

THE BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



# DCA NEWS

MAY / JUNE 2022

**DCA & AGA  
Utility Contractor  
Workshop**

**DCA Safety  
Congress**





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## DCA Holds 7th Workshop with AGA

by Eben Wyman, Wyman Associates

### DCA & AGA 2022 Workshop

After a 3-year pandemic hiatus, DCA and the American Gas Association (AGA) held their workshop in Chicago, April 11-13. The joint workshop reflects the strong relationship between DCA and AGA and is intended to increase communication and cooperation between local distribution companies (LDCs) and the contractors who build gas distribution infrastructure for them.

This year's workshop addressed a range of high-profile issues at a time when policymakers are beginning

to focus on pipeline safety and the distribution sector is receiving significant attention. Issues included anticipated impacts from the "mega rule" issued by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on both operators and contractors, implementation of pipeline safety management systems, pipeline cybersecurity, workforce capacity challenges, the future of natural gas, and effective ways contractors collaborated in the face of challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.



### **PHMSA Gas Transmission Rule – Impacts on Operators and Contractors**

Leticia Quezada and Keith Vanderlee of Nicor Gas gave an update on the PHMSA Gas Transmission Rule. On October 1, 2019, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) submitted three major rules to the federal register focused on pipeline safety. Included was a portion of the Mega Rule that focuses on the safety of gas transmission pipelines. The other two published rules focus on the safety of hazardous liquid pipelines and enhanced emergency order procedures. Each of the new rules includes important information for pipeline operators, midstream, and gas transmission operators. The two speakers discussed what areas of the rule pertain to various operations and the contractors

who conduct them, and how operators and contractors may be impacted.

This comprehensive rule was a result of the pipeline incident in San Bruno, California, and focused on regular consistent testing and inspection. Consistent with the transmission integrity management program (TIMP), the panel discussed assessment intervals, pressure testing, internal inspection using state of the art “smart pig” technologies, destructive and non-destructive testing. All stakeholders were encouraged to take pride their work at a time when inspection and testing pipelines will be under the microscope for years to come.

### **Implementation of SMS in the Gas Distribution Construction Industry**

Safety Management Systems SMS require participation from top management down to those in the field and a commitment from all to strive for continuous improvement. Implementation of SMS in the pipeline industry continues to be a top priority at the PHMSA, and as distribution operators continue to integrate SMS into their operations, they are working with their contractors

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to provide a cohesive transition to safety management.

Both operators and contractors shared both positive experiences and challenges over the past two years as the industry continues to improve or transition to SMS approached from traditional safety programs. Operators realize that contractors have to own their own their SMS programs and the unique safety needs within their companies. All stakeholders, whether operators or contractors, should begin to consider the best ways to improves their existing SMS programs or begin the process of moving toward cyclical SMS approaches if they haven't done so already.

Panelists said that conducting thorough gas analyses haver proved to be a critical part of the SMS problems in terms of know finding out where they are, and whether "we are doing what we said we would."

The panel also pointed out that membership of the pipeline industry team now truly reflects this industry, representing gas distribution operators, contractors, public gas distribution, transmission pipeline operation and construction, as well as oil operators and their contractors.

Special thanks to panelists: Nate Healy, Michels Corp; John Bentley, InfraSource LLC; Jesus Soto, Mears Group; Steve Allen, Energy Worldnet; Ryan Porter, NiSource; and

John Hill, Black Hills Energy for sharing their knowledge on this topic.

### **Perspective on the Cyber Security Landscape "A Fireside Chat" Don't Be Your Customer's Cyber Weak Link."**

The objective of this interactive topic was to increase the awareness of the contractor's responsibility to not be the path by which the adversary finds its way into the customer's network. This can apply to service providers as well as equipment manufacturers. For those contractors in the field, it can apply to invoicing mechanisms and apps. The open discussion among the audience was designed to share how customers are requiring cyber contingencies now in contracts and how their companies are navigating the cyber concerns.

