

IN THE PIPELINE

NUCA OF NM NEWS

December 2007

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Pipelayer DVD Now Available

Pipelayer Installation Series - Chapter 2 "Excavations, Trenching, Manholes and Backfilling"

The NUCA Foundation proudly announces the release of "Excavations, Trenching, Manholes and Backfilling," the first of a five-CD Pipe Installation Training Series. This interactive, 90-minute, computer-based training CD is divided into sections--Safety, Trenching, Bedding, Backfilling, Manholes, Dewatering, and Tie-ins--that a "student" must successfully navigate before taking an exam. The training CD is designed for easy comprehension by semi-experienced pipe crew members.

An interactive, computer-based learning program for wet and dry underground pipe installation. This series of training CDs will demonstrate the individual and



President's Message



I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and is ready for the upcoming holidays. As 2008 fast approaches, the Board of Directors and Committees have been busy planning another successful year for the Association and its members. You'll be kept updated on the events and meetings, and I encourage all of you to get involved this upcoming year. There are many different ways that you can

give back to your industry through your association; contact the Association office for information on Committees.

Your 2008 Membership Renewals will be in your mailbox this week, so don't forget to send them back in as soon as you can. Remember the main purpose of NUCA of NM is to Promote, Protect, and Preserve the Utility Industry in New Mexico. Your participation and support is essential in keeping the association strong.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!

team skills required for efficient and safe pipe installation using modern equipment and technologies.

Produced by the NUCA Foundation at the request of NUCA's contractor-based Education Committee, this program is configured as an individual, self-paced computer-based training module. It is deployed via an installed CD on individual computer workstations, and will include, when the series is completed, five major instruction modules using multi-media program resources. Student progress is measured with "check your knowledge" challenge questions at the end of each lesson and a "final" test at the completion of each module.

Although the training series is designed primarily for self-navigation, it can also be used by instructors to train groups of students via an LCD projector in a classroom setting. The CD takes an average student 60-90 minutes to complete. The entire production is funded by sponsors, friends of NUCA and sales proceeds.

[Click Here](#) to view the DVD outline.

Member Price: 1750.00

Non-member Price: 2500.00

Order Now

Eye on New Mexico



Proposed Changes to the New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

By Carla J. Sonntag

The Occupational Health and Safety Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department is in the process of developing proposed changes to several regulations. The main sections containing recommended changes are:

Section 11.5.1.21 Compliance Inspections;
Section 11.5.1.26 Informal Conference;
Section 11.5.4.12 Emergency Medical Care; and

Section 5.1.7 Definitions

Some of the proposed changes are procedural or editorial in nature, but others are substantive and should be reviewed. For example, relating to Section 11.5.1.21, Compliance Inspections, language is proposed relating to private questioning of employees or employers, the type of information being sought and the use of representatives throughout the process.

The full text of proposed changes can be reviewed at:
http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/Common/regs_idx.html

Comments on the proposed language will be considered if received by December 21, 2007 at butch.tongate@state.nm.us. The Occupational Health and Safety Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department will present the final recommended changes to the Environmental Improvement Board in January when they request a public hearing in May or June 2008.

2008 Membership

Watch your mail for the 2008 NUCA of NM Membership Renewals that will be mailed this week.

Read over your renewal package carefully to ensure that you are paying the correct amount of dues for the year. You also can sign up to be an Investment Sponsor, which means you are

recognized all year long at different levels, and have benefits such as free member meetings, and golf players in Last Ditch Open.

For more information on membership or investment sponsorship, please contact the Association office at 505 888 0752.

Why Join?

Safety

Members of the NUCA of NM Safety Committee traveled to Las Cruces on November 16, 2007 for a NUCA of NM Safety Forum where a regular Safety Committee meeting was held and instructors Bill Devinney, Howard Gentry, and Dino Franco taught sections from the Next Step Program.

There were 16 guests including City of Las Cruces, NMSU, and local contractors, and 8 NUCA of NM representatives including Steve Moore, RMCI Inc.; Howard Gentry, NMOSHB, Del Caudle, Sundance Mechanical and Utility, Bill Devinney, AON Risk Services, Mark Kwasman, Kinney Agency, Kari Biernacki, AUI Inc., Dino Franco, and Jane Jernigan.

You don't have to hold the title of Safety Director to attend the NUCA of NM Safety Committee Meetings, if you want to know more about Safety, then you should attend. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday* of the month at 8am at the Association office.

*On rare occasion, the Safety Committee is scheduled on a different day due to scheduling conflicts.

NMRCGA



Mark your calendars now! The 3rd Annual New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance EXPO is scheduled for September 25-26, 2008.

What does this EXPO have for you?

- | It's the only local EXPO geared towards Damage Prevention.
- | There are certified classes for contractors such as The Next Step Program.
- | Vendors that you do business will showcase in the vendor hall.
- | New Technology information.
- | Up-To-Date industry trends and changes
- | Certified Locator Class (open to anyone)
- | Professional Speakers

Pillar Sponsors include:

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Exhibitor and Participant registration packages available soon.

Protecting the underground facilities that ensure we have these resources is our shared responsibility.

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Thank you AUI Inc. for your 2007 Platinum Sponsorship.

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- | HD Supply
- | Albuquerque Asphalt Inc.
- | AMEC
- | PCL of NM
- | Wagner Equipment
- | Vis-Com Inc.

