

IN THE PIPELINE

NUCA OF NM NEWS

April 2008

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~President's Message

by Boyd Dunham

On March 27, 2008 NUCA of NM Board members and staff traveled to Las Cruces to host a reception for potential new members in the Las Cruces and El Paso area. Although the turn-out was lower than expected, there is an excitement in Las Cruces about establishing a NUCA of NM district for local contractors and associates. Jane Jernigan and I will be traveling down south again on April 23, 2008 to have lunch with several contractors to talk about the benefits of a Southern NM District. I'd like to say a thank you to Ben Lopez, AUI Inc., Las Cruces office for all of his assistance, hard work and enthusiasm in regards to establishing a district in the southern part of the state. He has been instrumental in helping with contacts and distributing information.

I'd also like to thank the Next Step Instructors: L.D. Alexander, RMCI Inc.; Howard Gentry NMOSHB; Bill Devinney, AON Risk Services; and Herminio Chavez, AUI Inc.; for traveling to Las Cruces to both attend the reception and teach the Next Step Training.

Remember to register for the upcoming Membership Meeting, since we will have a great speaker! Steve Alford, UNM Men's Head Basketball Coach will be the speaker. You can also pick up your 2008 directories.

Also, the Hard Hats for Heroes Committee has set up an opportunity for you to play golf at the Santa Ana Golf Club on May 31, 2008 to help raise money for the New Mexico Integration Center in Albuquerque.

~RMCI Wins Safety Award

Congratulations to **RMCI Inc.** for winning the overall **William H. Feather Safety Award** presented by the National Utility Contractors Association. The award will be presented to RMCI at the Annual National Awards Banquet on May 21, 2008 in Washington D.C. during the NUCA Washington Summit.

~Eye on New Mexico



By Carla Sonntag

LANL Cans the PLA Plans

NUCA-NM, as a member of the Coalition for Fairness in Construction, joined an effort to stop Project Labor Agreements (PLA) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). We recruited the assistance of Congresswoman Heather Wilson, who wrote a letter to Michael Anastasio, Director of LANL, urging him to reconsider the use of PLAs at LANL.

Current studies indicate that only four percent (4%) of workers in New Mexico are represented by unions. PLAs are discriminatory against nonunion workers because they are ineligible to work on a PLA project without consenting to be hired through a union hall. They also require non-union workers to pay into a benefits program they will never be able to access. PLAs severely limit competition on projects because many nonunion companies are unwilling to hire through union halls. Thus, with less competition, PLAs drive up the cost of construction projects in New Mexico.

In his response to Congresswoman Wilson, dated 2/29/08, Director Anastasio stated, "On behalf of Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS), I am pleased to respond to your inquiry regarding the possibility of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Over the past few months, LANS has studied a number of options for performance of construction projects a LANL, including entering into a PLA. We have weighed the advantages and disadvantages of a PLA that would be available to, but not mandatory for, companies wishing to bid on construction projects. After due consideration we have decided that it is not in LANL's best interest to enter into such a PLA; that option no longer is under consideration."

~April Meeting

Don't forget to register early for the upcoming NUCA of NM Membership meeting on April 17, 2008. The **UNM Men's Basketball Coach Steve Alford has been confirmed** and will be speaking at the meeting. You can [Click Here to Register online](#)

When - April 17, 2008 11:30am Lunch Meeting
Where - Albuquerque Country Club 601 Laguna Blvd. SW

Please RSVP by no later than April 14, 2008 at noon. If you bring a potential new member, NUCA of NM will buy their lunch.

~Safety

NUCA Safety Directors Network

NUCA has recently formed a Safety Directors Network. NUCA's goal is to maintain a list of member safety directors that will be used by the association to: obtain information/feedback regarding safety issues from safety professionals out in the field, keep safety directors informed of NUCA safety initiatives and

March/April NUCA Safety News includes the following articles:

- | Does Your Company Have an Effective Safety Program?
- | Site Specific Safety Plans
- | Speak up for Safety
- | OSHA's "Top Ten" Construction Violations FY2007

The NUCA of NM Safety Committee is working on Chapter Safety Awards for 2008 that you may apply for and will be presented in early 2009.