Recent history has shown that legitimate concerns remain with China and Russia, and a laser focus must remain on cybersecurity. While it's hard to confirm where 'safe' we are with cyber protections, rudimentary measures like maintaining securing passwords do make a difference. Common activities such as using open airport or other public WiFi sources, which can also open the door to illicit activity. Training is always a good idea, and "IT" departments should be ready 24/7 to address and mitigate a network hack if one occurs.



Concerns with cybersecurity have become headline news is the wake of several hike of large pipeline systems, and the industry must be prepared. Steadfast attention to preventative measures were encouraged, and the panel repeatedly highlighted the need to ensure for the security of out national pipeline network. The discussion was led by Michelle Trapp of Michels Utility Services and Ike Mathews of Spire Energy.

### **Addressing Workforce Development challenges in the Gas Distribution Industry**

A group of industry stakeholders discussed how they are navigating and applying innovative solutions associated with the challenges of recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding a new age workforce. A special focss was on the dynamics of managing multiple generation simultaneously, virtual workspace, recruiting tactics for non-traditional educational paths, military, and other high potential talent pools.

This diverse group made the collective point that while our workforce challenges are formidable, industry leaders are doing what they can to recruit and retain what is wide recognized as a 'greying workforce.'

Young workers will represent some 75 percent of the workforce by 2025, and flexibility will be needed to

recruit and retain the right people. There are 235,000 constructable jobs needed to be filled, and industry has to be strategic to get the right people. All participants agreed that approaching those with military experience has been and will continue to be a very good idea to meet future workforce needs.

At the same time, providing flexibility in work schedules and other non-traditional employment practices should be on the considerable table. Industry employers, whether by operators or construction contractors, will favor employers who provide flexibility.

The panel also discussed the importance of reinforcing foundational elements of workforce management, such as: on-boarding, career-pathing, monitoring engagement and more. Panelists for this topic were: Stephanie Krabbe, Mears Group; Eric Hill, SkillsUSA Illinois; Bill Mulcrone, Helmets to Hardhats; Nicole Fondren, Spire Energy; and Randy Blount, BuildWitt.

### **America's Energy Future and the Role of Pipeline Infrastructure**

Despite the fact that the natural gas industry has publicly supported the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, a stubborn hostility toward use of natural gas

*(continued on pg. 08)*



remains. Fierce debate is ongoing within the states over “fuel choice” and mandatory electrification provisions in future building codes. At the same time, there is ample discussion about the role of carbon dioxide, renewable natural gas (RNG) and what needs to be done to make hydrogen a viable American fuel source in the future.

The carbon capture, use and storage CCUS market will decrease the demand or supply risk, reduce the total cost, and drive technological innovation. However, like hydrogen, capturing CO<sup>2</sup> and transporting it to areas for industrial uses will be possible only by expanding the pipeline infrastructure needed to move it.

The bottom line is that America will simply not be able to achieve its clean energy ambitions without substantial growth of natural gas production and a large expansion of natural gas distribution and transmission pipeline networks. Electrification, wind, solar, batteries and other energy sources will be part of the equation, but a future role of natural gas is clear.

John Wilson of EN Engineering and Ryan Dusek of Nicor Gas helped attendees gain practical insights into these factors and how hydrogen blending and other transformations that will create both challenge and opportunity along with both winners and losers in the gas distribution and pipeline markets.

### **Operator and Contractor Collaboration During the Pandemic**

When the Covid-19 blindsided America in March of 2020, the first order of business for many industry trade associations was to keep their people on the job. Constant communication with federal and state government entities were launched to ensure the government knew how “essential” our work was.

Virtual communication through “Zoom” and other applications was critical, and is now considered part of the “new normal.” While America experiences “virtual fatigue,” the technologies that kept America connected during a nationwide shutdown are appreciated and will continue to be an important tool in industry communications.

Other challenges, while unpopular, continue to be addressed, including the need for masks, social distancing, virtual reporting of construction crews, monitoring of employee symptoms, quarantining, are all factors that have to be addressed as the nation continues to climb out of the coronavirus pandemic.

Jerry Dickson of Peoples Gas and Bob Nowak of KS Energy led a discussion of how their respective companies rapidly adapted a remote based project focused relationship while simultaneously implementing new safety requirements across their organizations.

