for use of state-of-the-art technologies in the pipeline industry. DCA looks forward to this debate, as the association continues to push for increased use of the mapping and locating technologies included in a PHMSA study of damage prevention technologies and practices, mandated in the 2016 pipeline safety reauthorization bill.

So, the pipeline safety debate has begun. DCA has been in this game for the past two reauthorizations, and we’ll be front and center in this one. The attention to the Merrimack Valley incident has resulted in a stronger focus on gas distribution sector. While the recent hearings in the House and Senate raised few ‘red flags,’ we’re only in the beginning of this process. Language addressing work plans, contractor oversight, management of change (MOC), and other issues are sure to come into play at some point.

**First Pipeline Safety Bill Introduced in the Senate**

The same week as the Senate Commerce hearing, Sens. Markey and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), introduced the

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Leonel Rendon Pipeline Safety Act (S 1097), intended to "strengthen pipeline safety by closing regulatory loop-holes and increasing safety standards." The legislation was quickly cosponsored by Rep. Lori Trahan (D-Mass.). Clearly focusing on the gas distribution industry, the bill would mandate:

- PHMSA to require each gas distribution operator their Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) to evaluate risks resulting from existing cast iron pipes, risks associated with pressure above maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP), and outside forces
- Ensure that state authorities have the capability to review plans and the number of inspectors
- Require O&M manuals to include written procedures for responding to over-pressurization, and MOC

Importantly, the legislation would require operators to develop and implement SMS in accordance with API 1173, and require at least one person to monitor gas pressure and have the ability to shut down gas flow at a regulator in case of over pressurization.

The bill would always require operators to assess and upgrade regulators so that:
- There is no common mode of failure that could lead to over-pressurization
- Monitoring gas pressure
- Has relief valves, automatic shutoff valves, etc

A would-be remarkable overreach, the Markey / Warren bill would also increase fines, depending on company history, from $200,000 to a maximum $200 million.

Obviously, there is a lot on the horizon for DCA. As always, DCA’s advocacy efforts are only as strong as its grassroots network of active members, and we’ll be counting on you. ▲
DCA & Industry Events

2019

MAY 12-16
Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada (PLCAC)
65th Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario
www.pipeline.ca

JUNE 17-19
Mutual Aid Leading Practices & Incident Response Workshop
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Washington, D.C.
www.ag.org

JULY 17-20
DCA Mid Year Meeting
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort
Farmington, Pennsylvania
www.dca.org

SEPTEMBER 18-20
DCA Workforce Summit
Four Seasons Resort & Club Dallas at Las Colinas
Irving, Texas
www.dca.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 Times Square
New York City, New York
www.dca.org

NOVEMBER 6-7
Pipeline Leadership Conference
Hyatt Regency Houston Int’l Airport
Houston, Texas
www.plconference.com
Herrenknecht’s E-Power Pipe Wins Major International Award

Herrenknecht won a bauma Innovation Award 2019 for its E-Power Pipe technology, a trenchless method for the economic and environmentally friendly installation of underground cables.

With this technology, small diameter cable protection pipes can be installed quickly and securely underground at distances exceeding a half-mile. In the future, the technology hopes to be able to install cables trenchlessly at a depth of between six and 12 feet with minimal disruption to the environment.

The system is comprised of a fully remote tunnel boring machine that can install several lines in parallel, as well as a jet pump for transporting the muck. The jet pump’s integrated hydraulic power unit enables up to 10 times tunneling distances at high speeds.

Multiple pilot projects have successfully demonstrated the technology by achieving daily best performances of 600 feet during tunneling and 870 feet when the protective pipe was pulled in.

The E-Power Pipe system promises minimal environmental impact as it reduces the amount of earth needed to be moved by up to 90 percent. The surface and soil structure is largely untouched over long distances and the amount of trucks and machines needed is greatly reduced. The required personnel and associated costs are also significantly lower compared to open-cut installation.

PLM Announces Personnel Changes

PipeLine Machinery International (PLM) announces the retirement of Gerald (Gerry) Grothe effective April 1, 2019.

For more than forty years, Gerry has been in the heavy equipment sales and rental business with the majority of this time focused on the pipeline industry. Gerry began his career with Fabick Tractor in 1975 when the Alaska pipeline was under construction. This early exposure to pipeline work was just the beginning of a long and successful career that included the development of many long-term relationships with pipeline contractors in the U.S. and internationally. Throughout his career, Gerry has been actively involved with the International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors Association (IPLOCA), serving several terms on the board of directors. One of the original employees of PLM when it opened its doors in 2005, Gerry has been instrumental in the development of PLM as the global Cat® dealer for pipeline equipment. Since then Gerry has traveled the world promoting PLM and Caterpillar®, leveraging his significant experience in the international pipeline business and a host of long earned relationships with contractors and local dealers to close deals on nearly every continent. Gerry’s hard work and dedication has been a major factor in the growth and success of PLM over the past 14 years. PLM’s employees and partners feel privileged to have worked with Gerry and sincerely thank him for his outstanding contributions to the company and the pipeline industry.
Sean McNally joined PLM on May 22, 2017 as the Director of Business Development for the EAME (Europe, Africa and Middle East) region and has been working with Gerry Grothe since that time to understand the market and dealer landscape as well as develop customer relationships. As of April 1, 2019, Sean will assume all sales and business development responsibilities for this region.