The Committee and NUCA of NM Board is also reviewing an OSHA Partnership. This would be more formal than an OSHA Alliance that NUCA of NM has with NMOSHB now. IF you would like to

review and provide input on the subject, contact the Association office at 505 888

If you come across a safety issue that you think should be shared with other NUCA of NM members, please forward it to the NUCA of NM Office and it will be distributed to all members. Email nucanm@nucanm.org

Next Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2008 at 8am at the Association office - 104 Sin Nombre Ct. NE

~NMRCGA



What is the NMRCGA?

NMRCGA stands for the New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance which is an approved charter of the National Common Ground Alliance.

NMRCGA is a multi-stakeholder organization at the forefront of identifying and promoting best practices and sharing knowledge to prevent damage to underground facilities throughout New Mexico.

By working together, we can better protect our state's underground facilities as well as the lives of those who live or work near them and those who operate them. Water, gas, electricity and telecommunications are vital to our everyday lives. Protecting the underground facilities that ensure we have these resources is our shared responsibility.

In case you haven't heard, the Third Annual New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance (NMRCGA) Conference and Expo will take place September 24 - 26, 2008 at the Albuquerque Convention Center, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever! Our classes have been so popular that we've added another day and included more certification classes!

Here are some of the classes we have scheduled for this coming conference:

- | APWA Marking Standards
- | Competent Person Trench & Excavation**
- | Crisis Management
- | Excavator's Certification All-Day Class, presented by Staking University**
- | Gas Valve Maintenance
- | Highway Watch
- | Master Meters
- | NMOC Excavator's Class
- | NTSB class, presented by Wayne St. Germain
- | The Next Step, presented by NUCA of NM
- | Ticket Management Systems
- | Trench Rescue
- | Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness
- | What to do if you hit a line
- | Wide Area Locates

If you have any questions call Gwen at 505.254.7399 or 866.264.0027.

We're looking forward to seeing you in September!

*Classes subject to change without notice

**All-day certification class, extra charge

Pillar Sponsors include:

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Western Refining
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Exhibitor and Participant Registration Forms now Available. [Click here to Register](#)

Individual Early-Bird registration (before June 15) is only \$125 per person and includes name badge, all conference classes (except where additional fees are noted) and all meals including the Meet & Greet Fiesta

Exhibitor BASIC: \$575 includes one (1) 10'x10' booth w/pipe & drape; demo space; table & chairs; one (1) name badge and entry to all Conference Classes* offered on Sept. 25 and 26, 2008 (except classes that require additional fees); all meals offered at Conference, including Grand Opening Fiesta.

Learn More...

~TLC Plumbing and Utility Platinum Sponsor



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~2008 Sponsors

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~April Dates

- | 04/09/08 Safety Committee
- | 04/10/08 Last Ditch Open Planning 8:00am
- | 04/10/08 Planning Committee 8:30 am
- | 04/10/08 Education Committee 10:00am
- | 04/11/08 Executive Board
- | 04/11/08 NUCA of NM Group at Isotopes
- | 04/17/08 Membership Meeting [Click to Register online](#)
- | 04/21/08 NMRCGA Planning 9am at NMOC Office

If you would like more information on the Committees please call the Association office at 505 888 0752 or email nucanm@nucanm.org

Visit the NUCA of NM Quick View Calendar

~NUCA Legislative Update



NUCA Testifies Before U.S. House

On Thursday, April 3, NUCA President Terry Dillon testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Appearing as a witness on Capitol Hill for the second time in less than a month, Dillon highlighted the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure needs and the drastic cuts in federal appropriations for the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, which finances water treatment projects across the country. Last year, federal funds were cut to \$689 million, the lowest level in the program's history and nowhere near the hundreds of billions needed to help prevent catastrophic failure of this country's water and sewer systems. NUCA's goal as chair of the Clean Water Council is to encourage the committee to restore appropriations in FY2009 to at least \$1.35 billion, which is the amount the SRF received for several years before the cuts began in 2004. NUCA's written statement will also describe the economic benefits that come with federal investment in America's environmental infrastructure--specifically job creation and economic stimulus. NUCA is proud to be invited to testify on Capitol Hill regularly as the "go to" construction organization on this important subject.

