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In the last issue of DCA News, we painted a picture of a population readily available to join the underground construction industry. The major issue is that students, teachers, and guidance and career counselors don’t seem to recognize that the pipeline construction industry exists.

With infrastructure development forecasts in the U.S. and Canada requiring 725,000 U.S. skilled labor workers annually between now and 2035, the natural gas industry has a wide array of future career opportunities at all levels. Training is the key to seizing those opportunities, and DCA members have a great deal to offer:

- Free paid technical and skills training
- On the job mentoring
- Leadership/management programs
- Computer/mobile based learning
- A rewarding lifelong career
- Potential for rapid career advancement
- Widespread opportunities in every state

Over the past couple of years, DCA has made a concerted effort to cultivate partnerships with organizations that focus on different aspects of the workforce challenge:

- SkillsUSA
- The Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD)
- The Center for Generational Kinetics (CGK)
- The mikeroweWORKS Foundation

Each of these organizations has been a strong partner for DCA’s efforts to raise awareness of our industry.

In this issue we will focus on two organizations - CEWD and CGK.
CEWD – Center for Energy Workforce Development

The Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) was formed in 2006 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.

Purpose

CEWD is at the forefront of forecasting the demand for workers, communicating the skills and knowledge for current and future workers, and partnering with educators across the country to create scalable career pathways for energy jobs. CEWD provides ready-to-use resources that allow energy companies to attract, train, and hire from a variety of demographic groups including youth, military, women, and transitioning adults.

Initially formed to identify and implement solutions to the aging workforce issue, CEWD now focuses on closing the skill gaps in mission critical jobs as the industry faces changes in technology and leads the way to a cleaner energy future. Over the past 10 years, CEWD has worked to create a strong foundation of partnership between the energy industry, education, and workforce development to implement proven and scalable workforce solutions that save time, conserve resources, and reduce costs.

Impact

CEWD members represent approximately 85 percent of the nation’s energy utility workers and have combined revenue of more than $450 billion. The industry’s broad support of CEWD underscores, in a very visible manner, its track record for helping develop a qualified and diverse workforce to meet our country’s energy needs.

At the state level, CEWD facilitated the creation of State Energy Workforce Consortia representing 30 states. These consortia focus on developing an energy workforce tailored to the economic, demographic, and specific workforce requirements for that state. The consortia are supported by CEWD through a unique model of consultants who bring their long-term industry and human resources experience. This model enables the state consortia to rapidly tailor and implement proven solutions from other regions.

Educators play a critical role in the partnership infrastructure. Through its members, CEWD has identified more than 300 educators who provide credentials, degrees, and diplomas in training and education programs specifically tied to energy competencies.

Targeted resources include:

- Troops to Energy Jobs for exiting soldiers and veterans
- WISE (Women in Sustainable Employment) Pathways for transitioning women into non-traditional fields
- The Get Into Energy Career Pathways Model for students in secondary and post-secondary programs of study. Get Into Energy is the national career awareness brand and is used across the country in websites, social media, brochures, curriculum, and educational pathways to introduce energy careers to students and future employees of all ages.
- Get Into STEM to support after-school efforts like FIRST Robotics
- National Energy Education Network actively leverages the work of CEWD across the country in high schools, community colleges, and universities.

Getting Involved

To get involved with CEWD, the best route is through the state consortia. Check the website, www.cewd.org/about/state-consortia/ to see if there is a state consortium in the area that you work or contact CEWD to be put in contact with a state consortium. Once you have identified a state consortium, you can reach out to the leadership for that group and finding out what opportunities are available and the timing for their meetings. Each state consortium is different and the contact information is generally available on the State Consortia page of the CEWD website. It really is best to connect with the leadership to find out more. Some states have websites that can provide additional information about the group but not all do.

The advantages to partnering with CEWD member companies at the local or state level is: 1) the ability to better understand energy employers’ workforce needs and participate in workforce planning; 2) be part of a unified voice for the industry and for the state’s energy employers that helps build awareness for industry jobs and 3) being able to network with local energy industry leaders.

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CGK – Center for Generational Kinetics

As the construction workforce ages and retires, we must consider the role that Millennials and Gen Z will play in our future growth and success. To better understand the mindset of the younger generations and guide our efforts in reaching Millennials and Gen Z in a meaningful way, DCA has partnered with the Center for Generational Kinetics (CGK). CGK is familiar with DCA and its membership, having conducted three extensive studies on recruiting, onboarding, and a digital review of our electronic communications.

Millennials and Gen Z are at the forefront of innovation and trends. They are the first generations of digital natives, having grown up with digital technology integrated into every aspect of their lives. They seek unique and personalized experiences, deeper connections with the people and places around them, and they want to document it all on the platforms that are part of their everyday lives.

Millennials and Gen Z represent a significant driver of future growth, but what is most notable about their impact is the mindset that they represent, and how their influence resonates across generations. Understanding this mindset is helping to shape how we communicate with each other, and how the companies in the underground construction industry communicate with the upcoming generations.

Workforce Summit

DCA and CGK have produced two Workforce Summits over the past couple of years. The end result is the Take-Action Playbook, a step by step guide to implementing the studies’ conclusions. Jason Dorsey, Denise Villa and Heather Watson from CGK presented the Playbook in detail at the 2019 event. Speakers from Four Seasons Hotels and Baylor University also presented on their experience with attracting the younger generations. While their industries are much different, the challenges are the same. Both brought an entertaining and informative look at appealing to the new workforce.