Sean graduated from Miami University, Oxford, OH, in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the Richard T. Farmer School of Business. Prior to PLM, Sean worked eleven years for Hayes Performance Systems (HB), headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with nine of those years living abroad. Hayes Performance Systems designs and manufactures braking and suspension components, systems and technologies for non-automotive applications including motorcycles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, utility vehicles, bicycles, construction, agricultural, industrial and military equipment. Hayes customers include Caterpillar, the US Military, Harley-Davidson, TREK and BMW to name a few.

Sean’s experience includes Director of Business Development for HB’s Asia Operations residing in Taiwan for five years and for their European operations residing in Munich, Germany for four years. Sean was later the Director of Global Sales, Marketing, and Tech Services for the Bicycle Division of Hayes Performance Systems and its brands.

Sean and his family reside in The Hague, Netherlands, PLM’s EAME headquarters.

Vacuworx Hires Bernie Lailey as Business Director of Canada

Vacuworx announced that Bernie Lailey has been hired as Business Director of Canada, serving all of Canada. Lailey has more than 30 years of experience in the oil and gas and pipeline trades. His responsibilities include building awareness and opening new markets for Vacuworx Lifting Systems in both pipeline- and construction-related industries.

“At the end of the day, successful sales relates to understanding the needs of our customers, their goals in the industry and marketplace,” Lailey said. “I want to help them better understand the Vacuworx story, the benefits of bringing this solution to run more efficiently, while putting fewer people in harm’s way. I’m excited to get things rolling here in Canada. My goal is to build relationships, structure and a solid foundation that creates positive connections all the way through the customer value chain.”

In addition to earning a business degree, Lailey has been immersed in educational experiences ranging from sales and marketing to leadership. He served as a board member and on the safety committee of the Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada for several years. Lailey, who is married with two children, was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and has resided in northern Alberta for the past 32 years. He enjoys hunting, golfing, traveling, and volunteering in the local community and his church.

Vacuworx is headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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Pipepline Veteran Leon Bennett Dies March 19

Longtime pipeline worker Leon Bennett, father of IUOE Local 178 Business Manager Mack Bennett, Granbury, Texas, died March 19 in Coffeeville, Alabama, from complications of diabetes.

Leon Bennett was a boom hand, tie-in, lowering in, and road bore foreman working for a number of companies in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. He was a member of IUOE Local 302, UA Local 798 and Gilbert Town Masonic Lodge # 714.

Wife of Past President Bob Cooley Dies at Age 89


She was born on December 29, 1929 in Frederick, MD; she was the daughter of Paul and Genora Hammond.

Bob and Barbara met on June 9, 1945 in Independence, KS at ages 17 and 15, respectfully. They dated on and off for four years and then eloped to Bentonville, AR and were married on March 16, 1949. After a short stint in Iowa on a pipeline job of Bob’s, they moved to Tulsa, OK.

She worked at St. John’s Hospital in Tulsa while Bob was earning his degree from Tulsa University. Bob, Barbara, and their two children, Pam and Robert “Chip” moved to Tripoli, Libya and Beirut, Lebanon from 1961-1964 for Bob’s pipelining work. They have remained in Tulsa since 1964 when they returned from overseas. Bob and Barbara have been members of First United Methodist Church in Tulsa, OK since 1978. They were members of both the Joyner’s and Builders Sunday School classes. Barbara volunteered at St. Francis Hospital for 44 years.

She was preceded in death by her son, Robert C. “Chip” Cooley, II; her parents, Paul and Genora Hammond; her three brothers, Paul Hammond, Bill Hammond and Louis Hammond; and her aunt and uncle, Betty and Reginald Hammond.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Bob Cooley; her daughter, Pam Hooten of El Paso, TX and her husband, Bill Hooten; 4 grandchildren, Ryan Kile of Forney, TX and his fiancée, Candice Snyder, Jason Kile of Lucas, TX and his wife, Karlye Kile, Clay Hooten of McKenney, TX and his wife, Amber Hooten, and Cari Barclay of El Paso, TX and her husband, Marshall Barclay; and 13 great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of choice or The First United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 1115 S. Boulder, Tulsa, OK 74119.
Welcome New Contractor and Associate Members

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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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AGI Construction
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AGI Construction is one of New England’s premier underground utility contractors. For over 25 years they have provided a comprehensive range of contracting services for natural gas, telecommunications, and electric underground utility installations. The company has grown to become an industry leader and they are proud to call the major gas utility companies in New England their customers.

Darby Equipment
www.darbyequip.com

Darby Equipment is a leading manufacturer and distributor of pipeline equipment located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The company manufactures 6 to 48-inch pipe bending equipment, pipe facing machines, line-up clamps, roller cradles, bending mandrels and other pipeline supplies. In addition to its Tulsa facility, the company maintains equipment at customer locations and leased locations in many states and can ship equipment and service personnel nearly anywhere in the world.

Pipeline Pigging Products
www.pipepigs.com

Pipeline Pigging Products offers Poly Pigs in a wide variety of styles (drying, wiping and scraping) to accommodate almost any application, such as oil & gas transmission, municipal, petro chemical, pulp and paper and processing piping systems. With over 75 years of combined experience in manufacturing, research and application.