NUCA Reviewing State Damage Prevention Grant Applications NUCA is participating on a task force of government and industry representatives to review state damage prevention grant applications submitted to the U.S. DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA). These grants will be awarded to states that have implemented, or plan to better implement, the nine elements of an effective damage prevention program included in the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2006. The nine elements include tools to enhance communication, partnership, education, enforcement, effective use of technology, and regular reporting and evaluation of program effectiveness. Participants in the effort include NUCA, American Gas Association, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America and PHMSA. NUCA will continue to participate in these discussions as the grant approval process moves forward in order to ensure that PHMSA's evaluation and decisions regarding these state grants take into account the shared responsibilities of all damage prevention stakeholders.

Blumenauer Plans for National Infrastructure Platform

NUCA continues to participate in discussions about how to establish a dedicated source of funding for water infrastructure projects through a new Water Infrastructure Trust Fund. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Oreg.), who has taken the lead on this effort on Capitol Hill, has expanded these discussions to address a broader range of infrastructure issues, and has successfully engaged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) in the debate. Following the latest meeting at the Library of Congress, where Speaker Pelosi provided her perspective on establishing a national infrastructure platform, Rep. Blumenauer stated that he was "quite confident that, with Speaker Pelosi's support as she so clearly articulated today, we can continue to build a sense of urgency around these issues, drive the types of policies that provide real solutions, and build community support for increases in infrastructure investment around the country." Blumenauer is looking to establish a new commission to address this subject, one that "will involve the public and Congress in a way that no other commission has done in the past." The congressman went on to say, "Unless the necessary groundwork is laid, you know as well as I that there will be insufficient political and public will to expand infrastructure spending." NUCA commends Rep. Blumenauer for his ongoing leadership and serving as one of the most effective champions of infrastructure investment on Capitol Hill.

New APW Blog Provides Daily Information about Water Incidents

NUCA recently launched a new online blog as the latest weapon in the arsenal of the Americans for Pure Water (APW) campaign, which is intended to raise awareness about America's

deteriorating water/wastewater infrastructure and mobilize the public to demand that Congress do something about it. The Water News Update, which can be accessed from the APW website (www.americansforpurewater.com), contains significant information from local media sources about underground water and wastewater infrastructure failures. The Water News Update will help local citizens (and voters) obtain a clear picture of why increased federal investment is needed to prevent catastrophic failure of this country's water and sewer systems. We encourage all NUCA chapters and members to regularly review this online resource and weigh in with your opinions and insights about the stories provided. NUCA staff has already made key staff on Capitol Hill aware of the blog and invited them to post opinions and perspectives as well. We hope you'll participate in the latest grassroots advocacy tool provided by the Americans for Pure Water campaign. Contact Ben Gann of the NUCA staff (703-358-9300) with any questions or comments.

NUCA Member Receives Highest CGA Award

Last week, the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) held its Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Several NUCA members and staff were in attendance, including Ron Peterson of S.E.E. Underground in Kansas City, Mo. Peterson, who also serves as the service provider of NUCA's Damage Prevention and Claims Avoidance Program, received the "Ron Olitsky Award." The highest award given by the CGA, it is the equivalent of being recognized as a sports league's "most valuable player." Peterson was honored this year for his steadfast dedication to the CGA's efforts to promote shared responsibility in damage prevention. Peterson, who has been a NUCA member since 2005, represents NUCA on the CGA's Research and Development Committee and is chair of the Regional Partners Committee. Ron also supports the CGA personally on a broad range of the organization's initiatives. NUCA is proud to have one of its own receive the highest honor at this year's Annual Meeting, and we thank Ron for his broad support of the CGA and for his service in representing NUCA.

NUCA Conducts Excavation Panel at CGA Annual Meeting

In addition to participating in every CGA committee meeting, NUCA developed and conducted a panel presentation on the CGA's Excavation Best Practices at last week's Annual Meeting. Three representatives from NUCA were included on the panel, which provided a history of the Common Ground Study of One-Call Systems and Damage Prevention Best Practices and the best practices regarding safe excavation methods to avoid hits to underground facilities. Panelists discussed a number of key best practices, including those that address white lining, tolerance zones, exposed facility protection, emergency excavation, supply line separation, positive response, the importance of timely and accurate locating and marking, documentation and preservation of marks, and notification of emergency personnel when certain facilities are ruptured. The session was well-attended and the panel received positive feedback following the presentation.

The NUCA Washington Report is used with permission from the National Utility Contractors Association.

All articles provided by NUCA and
Eben Wyman
Vice President, Government Relations
Ben Gann
Government Relations Coordinator

Mark you calendars now for the 2008 NUCA Washington Summit, which will be held May 21-23, 2008 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington D.C.