The Take-Action Playbook provides you and your team the tools to assess your needs and develop the best solutions to tailor your offering to the Millennial and Gen Z mindset. By using the Playbook, you will discover new methods to attract the younger generations to your company, generating measurable results both quickly and for the long-term. The Playbook, the Studies and the research behind them are all located on the DCA Website.

The following pages are brief summaries of the three studies CGK performed on behalf of the DCA.
**STUDY CONCLUSIONS:** The underground pipeline construction industry has tremendous potential with Gen Z and Millennial workers and this study shows there are clear drivers that motivate these generations to apply for a job — even in an industry that they are not familiar with — including specific messaging, job positioning, job training, and career pathway options. They highly value opportunities to improve themselves and are excited about the prospect of on-the-job training and building the skills necessary to progress into management roles.

These new generations want to work in an industry such as DCA’s, but the method for reaching, engaging and retaining these potential employees must evolve from industry norms to match the new generations. The good news is that this is entirely doable based on the study’s findings.

In short, the industry can be the right fit for Gen Z and Millennials, but in order to show this great fit, it must adapt how it messages and positions its careers in alignment with what most motivates these generations.

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**STUDY 1: ATTRACTING AND KEEPING GEN Z AND MILLENNIAL EMPLOYEES**

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDY 1 INCLUDE:**

**Job Expectations and Industry Expectations**
- Acquiring, learning, and becoming an expert in new skills tops the list of most appealing aspects of a job
- Financial success and helping others are the most important characteristics when choosing an industry
- There is a wide range in salary expectations for accepting a laborer position
- Job applicants are most likely to accept a position if they receive monetary and training rewards after 1 year
- Benefits and competitive salary are the most likely factors to impact the decision to accept a laborer position
- Laborers expect a salary increase in less than 1 year
- 40% expect a promotion of less labor and more technical tasks to happen in less than 1 year
- Fast advancement is most appealing, but safety and working conditions cause the most concern

**Recruiting the Next Generation**
- Job search websites are the primary means for finding available industry jobs
- Facebook and LinkedIn are the most used platforms to search for industry jobs
- A substantial signing bonus would get the attention of potential job applicants
- Free technical training is a convincing message in job postings
- Listing a position’s starting salary range is a must for company websites
- Future growth potential inspires younger workers to apply for a job right away
- Men, in particular, would like to receive notices about nearby industry job openings
- The application time should be under 10 minutes and the hiring process should take less than 10 days

**Messaging the Industry to Younger Workers**
- A “field associate” job title, as opposed to “laborer”, would result in the most Millennial and Gen Z applications
- Infrastructure development is the most appealing company description
- Millennials and Gen Z find purpose in “connecting” and “building America”
- Online ratings, reviews, and word of mouth heavily impact a company’s reputation
- Social media also plays a growing role in company reputation

**Transforming Industry Jobs into Careers**
- Injury, safety concerns, and excessive travel are the top reasons that would drive young workers away
- A 10% salary increase will convince 1/3 of younger workers to stay in the industry after one year
STUDY 2: INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GEN Z AND MILLENNIAL EMPLOYEE ONBOARDING, TRAINING, AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDY 2 INCLUDE:

Onboarding and Orientation
- Introduce Millennials and Gen Z to a first week mentor to make them immediately feel like part of the company
- Millennials and Gen Z want personal introductions to immediately feel like part of the team
- New Hire Orientation training should last a day or less
- Orientation should be a mix of in-person and online activities
- An interactive and hands-on orientation experience is by far the most preferred approach
- Over half of Millennials and Gen Z think it’s very important to use mobile technology to communicate safety alerts
- 55% of Millennial and Gen Z employees want to communicate with their direct supervisor daily or several times a day
- Millennials and Gen Z want to communicate face to face with their supervisor
- Safety concerns and harassment would absolutely cause Millennials and Gen Z to quit
- Lack of information keeps Millennials and Gen Z away from the construction industry

Skills-specific Training
- On-the-job courses are the most important skill development programs for Millennials and Gen Z
- Job specific skill training chosen by employees is most likely to convince them to stay 6 months longer
- Millennials and Gen Z prefer their on-the-job training to come from a skilled worker
- Millennials and Gen Z also prefer in-person training
- Over 40% of Millennials and Gen Z would be willing to complete 7-10 hours of paid training before the first day

Leadership and Management Training
- 60% of Millennial and Gen Z employees would be interested in receiving management training
- Millennials and Gen Z are most interested in training for project management and workforce planning
- 74% of Millennials and Gen Z men think management training should take a month or less
- Overall, Millennials and Gen Z prefer in-person experiences for management training
- Millennials and Gen Z feel open communication is the top quality of a good manager. Working toward the same goal is the top characteristic of an effective team
- According to Millennials and Gen Z, dependability and hard work are the top qualities for a potential management trainee
- 41% of Millennials and Gen Z expect a promotion after 1 year as a manager

Retention Based on Culture and Training
- Millennials and Gen Z need performance feedback at least once a week from their supervisor
- Millennials and Gen Z would like recognition and thanks in person
- Half of Millennials and Gen Z need to receive a raise every 6 to 9 months in order to stay
- Millennials and Gen Z think hard work should determine raises
- Millennials and Gen Z have high expectations for a workplace culture that focuses on the employee
- 60% of Millennials and Gen Z think it’s important to have a fun work environment
Sponsorships:
Sponsorships are now available for the 59th Annual DCA Convention at the Boca Raton Resort & Club in Boca Raton, Florida, Monday, February 24, through Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Associate Members can complete the Sponsorship form at www.dcaweb.org. Your generosity provides financial support to conduct a quality convention that fosters networking and business development.