They discussed how the City of Chicago’s emergency shelter in place order changed the construction





activities and sequencing. During that time, Peoples Gas suspended all customer facing work and collaborated with city agencies to accelerate specific projects to protect the work force and keep people working safely during the pandemic.

**Economic Outlook & Damage Prevention/811 Study: “811 Emergency”**

In the words of the US Marine Corp., “Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome”! The economic, social, and geopolitical challenges faced by the natural gas utility and construction markets are unprecedented. What’s a utility or contractor to do? Mark Bridgers of Continuum Capital presented his insights on how to better understand the impacts of the global pandemic, inflation, interest rates, the infrastructure bill, the Ukraine invasion, supply chain challenges, and workforce availability.

Mark also shared the results of the 811 Emergency study that DCA co-sponsored with 4 other associations. The results included understanding the impact achieved to date, the next steps for the “Infrastructure Protection Coalition” and what contractors can do participate and benefit. The 2021 811 Emergency study was designed to drive waste and inefficiency out of the utility locate process to benefit locators, contractors, and utilities.

The new study includes an in-depth examination of

811 operations in every state and Washington D.C. and shows these costs and the increased risk to public safety could be substantially reduced if states with the worst records adopt more effective practices and procedures already in use in other parts of the country.

The review was commissioned by the Infrastructure Protection Coalition, a group of associations representing broadband, electric, natural gas, pipeline, transportation, sewer, and water industries who design, construct, maintain, or locate these underground systems with both union and non-union workforces.

**OQ Integrity Process Update – OQIP Pilot Programs**

The Operator Qualification Integrity Coalition (OQIP) is comprised of contractors, gas associations, OQ service providers and industry experts who are pilot testing a new process that hopes to increase the integrity of OQ programs through consistency and standardization of them. In 2019, the coalition launched a pilot program with operators, contractors, OQ providers and state regulatory representatives in several states to evaluate whether the Operator Qualification Integrity Process (OQIP) approach can raise the bar while increasing consistency and providing a set of standardized processes.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic presented significant hurdles to the OQIP effort, the pilot programs are now

*(continued on pg. 10)*



underway. The panel provided an update regarding the status of the pilot programs and the OQIP in general. The panel was moderated by Brad Heck of Miller Pipeline and the panelists included: Troy Nutter, Puget Sound Energy; Andrea Martinez, New Mexico Gas Co.; and Phil Lenn, SEMCO.

### **Net-Zero Emissions Opportunities for Gas Utilities**

Sue Forrester of AGA gave her insights on Net-Zero Emissions Opportunities for Gas Utilities. Climate change is a defining challenge across the globe, and natural gas, natural gas utilities, and the delivery infrastructure are essential to meeting the nation's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. AGA engaged ICF to conduct the first comprehensive analysis exploring natural gas utility pathways to achieve net-zero emissions.

Net-Zero Emissions Opportunities for Gas Utilities presents a national-level approach that leverages the unique advantages of gas technologies and distribution infrastructure.

### **AGA Mutual Aid Program and Contractor Partnership**

The 2 ½ day workshop wrapped up with Jackie Malatesta of AGA providing an overview of the national mutual aid program, which was followed by a discussion on enhancing the partnership between utilities and contractors before, during, and after a mutual aid event.

DCA and AGA wish to thank Eben Wyman, Wyman Associates, Mark Bridgers, Continuum Capital and Dave Wisniewski, Vermeer Corp. for their efforts in securing topics and speakers for the conference. ▲





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# Safety News

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## **Kenneth Murray Receives DCA 2021 Safety Director Award; Justin Hutchens is Safety Person of the Year**



Kenneth (KC) Murray was named 2021 Safety Director of the Year and Justin Hutchens took home the Safety Person of the Year honors at the 2022 DCA Safety Congress, March 28-30, at the Hyatt Regency Austin, Austin, Texas.

Murray is the EHS Manager for The Hallen Construction Co. Inc., Plainview, New York; Hutchens is a safety specialist with Miller Pipeline in Indianapolis. DCA President Kevin Parker of Mears Holding presented the awards.

