

IN THE PIPELINE

NUCA OF NM NEWS

September 2007

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President's Message



Here we are heading into the last few months of the year, and the Association is gearing up for its major annual golf Tournament Last Ditch Open. If you haven't registered yet, call the office today as there are very few spots left. This relaxed tournament is a great opportunity to get out of the office and spend some time with others in your industry. Lunch and Post-Tournament reception included in the low price of

\$125 per player and there will be great Door prizes and raffle tickets worth sticking around for.

The next Membership Meeting is set for October 18, 2007 at the Marriott Pyramid hotel at 11:30am. This meeting is a must for every member! You will have a chance to see what the Association is doing, your member benefits that you may not even be aware of, and where we're heading in 2008. If you have contact with someone that may benefit from membership, please bring them along and we'll pay for lunch. Heather Caldwell, NUCA Member Chapter Relations, and a NUCA Board Representative will also be in attendance to talk about NUCA.

NUCA Fall Board Meeting
2007 FALL BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
October 3 - 5, 2007
Westin Buckhead Atlanta
Atlanta, GA
For more information, visit the registration page at www.nuca.com

Featured Product

NUCA Store Summer Clearance Sale



MICROTUNNELING DESIGN

This guide provides comprehensive information on pipe jacking and microtunneling techniques, applications and benefits.

Member Price \$3.00

HDD INSTALLATION GUIDELINES - CD Rom

A "must-have" for anyone involved in HDD. Developed by a consortium of organizations involved in the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) industry, this CD provides quick, searchable information on HDD applications, equipment and materials, planning, jobsite safety, risk reduction, and mitigation. A great reference tool for training field personnel to make efficient, effective, and safe installations. The Guidelines were developed with the support of NUCA and the NUCA Foundation for Education and Research.

Member Price \$15.00

NUCA COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY MANUAL

Prepared by NUCA Vice President, Safety George Kennedy, CSP, the manual will help underground utility contractors establish, update, or overhaul their safety programs. Twenty sections cover company safety programs, hazard communications, inspection programs, claims management, trench safety, confined-space entry, and much more.

Member Price \$75.00

POCKET SAFETY GUIDE REVISED - ENGLISH

The NUCA Pocket Safety Guide includes general safety rules and jobsite hazards and how to avoid them. Now in its 2nd edition, this manual has been updated to include revised sections and new chapters on Chain Saw Safety, Lockout/Tagout, Refueling Construction Equipment and much more. The purpose of this guide is to ensure and promote safe working habits and a safe environment for all construction employees.

Member Price \$3.00

Order Here

Eye on New Mexico



Surface Waters of the State

Update by Carla J. Sonntag

A 2005 amendment to the "surface waters of the state" definition was appealed by a group of concerned businesses and industry groups of which National Utility Contractors Association of New Mexico is a member.

The amendment redefined the definition to be as follows:

"surface water(s) of the state" means all surface waters situated wholly or partly within or bordering upon the state, including lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent and ephemeral streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows playa lakes, reservoirs or natural ponds. Surface waters of the state also means all tributaries of such waters, including adjacent wetlands, any manmade bodies of water that were originally created in surface waters of the state or resulted in the impoundment of surface waters of the state, and any "waters of the United States" as defined under the Clean Water Act that are not included in the preceding description. Surface waters of the state does not include private waters that do not combine with other surface or subsurface water or any water[.]

The reasons stated by the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) for the adoption of this definition included:

100. The Commission adopts the New Mexico Environmental Division's (NMED) proposal to amend the definition [of surface waters of the State] to reflect New Mexico's plenary power over waters within its borders because the WQCC's authority . . . is not constrained by the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

101. The interests of the state are critically linked both economically and culturally to good water quality in all of the state's waters, not just waters that can be linked to interstate commerce. Non-perennial waters make up over 80% of this state's waters, and should be expressly protected in the standards. Extending the Water Quality Standards (WQS) to intrastate waters is consistent with applicable federal case law. The U.S. Supreme Court supports the goal of protecting isolated intrastate waters-waters with no relation to interstate commerce-at the state level, rather than federal level. NUCA-NM joined with others to appeal the decision to adopt this definition because it gives the states greater regulatory authority than the federal government. The definition was upheld in a decision by the New Mexico Court of Appeals on May 10, 2007.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (in cooperation with the EPA) issued additional information on this issue along with "guidance" for its application. You can access this information at:

http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/cwa_guide/cwa_guide.htm

AUI 2007 Platinum Sponsor



Thank you AUI Inc. for your 2007 Platinum Sponsorship.

2007 Sponsors

2007 Sponsors:

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- | New Concepts
- | Tom Growney Equipment
- | Western Summit of NM
- | HD Supply
- | Albuquerque Asphalt Inc.
- | AMEC
- | PCL of NM
- | Wagner Equipment
- | Vis-Com Inc.