There are four levels of sponsorship available:

• **Platinum ($25,000+)**
• **Gold ($10,000 - $24,999)**
• **Silver ($5,000 - $9,999)**
• **Bronze ($1,000 - $4,999)**

Sponsors at all levels will receive a Sponsorship Recognition Pin to wear at the convention and many other benefits, including recognition in printed materials, signage, and live announcements. Download a sponsorship kit for more information.

The total donation amount is determined by adding 2020 pledges with the amount a company’s 2019 auction items brought in.

Auction:
In addition to sponsorship opportunities, all members can donate to the DCA Annual Auction held during the convention.

Each year, DCA contractor and associate members gather for a lively and spirited auction, raising critical funds for the association. The funds raised support DCA educational programs and scholarships for worthy candidates whose field of study will promote and/or enhance the industry. Since 1991, the DCA auction has raised almost $6 million. Last year, DCA members showed their overwhelming support for the association by raising a record amount for grants, scholarships, and educational programming. The success of the auction relies on the generous donations by DCA members.

DCA is grateful for your outstanding corporate support of the association!

Complete convention sponsorship and auction forms at www.dcaweb.org. Registration materials will be sent soon.
The application process for the 2020-21 DCA - Dale R. Michels Scholarship and DCA - Curtis Allen Scholarship is now open on the DCA website at: https://dcaweb.org/page/Scholarship and all applications are to be completed online.

Simply scroll the page and find the scholarship that you are applying for, click the button and follow the instructions. Do not forget to upload an unofficial or official copy of your transcripts.
A few basic guidelines:

• The DCA – Dale R. Michels Scholarship encourages students from all academic levels to apply. The DCA – Curtis H. Allen Scholarship focuses on those planning to attend a trade, technical or vocational school.

• Remember, the student’s application and supporting documents must be completed no later than Friday, January 14, 2020.

Visit www.dcaweb.org for more information!
In September of 2018, the people of the Merrimack Valley in Massachusetts learned the hard way about pipeline safety. Overpressurized lines caused dozens of explosions and fires across three small towns. One person was killed; thousands of people were forced to evacuate their homes. The political fallout is ongoing as lawmakers wrestle over how to prevent future incidents.

One possible source of inspiration? Lessons learned from a similar pipeline incident that happened 81 years earlier, 1700 miles away in the tiny town of New London, Texas.

A New School
In 1932, as the Great Depression weighed heavily on the nation, New London, Texas, built one of the finest new school buildings in the state. The East Texas oil fields were booming despite the national malaise, making the London school district one of the richest rural districts in America. The London Wildcats football team played in the first stadium in Texas with electric lights, and the district’s state-of-the-art academic buildings were the pride of the community. Although the architect had originally planned to install a boiler and steam distribution system in the main building’s basement, the school board opted instead to take advantage of the local industry and install 72 gas heaters throughout the building.

The trouble began early in 1937. The school had been paying roughly $300 a month for natural gas, and some on the school board were looking for ways to save money as the Great Depression continued to pummel
The stunned parents in the gymnasium, which was still standing, were first on the scene, quickly followed by area residents who began digging through the rubble with their bare hands. Oilfield roughnecks, many whose children attended the school, were released from their jobs and brought their tools and heavy equipment with them to help in the rescue effort. To make matters worse, it began to rain.

The state responded quickly. Within hours Texas Governor James Allred dispatched the Texas Rangers, the highway patrol, and the National Guard to New London. Thirty doctors, 100 nurses, and 25 embalmers came from Dallas. Police from around the region, airmen from Barksdale Field in Louisiana, and even Boy Scout troops showed up to assist with the rescue and recovery. The wounded and the dead were transported by volunteers in every vehicle available to makeshift first aid tents and morgues in every town nearby, and the brand new hospital in Tyler canceled its dedication and opened one day early. Working ceaselessly through the night and the rain, the volunteers cleared the site in 17 hours.

Newspapers around the world quickly got wind of the story, running hasty headlines with wildly inaccurate casualty numbers as high as 670. A 20-year-old Walter Cronkite was one of the first reporters on the scene and found himself swept up in the rescue effort along with other reporters. Decades later, at the end of a long career that included covering several wars, Cronkite would recall, “I did nothing in my studies nor in my life to prepare me for a story of the magnitude of that New London tragedy, nor has any story since that awful day equaled it.”

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A New Normal

Out of over 600 people in the school, only 130 escaped serious injury. Many of the survivors and their traumatized rescuers required psychiatric care. Nearly the entire sixth grade class was killed. The generally accepted final death toll is 294, though the exact total remains uncertain. Some volunteers simply collected the bodies of their children and took them home for burial, and many bodies were badly burned or disintegrated in the blast and impossible to identify. However, the town did its best to provide each of the dead with individual burials and funeral services. An entire section of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery is dedicated to the victims, with each and every headstone bearing the same date.