Murray, who has been with Hallen Construction for over four years, is credited for his outstanding leadership and communication skills. His background in statistics and infectious disease were quickly integrated into

Hallen's company culture, and his incorporation of data collection analysis positioned Hallen to smoothly transition in their safety management system. Murray also created and uses a data tool termed "Safety Trend Analysis in Power BI" that increased Hallen's audit count by 72%. He was instrumental in keeping Hallen's workforce and operations up and running during the past challenging two years. Murray's academic background in disease control and field experience in Equatorial Guinea gave him unique insight into managing the pandemic response at Hallen, guiding his efforts to develop and implement their administrative controls, monitoring, evaluation, sampling, testing and vaccination efforts.





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K.C. Murray



Justin Hutchens

In addition to Murray, Safety Director of the Year nominees were:

- Jason Baker, Mears Group Inc., Rosebush, Michigan
- Levi Lamp, R&R Pipeline, Newark, Ohio
- Tony Sandwick, Q3 Contracting Inc., Little Canada, Minnesota

Hutchens has been with Miller Pipeline for over six years and has demonstrated leadership through the many facets of his daily tasks. Much of his work is not visible to many, as most of his job functions are behind the scenes. His accomplishments are what keep Miller's employees, jobsites, and communities where they work safe. In 2021, Hutchens updated the Miller Pipeline Health Safety and Environmental program. Each section was revisited to ensure all procedures and training requirements meet or exceed today's standards. The entire 12-month process both streamlined and enhanced the Miller Pipeline safety program. The new programs were implemented to include wildfire prevention, vacuum excavation, pandemic response plan, and boring procedures. All Miller Pipeline safety programs are now unified into one document and comply with all OSHA, CCS, Avetta, and ISNetwork requirements.

Safety Person of the Year Nominees also included:

- Jacob Beauchamp, InfraSource LLC, Hamtramck, Michigan
- Randy Perry, R&R Pipeline, Newark, Ohio

The DCA Safety Director of the Year award began in 1998 to recognize the importance of the safety director's role in today's construction industry. The winning safety director must first be nominated by the management of

their company. The finalists are selected by members of the DCA Safety Committee and then voted on by their DCA peers. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize and plaque.

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

This year's Safety Congress included presentations on important issues affecting the industry and the U.S.

Topics included:

- The Capacity of Safety, Chad Hymas, CSP, CPAE
- The Jetsons' Era – We're Almost There!, Perry Redman, Caterpillar, Inc.
- Tyranny of TRIR, D. Sid Bhandari, University of Colorado Boulder
- Suicide Awareness in the Construction Industry, Nate Healy, Michels Corp.
- "Just a Little Drunk": Human Attention and Fatigue Management, Mitch Cowart, Caterpillar Inc.
- Active Threat / Situational Awareness, Zach Schultz, Michels Corp.

The 2022 event attracted about 55 construction industry safety professionals, who gathered to network, share creative training concepts, discuss trends, and to hear from leading safety training consultants, other safety directors, and risk management executives.

DCA wishes to thank 2022 Safety Congress co-chairs Nate Healy, Michels Corp.; KC Murray, The Hallen Construction Co. Inc.; and Perry Redman of Caterpillar Inc., for their efforts in organizing this year's event. ▲











DCA 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

JULY  
18



JULY  
21

# MID YEAR

Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho







## Mid Year Meeting at Coeur d'Alene, July 18-21

After two years of pandemic preemptions, the Mid Year Meeting is finally returning to the DCA schedule this summer! The family-friendly event will take place July 18-21 at the world-famous Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort in northern Idaho, just an hour's drive from Spokane, Washington. Known for its spectacular lakeside scenery amid the towering Rocky Mountains, there is something for almost everyone at Coeur d'Alene.

The "Playground of the Northwest" boasts one of the most unique golf courses on the planet, with the world's only floating, moveable golf green. The four-star resort includes luxurious accommodations, world-class cuisine, and rejuvenating spa treatments, along with every outdoor activity you can imagine at a beautiful lake in the northwoods.

DCA members will enjoy the bird's-eye view of the harbor from the hotel terrace at the welcome reception Monday evening. Keynote speaker and basketball

wizard Dave Davlin will kick off the business sessions on Tuesday. Activities available over the next couple of days will include a golf outing (of course), hiking, fishing, bike and ATV riding, river rafting, ziplining, shooting, and local tours.