December Dates

- | 12/07/07 Membership Meeting -Register Online [Click Here](#)
- | 12/12/07 Safety Committee 8am
- | 12/13/07 Planning Committee 8am
- | 12/13/07 Education Committee 11:30am
- | 12/17/07 Board of Director's Meeting 8am

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



New House Legislation Would Require Use of "E-Verify" System

A bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced legislation earlier this month that would require employers to verify the legal status of existing and new employees through the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) "E-Verify" electronic verification system. The Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act (HR 4088) would require large companies (with over 250 employees), federal agencies and all federal contractors to verify the employment eligibility of new employees within one year of the bill's enactment. All companies would have to verify both new hires and existing employees within four years of enactment. The legislation would also attempt to increase border security and stronger enforcement of illegal immigration by raising the number of border agents and judges. In order to implement the system, the bill would also require DHS, the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service to share information. The bill, which currently has the support of 110 cosponsors, includes "safe harbor" language (which NUCA supports) to protect employers in cases where the E-Verify system fails. No companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate at this point.

Fate of FY2008 Highway Funding Remains Uncertain

The House recently passed the final conference report of the \$70.6 billion FY2008 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill (HR 3074) by a strong 270-147 vote. However, as wide as that margin was, it was a few votes short of the two-thirds margin necessary to override a veto by President Bush, which he has repeatedly promised to do. To make matters worse, Senate leaders pulled the plug on the legislation in that chamber on the day before Congress adjourned for a two-week Thanksgiving recess. Because the president has refused to negotiate on the funding levels included in the bill, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) indicated that the Transportation-HUD measure would be part of an "omnibus" bill that would collectively include spending for the remaining 11 appropriations measures. The Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC), in which NUCA actively participates, sent a letter to those Republicans Who voted "no" on the bill, many of who voted for the last highway reauthorization measure that authorized this investment. In a letter expressing "extreme disappointment," the TCC stated: "Now is not the time to back away from the nation's transportation infrastructure needs. The U.S. continues to under- invest in critical

infrastructure upgrades, while our global competitors are enhancing their transportation networks to help achieve their economic goals." Needless to say, the road to FY2008 appropriations remains a very long one.

Lawmakers Close to Agreement on Energy Bill

House and Senate negotiators are said to be very close to sealing a deal on a struggling energy bill that would strengthen fuel economy standards for the first time in 30 years. The legislation would also require billions of gallons of alternative fuels to be blended with gasoline over the next several years, according to those developing the latest bill language. The compromise reconciles major differences between House and Senate versions of energy legislation that passed earlier this year. Specifically, the bill would require the nation's fleet of vehicles to meet a 35 miles-per-gallon fuel efficiency standard by 2020, and would mandate 20.5 billion gallons of ethanol and other biofuels to be in use by 2015. With the skyrocketing prices of crude oil, as well as gasoline, the agreement on corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) Standards is probably the most significant development to come out of the latest negotiations. Key lawmakers from California (known for enhanced environmental requirements) and Michigan (known for mass production of automobiles) have each indicated that a deal could be reached over the differences between the House and Senate. The biggest issue remaining is whether final bill will set separate CAFÉ standards for cars and trucks, or allow for the two vehicle types to have separate "fuel economies" by assigning a fleet-wide fuel economy average.

OSHA Fairness Coalition Fights Mining Legislation

As an active member of the OSHA Fairness Coalition, NUCA opposes the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (S-MINER) Act of 2007 (HR 2768), which would override the normal and accepted rulemaking process as used by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) in establishing permissible exposure limits (PELs) and other safety regulations. The legislation would mandate that MSHA issue as PELs, without any modifications or consideration of their impact, any recommended exposure limits issued by the National Institute on Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) dealing with chemicals or other hazards faced by miners. Because NIOSH has no requirement to consider economic feasibility or ensure that future PEL standards address real-life economic conditions that employers currently face, many (especially small) employers will be unable to comply with future PEL standards. Further, the legislation, which passed the House Education and Workforce Committee a few weeks ago, would allow for future PEL standards to be adopted without any opportunity for comment by the mining community and the public. So why are NUCA and a coalition on OSHA reform so concerned with mining regulations? Because what's good for MSHA tends to also be good for OSHA. What that means is that the automatic adoption of new standards and regulations for the mining industry without adequate vetting and public comment might spread to other industries, including construction, in the future. Therefore, in a letter to all House members, the OSHA Fairness Coalition strongly opposed HR 2768 for the above reasons, and stated: "We would no more accept Congress passing a law with no exposure to the public, than we can accept MSHA issuing a standard without public comment. This is the very antithesis of the goal of open transparency associated with good government." NUCA will continue to monitor the progress of the bill and educate lawmakers about the harmful precedent this legislation could set, and the impact it might have on other industries.

Political Bytes

Mississippi: Senate Minority Whip Trent Lott (R) announced that he is resigning his seat by the end of the year, a move that will likely open up the Whip post for Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.). Lott's resignation will leave Senate Republicans without one of their best negotiators.

Indiana: Rep. Julia Carson (D) also announced her retirement from Congress due to her recent diagnosis of terminal lung cancer. Rep. Carson has indicated that, depending on her treatment, she hopes to return next year to finish her sixth term, but does not plan to run for re-election in 2008.

New Jersey: Expressing a desire to spend more time with his family, four-term Congressman Mike Ferguson (R) also recently announced his retirement at the completion of his fourth term at the end of next year. Ferguson's retirement will open the door for a strong push from state Senate Minority leader Tom Kean (R), who actually lost to Ferguson in the 2000 primary for this very seat

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

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

Mark your 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.

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 Flagg 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.

December 14, 2007 is the last day to secure the discounted room rate at the Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa, the host hotel for Utility Construction EXPO '08

[Click here for registration forms](#)



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