Despite the horrors, the town made every effort to establish a new normal as quickly as possible. Within 10 days, the gymnasium and other surviving buildings had been converted to classrooms, and tents were set up on the campus to accommodate the rest of the students. A new school would be built near the old site in 1939. Grieving families filed an unsuccessful lawsuit against the school district and the Parade Gasoline Company in which neither were held responsible. District Superintendent W. C. Shaw, who lost a son, a niece, and a nephew in the disaster, was forced to resign under threat of lynching. Meanwhile, condolence letters poured in from everywhere, including a telegram from the chancellor of Germany at the time, Adolf Hitler.

Investigation and Prevention

An investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Mines quickly concluded that the connection made to the residue gas line was at fault for the leak and the sanding machine’s switch likely ignited the undetected gas. Within weeks, the Texas Legislature became the first in the nation to mandate the addition of malodorous thiols such as ethyl mercaptan, with its characteristic rotten egg smell, to natural gas in order to make leaks more quickly detectable. Many other states and nations quickly followed their example.

The tragedy also brought the engineering profession under intense scrutiny. It was clear the plumbers who made the faulty gas connection were unqualified for the task; as a result, the legislature enacted the Engineering Registration Act (later rewritten as the Texas Engineering Practice Act). This act created The Texas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, which prohibits any person from practicing as an engineer or using the title of “engineer” in the state of Texas unless licensed by the board. This important quality control measure would greatly reduce the incidence of inexperienced or improperly trained individuals designing potentially hazardous equipment.

Today, a 32-foot high granite cenotaph and a community museum stand near the site of the old school in New London. The last survivors of “the day a generation died,” one of the deadliest disasters in Texas history, have all passed on. Many were unwilling or unable to talk about the incident for many decades afterward, leaving their descendants to tell their cautionary tale. But at least the residents of New London can take some comfort in knowing that the legacy of their tragedy—the nose-wrinkling smell of warning—has saved countless lives around the world.
The DCA continues to find ways for members to engage with each other on a variety of industry related topics. Website forums are now available for the following committees on the DCA website at www.dcaweb.org:

- Government Relations
- HDD
- Safety/Risk Management
- Workforce Development

To access the forums:
- Go to www.dcaweb.org.
- Log into your profile.
- Click the Forums tab at the top of the website. You should see a list of the 4 forums.
- Choose the forum you wish to review.
- On the forum that you are accessing, please feel free to create a new topic or add a comment to an existing forum.
- Video, links and files may be added to the forums.

To receive notifications that people have added to the forum or turn off the feature, click Forum Actions and click instant updates text.

The forums are only open to signed in DCA members and staff.
Industry News

Feds Recommend New Requirements after Natural Gas Disaster
Federal officials are recommending stronger nationwide requirements for natural gas systems following last September’s natural gas explosions and fires in Massachusetts. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said Tuesday that every state should require all natural gas infrastructure projects to be reviewed and approved by a licensed professional engineer.

Nineteen states currently have such a requirement, but most have specifically exempted the natural gas industry from such review requirements, the office said.

“In all 50 states you have to have a license to cut hair, but you can design a gas system that affects public safety, and 31 states exempt you from having a license or even an engineering degree,” said Robert Hall, who heads the agency’s office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Material Investigations, during the board’s discussion and vote on the recommendations in Washington, D.C.

The board also recommended that natural gas utilities be required to install additional safeguards on low-pressure natural gas systems like the one involved in the Sept. 13, 2018, disaster.

Officials concluded in October 2018 that the series of explosions and fires had been caused by a gas line that had become overpressurized during a routine pipeline replacement project in Lawrence, Massachusetts. A teenager died, dozens of other people were injured, and more than 100 structures were destroyed or damaged in the Merrimack Valley communities of Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. Thousands of residents and businesses were also left without natural gas service for heat and hot water, some for months.

Board members Tuesday placed much of the blame for the disaster on utility company Columbia Gas of Massachusetts.

The utility’s “inadequate planning, documentation, and recordkeeping” resulted in an unqualified field engineer failing to account for a critical pressure sensing line in the work plan, which involved replacing old cast-iron pipes with new plastic ones. That omission caused high pressure gas to flood the system when the replacement work was undertaken, triggering explosions and fires in homes and businesses.

“The project was not done right,” said Robert Sumwalt, the board’s chair. “The results weren’t simply unacceptable. They were catastrophic.”

NTSB officials said the company should have been aware of the inherent risks in the pipeline upgrade work and taken necessary precautions. Similar incidents have happened at least seven times over the last 50 years across the U.S., including several involving NiSource, Inc., the Indiana-based parent company of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, they said.

The NTSB also criticized the company for inadequately responding to the disaster as it unfolded. Board investigators said it was several hours after the initial explosions before local fire departments were able to reach a gas company official, and that company officials were slow to provide emergency responders with a map of its pipeline system.

“It’s amazing to me that a company that operated this system for more than 100 years could not produce a readily made map to firefighters,” remarked Hall, the NTSB investigator.