~Western Summit of NM 2008 Platinum Sponsor



Thank you Western Summit of NM for your Platinum Sponsorship.

Visit the Western Summit Web Page

~NM PRC

NUCA of NM has received two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking from the NM PRC. If you would like copies of the proposals, please contact the Association office at 505 888 0752 or click the links associated with the proposed rulings below. The NUCA of NM Board of Directors will review the documents to determine if there should be a submittal of comment by the association.

1 - Proposed Adoption of a rule combining transportation and utility division procedures. Establishment of a separate rule for utility applications, and adoption of limited amendments to the motor carrier, fire marshal and ex parte communications rules.

Copies of the proposed rules and amendments may be downloaded from the Commission's website, www.nmprc.state.nm.us under "Public Notices, Proposed Rule Making."

Interested persons shall file their written comments on the proposed rules and amendments by no later than April 30, 2008

Interested persons shall file any response comments to the initial written comments by no later than May 15, 2008.

A public hearing shall be held on May 22, 2008 at 2:00pm. (location was not listed)

2. Proposed adoption of a rule governing electronic filing and service.

The rule would also establish procedures for the Commission, presiding officers, and staff to serve their orders, notices, and pleading by electronic mail in both formal and informal proceedings.

Copies of this proposed rule may be downloaded from the Commission's website, www.nmprc.state.nm.us under "Public Notices, Proposed Rule Making."

Interested persons shall file their written comments on the proposed rule by no later than April 30, 2008

The Commission will review all timely submitted written comments and will hold a public hearing on May 22, at 2:00 pm, PERA Building, 4th Floor hearing room, 1120 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe to take oral comment regarding the proposed rule.

~2008 Directory

The 2008 Membership Directory is ready! Directories will be available for pick-up at the April 17, 2008 Membership Meeting. If you will not be present at the meeting, directories will be mailed/delivered to your company.

~Hard Hats For Heroes

The Hard Hats for Heroes Committee has come up with a way for you to have some fun while supporting veteran's right here in New Mexico.

On May 31, 2008, you can participate in a fundraising golf tournament for NM Veterans at the beautiful Santa Ana Golf Club - shotgun start at 8am.

Registration fee is only \$100 and includes green fees, cart, range balls, giveaways and lunch. Registration form will be online soon, but you call the Association office today to register your team!

Thanks to **HIGHWAY SUPPLY LLC** as Tournament Title Sponsor

New Mexico Veteran's Integration Center

It is estimated that there are nearly 200,000 homeless veterans nationwide. There is no consensus on the numbers here in New Mexico and estimates range from 660 to 7,000. With the support of the Governor and NM Legislature, the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services is working with the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center (NMVIC) to fund a 2 year transitional program assisting homeless veterans to integrate back into community life. In addition to funding beds at the facility, the department has set up a field office on the premises to assist veterans in filing for state and federal benefits and services. There is also an on-site nurse, employment counseling provided by the New Mexico Department of Labor's veterans outreach team, and case managers committed to providing a continuum of services to make the transition successful. Values such as trust, dignity, honor, self worth and respect for other people are emphasized in the program.

To be eligible for this program, veterans must have been honorably discharged from any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Other requirements are that they must have been clean and sober for at least 28 days prior to acceptance and may be required to submit to a pre-placement drug test.

100 of profit from this golf tournament will go to the NM Veteran's Intergration Center in Albuquerque. No administrative costs!

~NUCA Benefit

NUCA and NUCA Chapters are the only organizations successfully working to protect and defend your profession in the courts, legislative arena, and government agencies. NUCA understands the importance of safety training and works hard to give the latest in safety education for all underground utility construction professionals. NUCA unites our industry so that together we can more effectively address common problems and strengthen construction markets and profitability for all. It's the way of the world. Stand and fight for your livelihood, or lose it to those willing to champion conflicting interests. Thankfully, you have NUCA on your side.

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) is the largest trade association working solely for the underground utility construction industry. The association represents contractors, suppliers, and manufacturers involved in water, sewer, gas, electric, telecommunications, site work, and other segments of the industry across the country, and NUCA of NM is the only trade association in New Mexico dedicated and working for the underground construction industry.



NUCA of NM

email: nucanm@nucanm.org

phone: 505 888 0752

web: <http://www.nucanm.org>

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