September Dates

- | 09/05/07 - Membership Committee

- | 09/12/07 - Safety Committee 8am
- | 09/13/07 - Planning Committee 8:00am
- | 09/13/07 - Last Ditch Open Planning 8:30am
- | 09/21/07 - Last Ditch Open Golf Tournament
- | 09/24/07 - Board of Director's Meeting 8:00am
- | 09/26/07 - Government Relations Committee 9:00 am

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

Oberstar Proposes Bridge Reconstruction Initiative



In the wake of the tragic bridge collapse in Minneapolis earlier this month, Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.), Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, is taking on an aggressive new initiative on yet another infrastructure priority of his - America's deteriorating bridges. Chairman Oberstar intends to hold hearings when Congress returns next week on his "National Highway System Bridge Reconstruction Initiative," which aims to provide needed resources to repair, rehabilitate and replace deficient bridges in a variety of ways. The legislation will: 1) attempt to improve bridge inspection requirements by

updating bridge inspection standards, expediting inspections of bridges that are known to be deficient, and institute computerized bridge management systems to improve the inspection process; 2) provide dedicated funding for the repair and replacement of deficient bridges by establishing a Bridge Reconstruction Trust Fund; and 3) provide for distribution of funds based on public safety and need. As always, the big question is how the money will be generated in order to establish and maintain a trust fund. The initiative proposes to create a new trust fund modeled after the Highway Trust Fund, and fund it with a temporary user-fee on gasoline. Oberstar claims that each one-cent-per-gallon increase to the federal gas tax would generate approximately \$25 billion dedicated to the refurbishment of deficient bridges across America. NUCA and the Transportation Construction Coalition pledged support for Chairman Oberstar's initiative, and we look forward to advocating his bill, as well as several water infrastructure measures, in the final months of the first session of the 110th Congress.

Report provided by NUCA Washington Report, written by Eben Wyman, NUCA Vice President of Government Relations, and Ben Gann, NUCA Government Relations Coordinator.

Click here to read entire Washington Report

August Committees

NUCA of NM

August 2007 Committee Summary

Planning:

- | August 16, 2007 Membership Meeting - Speaker Steve Sink is confirmed.
- | There will also be recognition of Woody Norwood for his retirement, and trying to set up so that the new OSHA Alliance can be signed.
- | The Winterfest booking at Sandia has been cancelled. The Committee will be working on a large event for the Spring of 2008.
- | In order to keep tradition alive with an inauguration for the new Board, the Committee discussed having an evening dinner in December in place of the regular membership meeting. Jane Jernigan will be checking on availability and dates. Awards will also be presented at this same event.

Last Ditch Open

- | Committee reviewed checklist to keep on track.
- | Discussed and determined volunteer needs for day of tournament.

- | All but five hole sponsorships have been filled.
- | Committee reviewed the shirts to be ordered and approved selection.
- | Discussion regarding door prizes and golf balls as giveaways.
- | Adjusted budget to spend \$2000 on door prizes.
- | As of August 9, 59 players.

Safety:

- | There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Safety Meeting in Las Cruces. There has been no response from companies in the Las Cruces/El Paso area. Steve Moore suggested pushing back the date by a few weeks to give the committee more time to contact companies in the area. Kari Biernacki suggested that each Safety Director make a few phone calls. Jane Jernigan will email the current contact list. It was also suggested that the association push participation and interest through the municipalities.
- | The Next Step Program is set for August 24, 2007 in Hobbs, NM. There are 25 participants and Airgas, a local company, will be serving lunch and following the program with a presentation.
- | The Committee held a drawing for those participating in the NUCA Safety Director's Forum in December. All member companies (NUCA of NM and NUCA Members) were eligible for the drawing if they planned to attend the forum. Herminio Chavez, AUI Inc. won the drawing. The registration fee will be covered for Herminio Chavez from NUCA of NM's free registration due to its membership in Safety Ambassadors.
- | The OSHA Alliance renewal has been completed and Woody Norwood will try to push to have the Alliance Signed at the upcoming NUCA of NM membership meeting on August 16, 2007.
- | The Committee reviewed summary of comments in regards to the Safety Van Program. There was some additional discussion. The Safety Committee members would like to have some equipment for their training classes (such as PPE for example).
- | Through the OSHA Alliance, the NUCA of NM Safety Instructors have trained over 300 people between January 2007 and July 2007.

Education:

- | The committee discussed recruiting members for the Education Committee, and committee goals. Each person present will contact certain people and ask if they are interested in serving on the Committee.

Membership:

- | Committee discussed changing the format of the next membership meeting in October and having an association information meeting with potential new members, and to educate current members, and to inform them about what's coming in 2008. They would ask that each Board Member invite one new potential member for lunch. Several presenters from different committees will give short presentations on what the committee work is and how it benefits members.
- | Committee is working on a master potential member list and membership campaign for next year.

Hard Hats for Heroes:

- | November 10, 2007 fundraiser working with area Wal-Mart Stores. Will be collecting money from 10-1pm. Committee is working on marketing and advertising.
- | Will meet with NMVIC in September.
- | Will also have fundraising golf tournament in the spring of 2008.
- | Working on letter of intent and marketing packages.