(continued on pg. 20)
Board members acknowledged recently that the utility and the state of Massachusetts have each taken significant steps to prevent a repeat of the disaster, including adopting many of the measures they’re now recommending be implemented nationwide. They also recommended that the utility and Massachusetts public safety officials take additional steps to improve their emergency response. Police and fire departments responding from across the region struggled to coordinate their response as their internal communications systems quickly became overwhelmed, the board said.

NiSource has said it has spent about $1 billion responding to the disaster, including a $143 million class action settlement. It has also installed automatic shut-off devices on all systems similar to the one impacted in Massachusetts and is enhancing its emergency preparedness and safety management processes.

“Our own understanding of the events generally aligns with that of the NTSB,” the company said Tuesday. “As we’ve said since that tragic day, we take responsibility for what happened. We have committed to our customers and our communities that we will continue to learn from what happened and implement changes to protect the public.”
**Risk Management in Underground Construction**

**March 10-11, 2020**  
**Hyatt Regency Houston Intercontinental Airport Hotel**  
**Houston, Texas**

Course organizers have posted the agenda for the 2020 Risk Management in Underground Construction course, to be held March 10-11, 2020 in Houston, Texas.

Risk management experts representing all facets of the underground construction industry, including owners, engineers, contractors, lawyers, financiers, manufacturers and insurers, will be on hand to share their years of experience and interact with attendees throughout the course.

The course is broken into four sessions: Fundamentals of Risk Management; Contracting Practices for Underground Projects; Legal & Insurance; and Risk Planning. Sessions conclude with interactive panel discussions that allow attendees the chance to share their own experiences and insights.

Anyone involved in the planning, implementation, construction or management of large underground construction projects will benefit from the course. Past attendees include contractors, project owners, engineers and consultants, insurance professionals, lawyers, and equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

Please visit [www.undergroundriskmanagement.com](http://www.undergroundriskmanagement.com) for more information.

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**Registration Open For CONEXPO-CON/AGG And IFPE 2020**

**March 10-14, 2020**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**

Registration is now open for the co-located CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE 2020 exhibitions, North America’s premiere events for the construction industries and the fluid power, power transmission and motion control industries.

Both CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE have already set exhibit space records and will feature industry-leading education programs. Several show ticket options are available, and all tickets include a monorail pass. New for 2020 is the opportunity to mix and match education sessions between CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE for one price.

CONEXPO-CON/AGG and IFPE come around every three years for a can’t-miss event. No other shows bring together as many segments of the construction industries and of the fluid power, power transmission and motion control industries in one place.

Please visit [www.conexpoconagg.com](http://www.conexpoconagg.com) and [www.ifpe.com](http://www.ifpe.com) for more information.
FERC Issues Final Guidance on HDD

Last year, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a draft “Guidance to Horizontal Directional Drilling Monitoring, Inadvertent Return Response, and Contingency Plans” (Guidance) intended to assist with the development of HDD monitoring and describe how to appropriately respond to an inadvertent return (IR). The Guidance also included FERC’s expectations regarding contingency plans maintained by HDD stakeholders while trying to help improve the quality and consistency of HDD plans and increasing the efficiency of the commission’s environmental review authority.

Several association members contributed to DCA’s comments to the draft Guidance, filed in December of 2018. The comments addressed the following issue areas:

• Personnel and responsibilities related to implementing the HDD plan, including training, drilling fluids, and overseeing corrective actions following an IR
• Pre-construction activities (training, inspections, landowner/agency notification procedures, etc.)
• Documentation related to employee training, project inspections, HDD logs, drilling fluid composition, etc.
• Drilling fluid management, including documentation of drilling fluid materials used (besides bentonite and water)
• Drilling procedures that minimize possible environmental impacts associated with an IR

This month, FERC issued its final Guidance, which includes technical components of an HDD Plan, information on drilling fluid composition and management, monitoring procedures, and response procedures following an IR. DCA was pleased to see that the FERC addressed several of the issues included in DCA’s comments. If you would like a copy of the HDD Guidance or have any questions regarding this document, please contact Eben Wyman (eben@wymanassociates.net).

EEIA Weighs in on CWA 401

DCA remains an active member of the Energy Equipment
and Infrastructure Alliance (EEIA), a broad-based coalition of stakeholders who make up the ‘supply chain’ of the energy industry. EEIA recently sent a letter in support of a proposed rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intended to clarify authority provided to state entities under the Clean Water Act Section 401 (CWA 401), which allows states to determine whether any discharges from energy projects are in compliance with state water quality standards.

CWA 401 has been misused in several states where this authority has become a way to delay or otherwise obstruct the development of natural gas and oil pipeline projects. In August, the EPA proposed to establish standards for timely reviews of applications, ensure reviews are focused on areas intended by the statute, and set clear and consistent standards for implementation. EEIA’s letter underscored the need for this clarification, which would better ensure effective protection of our water resources.

According to EEIA, delays in certifying energy infrastructure projects for reasons outside the intent of the CWA has resulted in “large-scale loss of work, stranded investments in equipment and materials, and inability of our businesses and workforce to plan for efficient deployment and utilization of both human and capital assets.” Further, the proposed rule would “provide clarity, consistency and regulatory certainty in the process for state and tribal execution of their authority under Section 401 by establishing standards for timely reviews of applications, focusing their scope to areas intended by the Clean Water Act, and setting clear and uniform standards for implementation.”


Earlier this year, several DCA members submitted comments to a report on “leading practices” to provide guidance to help minimize cross bores, which are unplanned intersections of one utility with another. The report comes from the Cross Bore Safety Association (CBSA), a diverse group of stakeholders who develop standards, guidelines, and “leading practices” aimed at minimizing risks associated with cross bores.

CBSA reports that natural gas distribution lines bored through sewer pipes remains the largest risk, which echoes what DCA has told a variety of audiences for years. In fact, CBSA reports that while integrity evaluations maintained by several natural gas utilities system now identify cross bores as their highest risk, ways to mitigate risks have not been standardized. In addition, CBSA says that while awareness of cross bore risks has gradually spread through most of the gas distribution industry, new projects continue to lack historical perspective. Therefore, the report attempts to provide leading practices for cross bore risk reduction practices.

Several years ago, DCA issued a position paper on cross bore mitigation that encouraged use of current technologies such as state-of-the-art mapping, subsurface utility engineering, camera inspection, ground penetrating radar, acoustic technologies, etc. CBSA reports that camera systems are still the primary tool of preference for most cross bore inspection projects, and that thorough and consistent construction practices reduce the creation of new cross bores. CBSA also suggests several techniques and processes that should be considered while developing a risk mitigation program. As always, all available data should be designed to provide for quality control.

According to CBSA, “cost effective, strong public outreach efforts to inform and educate customers, utility workers and drain cleaners of cross bore risk should be included. Drain cleaner support and cross bore risk information to reduce impacts from drain cleaning cutting tool are important components of any cross bore mitigation program.” In addition, programs should include measures to “eliminate new cross bore risk and for identifying and removing all legacy cross bores.” DCA will continue to participate in CBSA efforts representing those who regularly address cross bore situations on the job.

DCA and Coalition Submit Comments to HOS Reforms

DCA continues to participate in efforts to mitigate impacts of ‘hours-of-service’ (HOS) regulations intended to address fatigue issues associated with commercial drivers. HOS rules are overseen by the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) and are subject to a wide range of industries, although the intent seems to be reducing highway accidents within the long-haul trucking industry. As reported in previous editions of DCA Insights, the association joined a coalition of several construction groups involved in the utility, pipeline and surface transportation industries looking to mitigate the burdens of HOS rules and, in the long term, eliminate them from being subject to drivers in those industries.

In August, FMCSA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that included several “reforms” that the agency hopes will update HOS rules. Proposed changes include provisions related to the “short-haul” exception, including:

- lengthening the driver’s maximum on-duty period from 12 to 14 hours

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• extending the distance limit within which the driver may operate from 100 air miles to 150 air miles
• extending the 14-hour driving window by two hours in adverse conditions
• allowing drivers to be “on duty” during their required 30-minute (every eight hours) as long as they are not driving, such as when waiting for a commercial vehicle to be loaded with cargo

This month the coalition submitted comments to the NPRM. While the coalition supports these adjustments, we’re pushing for more reforms. For example, under the current law, drivers must be relieved of duty at their normal work reporting location to be eligible for the short-haul exemption, which is entirely unnecessary. Construction drivers regularly cover multiple locations and often end their day in a different location than where it began. Providing the ability to end their shift at another location would streamline efficiency and would not compromise safety or accountability in any way.

Therefore, the coalition suggested that companies already use a variety of methods to track their drivers, such as GPS or other readily available technologies. In comments submitted to FMCSA, the coalition “suggests that the if a driver plans to take advantage of ending their on-duty service at a different location than where they originated, they must be able to document their adherence to mileage and time requirements under the short-haul exception through GPS telematics, paper log, timecard notation or some equivalent means, and be relieved from duty within 14 hours. Drivers can notate their origin for the day in order to establish the 150 air-miles radius. If they are relieved from duty by the end of the 14-hour duty period, they would be exempt...”

The coalition also made it clear that, while these minor reforms would mitigate the impacts of HOS rules on construction drivers, policymakers need to rethink the wisdom of subjecting the construction industry to rules that are clearly intended to address fatigue associated with people whose sole or primary job function is driving a commercial vehicle. Making the point that the individualized regulatory approach “has led to a patchwork of rules, exceptions and exemptions that vary depending on the type of vehicle operated, the type of property carried, and/or the type of service provided. It is extremely difficult for drivers, company management, and enforcement officials to comprehend the scope and applicability of all of the various permutations of the existing HOS regulations and to implement them in daily operations.”

The coalition encourages a uniform exemption that “should include drivers of all property-carrying CMVs engaged in construction, regardless of what they haul (for example, demolition debris, aggregates, water, oil, attenuator, dirt, clay, asphalt, concrete, heavy equipment, pickups hooked to a trailer, pipe, service vehicles, etc.). Also, the exemption would apply regardless of the type of vehicle – rumble strip trucks, grooving, breakers, striping, etc. – as well as any truck hauling construction materials or equipment.”

While there are no real expectations for achieving the uniform exemption in FMCSA’s final rule, but the coalition is taking every chance possible to make the case for the real end goal. Complying with HOS regulations present unnecessary burdens on construction drivers without any real safety benefit. DCA is cautiously optimistic about the FMCSA NPRM and the chances of improving the measure before a final rule is issued, but much work remains to rid these unnecessary regulations from several important sectors of the construction industry.