August Membership Meeting



The August 16th NUCA of NM Membership Meeting was held at the Albuquerque Country Club with guest speaker Steve Sink, APD. He spoke briefly about job-site security and equipment theft. His presentation included information on the following:

- How to report a crime and be a good witness
- Graffiti Issues
- Personal Safety
- Auto Theft Prevention
- Identity Theft
- Workplace Safety
- Construction Site Security
- Holiday Weekend Equipment Theft

For more information and handouts, please contact the NUCA of NM office at 888- 0752

Butch Tongate, Bureau Chief of the NM Occupational Health and Safety Bureau, and Kari Biernacki, NUCA of NM President sign OSHA Alliance

In 2003 The NUCA of NM Safety Committee was contemplating the idea of forming an Alliance with the New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau. The main purpose being to use NUCA and OSHA's collective expertise and help advance a culture of safety in the workplace. At first, the idea drew differing opinions and concerns. But, seeing what an opportunity and benefit this would be to NUCA of NM members, the Safety Committee pursued the Alliance and it was made official on December 18th, 2003.

The original group of people that helped bring the OSHA Alliance to life in 2003 probably had no idea what a grand success the Alliance would be for the Association and it's members.

Through the Alliance, NUCA of NM has

- | Built a trusting cooperative relationship with NM OSHA
- | Networked with others committed to workplace safety and health
- | Leveraged resources to maximize worker safety and health protection
- | Gained recognition as a PROACTIVE leader in Safety in the workplace.

Hundreds have been trained in OSHA 10 and other safety training. This year alone, through the Alliance, 308 people have been trained.

There is one directive for the NUCA of NM/OSHA Alliance. KEEP IT GOING.

Woody Norwood Retiring in October

As most of you know, Woody Norwood has been a part of the Alliance for the past years and he is retiring in October. We will miss working with Woody, but thank him for all of his hard work with NUCA of NM throughout the years. We do look forward to continuing working with Howard Gentry.

Carla Sonntag, SEI Enterprises, and Kari Biernacki, NUCA of NM President sign Lobbyist Agreement Another piece of Association History took place at the August Membership meeting. In 2006, the NUCA of NM Board of Directors decided that the Association should be PROACTIVE in regards to legislation at the State Level. The Board contracted an Agreement with Carla

Sonntag as the NUCA of NM Legislative Monitor.

Many of you have already met and spoke with Carla about issues that came up in the 2007 Legislative Session. If not, you definitely received emails and updates about Legislation, and you were well informed about the proposed Legislation in the NM 2007 Session.

With such great success in the 2007 Session of protecting the utility industry from detrimental legislation, and promoting the utility industry with favorable legislation, the Board of Directors agreed that the NUCA of NM will contract with Carla as the NUCA of NM Lobbyist.

At the Member Meeting, Carla Sonntag, NUCA of NM Lobbyist and Kari Biernacki, NUCA of NM President signed a contract, and NUCA of NM will have a Lobbyist for the first time in its 27 year history.

Last Ditch Open



Thank you Last Ditch Open Sponsors:

Corporate Sponsors:

**Highway Supply
AUI Inc.**

Shirt Sponsor - **Tom Growney Equipment**

Post Tournament Reception: **RMCI Inc.**

On Course Beverage - **Golden Equipment**

Boxed Lunch - **Wagner Equipment**

Hat Sponsor - **ERS Constructors**

Hole Sponsors:

CCM

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Last Ditch Open 2007

September 21, 2007

Isleta Eagle Golf Course

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[Click here to Register ONLINE](#)

Training

Thank you to **RMCI Inc.** for the donation of a laptop computer for NUCA of NM Instructors to use, and Thank you to **TLC Plumbing and Utility** for the donation of a Computer Remote/Laser for the instructors.

If you need AV Equipment for training, you may use NUCA of NM's Laptop and Projector. Please call for availability in advance.

New Mexico is proud to have three NUCA Certified Trainers! If you are interested in NUCA Certified Training such as Excavation or Confined Space training, call the Association at 888-0752.

[Register or Request More Information Here](#)

UTILITY CONSTRUCTION EXPO '08



UTILITY CONSTRUCTION EXPO '08 JANUARY 15-19, 2008 KAUAI, HAWAII

Utility construction professionals looking to escape the winter grind on the mainland next January will be heading for the sun and sand of the amazing Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa on the island of Kauai for Utility Construction EXPO '08.

Owned and operated by the National Utility Contractors Association, Utility Construction EXPO is where construction professionals convene each year for the industry's most valuable convention, and EXPO '08 promises to be no exception.

Aside from the beautiful surroundings, another draw of the 2008 event is the Executive Experience format, which is designed to facilitate the creation of real partnerships between utility contractors and the industry's manufacturers and suppliers. The EXPO '08 general education sessions, which everyone attends together, have been condensed to maximize the time spent outdoors and designed to address the needs of both groups. As always, the lineup of speakers is impressive: political pundit Norman Ornstein, best-selling author and television host Larry Winget, and Flags of Our Fathers author James Bradley.

Opportunities for networking abound: the Aloha NUCA Welcome Reception, Trade Winds Route Auction, NUCA Build-Your-Own- Race Car 500, and President's Luau. For the athletically competitive, there are both golf and tennis tournaments, and for the romantically inclined, an optional sunset cruise along the famous southern shore of the Napali Coast.

[Click here for registration forms](#)



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