Eben M. Wyman
Principal
eben@wymanassociates.net

Wyman Associates

Eben M. Wyman
Principal
eben@wymanassociates.net
Calendar

DCA & Industry Events

2020

JANUARY 28 - 30
Underground Construction Technology
International Conference & Exhibition (UCT) 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 4 - 8
Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA) 72nd Annual Convention
La Quinta Resort & Club
La Quinta, California
www.plca.org

FEBRUARY 24 - 29
DCA Annual Convention
Boca Raton Resort & Club
Boca Raton, Florida
www.dcaaweb.org

MARCH 10 - 14
CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2020
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nevada
www.conexpoconagg.com

MARCH 24 - 26
CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo
Palm Springs Convention Center
Palm Springs, California
www.CGAconference.com

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1
DCA 2020 Safety Congress
Hyatt Regency Austin
Austin, Texas
www.dcaaweb.org

APRIL 5 - 9
NASTT’s 2020 No-Dig Show
Colorado Convention Center
Denver, Colorado
www.nodigshow.com

APRIL 13 - 15
DCA & AGA Workshop
The Ritz-Carlton - Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
www.dcaaweb.org

September/October 2019 25
Michels Celebrates 60th Anniversary
Celebrating its 60th anniversary, Michels Corporation is honoring the people, projects and values that have helped the company grow from a regional gas distribution contractor into one of the largest utility and transportation contractors in North America.

“The hard work, dedication and passion of our team members has always been and always will be critical to our operations,” said Pat Michels, president and CEO. “By working together and embodying our core values, we have become an industry leader with a very bright future.”

Michels was established in Brownsville, Wisc., by Dale Michels, a pipeline welding foreman with an entrepreneurial spirit. Today a leading contractor focused on fortifying North America’s infrastructure, Michels offers construction, engineering and procuring services to keep pace with the growing demand in the energy, transportation, telecommunications and utility construction industries. The family-owned and -operated company regularly works in all 50 states and has more than 8,000 employees and 40 offices throughout the United States, and three in Canada.

“The tools we use and the types of work we do have evolved significantly over the past six decades, yet our commitment to be the best has never wavered,” said Michels. “As proud as my family and I are of our remarkable past, we are even more enthusiastic about our future.”

HDD Reunion To Unite Past, Present and Future
When horizontal directional drilling began to spread like wildfire in the late 1980s and 1990s, it was obvious that this disruptive technology was forever changing the face of utility and pipeline construction. From the wild west atmosphere in the early days to the sophisticated digital technologies of today, HDD has become an established, essential technology for all underground utility and pipeline markets.

Though its history is relatively brief, HDD players quickly became a fraternity of visionaries. Many remain in the market today while others have since moved on or retired. Second- and even third-generation family members are now serving the surging HDD market. Big rigs are more active than ever while mid-sized rigs have established a powerful and diversified niche. Small rigs continue to become more refined and still represent the greatest market volume with work, as in the 90s, driven by the explosive telecom market.

To honor this unique, tight-knit community, a special HDD Reunion will be held at the annual Underground Construction Technology International Conference & Exhibition Wednesday, January 29 during UCT 2020 at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Established, older or retired drillers will be able to converse with current operators to swap stories, compare and contrast early equipment with modern tools, share experiences and renew and sustain old friendships.
Those new to the industry will find the information and knowledge they gain extremely useful in their current jobs. The event is for all those who have participated in the industry throughout the years including contractors, owners, engineers and manufacturers no matter the rig size, from jumbo to mini units. In short, the purpose of the reunion is to celebrate the comradery that is HDD.

UCT/HDD partnership

It’s fitting that the event will be held in partnership with the 25th anniversary year celebration of UCT. As HDD caught fire and exploded onto the utility and pipeline marketplace in the 90s, UCT was the primary event that embraced HDD and continues to do so today. Contractors and related personnel still flock to UCT to learn from the industry’s most extensive HDD educational program, “kick the tires” on new equipment and network with their peers.

Plans also include creation of the first HDD Hall of Fame. A special industry committee is currently considering the long list of HDD activists for the first class to be inducted. The Hall of Fame will be maintained annually in conjunction with UCT and Underground Construction magazine.

Other reunion activities currently scheduled are a special networking reception on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Beginning shortly after the UCT exhibit hall closes, the reception will run from 4:30 – 8 p.m. During the party, the 2020 Hall of Fame Class will be formally introduced.

Founding Sponsors are making this historic event possible with their exclusive support of the HDD Reunion. Participants will be able to find these stand-out companies on the exhibit hall floor and at the reunion reception.

Value

While there will be a $25 charge to attend the reunion, attendees get their money back and much more by contacting any of the founding sponsors for a special registration code. That code will provide free exhibit hall passes and discounts for the primary HDD Educational program at UCT. Attendees will also be treated to complimentary beverages and hors d’oeuvre at the HDD Hall of Fame Reception and a custom-designed HDD Reunion T-Shirt. In all, registered attendees will receive values up to $500.

No one could have anticipated the eventual impact to follow when in the 1960s Dick Melsheimer patented a small, directional boring concept for electric line installations, followed by Martin Cherrington’s game-changing developments with large rig applications. Those efforts yielded the remarkable status of advancing HDD into its current role as an essential, efficient and productive technology.

The HDD Reunion will be a rare opportunity for the HDD to unite and celebrate its success. For more information, go to uctonline.com, hddreunion2020 or send an email to hddreunion2020@gmail.com.

Vermeer Mid Atlantic Announces Acquisition of Vermeer Northeast

Combined dealership group to rebrand as Vermeer All Roads

Vermeer Mid Atlantic, an All Roads company, continues its expansion into the industrial equipment industry with the acquisition of Vermeer Northeast, a Pinnacle Award-winning dealer partner of Vermeer Corporation with locations in New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The addition of the three locations makes the combined entity one of the largest Vermeer dealer partners in the country with 15 locations covering a service area that includes South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

“Vermeer Mid Atlantic’s demonstrated market leadership is greatly enhanced by the addition of Vermeer Northeast,” said Mark Boyle, President of Vermeer Mid Atlantic. “Vermeer Northeast is a highly talented team with deep expertise and a passion for delivering results to its first-rate customer base. We look forward to delivering exceptional service and building on the success the Vermeer Northeast team has established in the market over the last 50+ years.”

In conjunction with the acquisition and as a reflection of the changing geographic footprint of the organization,
Vermeer Mid Atlantic and Vermeer Northeast will adopt a new brand name – Vermeer All Roads. This change aligns the company’s branding to better represent the markets it serves, which now span the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and Ohio Valley.

“We have great respect for and pride in our heritage and our brands which have been the foundation of our organization, including Vermeer Mid Atlantic, Vermeer Sales and Service Inc, and Vermeer Northeast,” added Boyle. “We are excited about this new chapter and the opportunity to further expand our regional footprint under the Vermeer All Roads brand.”

Vermeer All Roads plans to invest in additional expansion locations, on-the-road service trucks, and customer service representatives in the Northeast to drive growth and better serve its customers in core industries including underground construction, surface mining, utility installation, tree care, equipment rentals, landscaping, and organic recycling.

Caterpillar’s ‘Dream Dozer’ Campaign Generates Interest, Leads for D6 XE

In conjunction with introducing its D6 XE electric drive dozer, Caterpillar, a leading manufacturer of heavy equipment for the construction and mining industry, launched the Dream Dozer campaign. Using KBMax’s product configurator, this interactive design game allows users to create their own “dream” version of the D6XE.

Initially run as a contest (six winning entries received an all-expenses-paid trip to Caterpillar’s facility to experience the dozer and its engineers first-hand), the game is ongoing at cat.com/dreamdozer. To play, users start by choosing real Cat D6 options, then personalize it with fantasy add-ons and fun “job sites.” Before designing, users can get inspired by viewing what others have done on the website or #DreamDozer Wall of Fame. When finished, players are urged to share their creations via social media using the #dreamdozer hashtag.

ICUEE 2019 Shatters Attendance Records With More Than 19K Attendees, More Than 1,000 Exhibitors

Record numbers of utility and construction professionals converged on Louisville, Ky., for the 2019 International Construction & Utility Equipment Exposition (ICUEE) October 1-3 at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Registered attendance topped 19,000, from the United States,
Canada and more than 65 other countries worldwide. “We shattered our attendance record,” said John Rozum, ICUEE show director. “Our 70 registration kiosks were printing 25 badges per minute between 8 and 10 a.m., so we knew the temperature wasn’t the only thing running hot that day and breaking records.” ICUEE 2019 included over 1,000 exhibitors showcasing the latest products and solutions for the utility construction industry. Exhibitors covered a record 1.34 million sq. ft. or more than 30 acres. Exhibits included the show’s signature hands-on equipment test drives and interactive product demonstrations.

ICUEE 2019 featured a new equipment demonstration area, new and expanded education programs, and new networking opportunities.

(continued on pg. 30)
Vacuworx Hires Area Business Manager for Southern Latin America

Vacuworx has announced an addition to its international sales team as the company continues to explore and develop new opportunities for the faster, safer, and smarter handling of pipeline and construction materials worldwide.

Christian Sellan has been hired as area business manager for Southern Latin America. Sellan began his career with Vacuworx in 2017 as a sales representative. Building on past successes, Sellan will continue his support and development of Vacuworx customers in Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina. At the same time, he is working to identify new business opportunities and growth potential in target markets as the Tulsa-based manufacturer expands its network of qualified distributors.

Sellan, based in Santiago, Chile, reports to Director of International Sales Steve Smith. Smith, who has more than 20 years of international sales experience and a territory that includes Europe, Latin America, South Asia, and the Middle East, is charged with expanding the presence of Vacuworx around the world.

With a proactive, service-oriented approach to sales, marketing, and global logistics, Sellan and Smith are focused on building brand loyalty through dedicated service and the adaptation of vacuum lifting solutions to meet specific needs.

An industrial engineer by trade, Sellan has a diverse entrepreneurial background with experience in the sectors of transportation and logistics, information technology, and retail sales. Smith, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from Oral Roberts University, joined Vacuworx in 2011.

“The strong partnerships we’ve developed in Europe and other parts of the world have helped create a springboard and a lot of interest in Vacuworx,” Smith said. “We are focused on areas in which we can bring the most value to the customer. From oil and gas pipelines to mining, water resources, civil construction, and other industries, the potential is really high and rising alongside demands for improved safety standards.”

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We are looking for high quality photographs of natural gas professionals working in the field. Please send high-resolution photos of at least 300 dpi in a jpeg format.

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