Tuesday evening we'll cap off the day with family fun activities on the lawn across the water at the Hagadone Event Center. Finally, Wednesday's unique farewell dinner will take place on a spectacular sunset cruise around Lake Coeur d'Alene on two charter boats tethered together so guests can cross over between them. This is a party you won't want to miss!

The deadline for registration and reservations is June 15, 2022. You can register online at [www.dcaweb.org](http://www.dcaweb.org). For reservations call 1-888-965-6542 or use this link [DCA Mid Year Meeting 2022](#) to receive group rate based on overall resort availability. ▲











**Save the Date for the DCA Fall Meeting**  
**Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI**  
**October 24-26, 2022**





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# Insights

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After the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Congress has largely shifted its attention away from construction and on to other issues. With midterm election season fast approaching and the legislative focus moving on to other topics, infrastructure and energy advocacy finds itself increasingly focused on regulatory and Administration actions.

## **Safety Coalition Weighs in on OSHA Recordkeeping Rule**

The Coalition for Workplace Safety (CWS) recently filed comments with OSHA regarding the proposed rule "Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses," published in the Federal Register on March 30, 2022. The CWS is comprised of associations and employers in a variety of industries that believe in improving workplace safety through cooperation, assistance, transparency, clarity, and accountability.

According to the Department of Labor, the OSHA proposed rule would require the following:

- Establishments with 20 or more employees, in certain high-hazard industries, continue to electronically submit Form 300A Annual Summary information once a year to OSHA.
- Establishments with 100 or more employees in the highest-hazard industries to submit Form 300 Log and Form 301 Incident Report information once a year to OSHA. These establishments would continue to be required to electronically submit information from their Form 300A Annual Summary.
- In addition, establishments with 250 or more employees, not in designated high-hazard industries, would no longer be required to electronically submit recordkeeping information to OSHA.

DCA and other industry groups have significant concerns about the proposed rule. These concerns can be divided into roughly four categories:

1. Concerns regarding confidentiality and protection of sensitive employer/employee data
2. Duplicative recordkeeping and reporting requirements to both OSHA and the Bureau of Labor Statistics
3. Concerns regarding OSHA's ability to manage increased data collection
4. Uncertainties in compliance resulting from OSHA's shifting recordkeeping requirements



Many contractors would find themselves labeled as part of a “high-hazard” industry and as such subject to strict recordkeeping requirements. Failure to comply with the OSHA recordkeeping standard could result in penalties of up to \$14,502 per violation, with repeated violations incurring fines of up to \$145,027 per instance. Despite OSHA's claims, it is unclear how the proposed rule would directly improve workplace safety. Furthermore, the proposed rule carries with it significant privacy concerns, particularly for small contractors.

From the CWS comments:

- Electronic submission and public posting of this data serves only to put employers at risk for improper disclosure, mischaracterization of the data and release of sensitive employer as well as employee information. Smaller entities are particularly vulnerable to release of such information, where mischaracterization of data can irreparably harm their business and individual employee information, or confidential business information, may be easier to ascertain. As a result, OSHA's plan to extend the requirements to smaller entities is particularly concerning

The privacy implications are substantial. Forms 300 and 301 both contain private employee and sensitive medical information, which should not be made publicly available without sufficient evidence that doing so will provide a tangible benefit to workplace safety. OSHA has not provided any evidence to support such a measure. From the CWS comments:

- “Contrary to OSHA's statements, CWS members do not believe there are enforcement related benefits to collecting 300 Logs and 301 Forms. The electronic submission of the 300 Logs and 301 Forms occurs well after the recording of a work-related injury or illness, making the data stale by the time OSHA receives it. More importantly, information contained on the 300 Log or 301 Forms is not necessarily indicative of potential hazards in a workplace, or of potential violations of existing OSHA regulations”

While the information contained in the logs may be of use to employers, who can better evaluate data to determine trends and opportunities for safety improvements at their worksites, OSHA is unable to draw such conclusions from the raw data. Furthermore, employers are better able to distinguish between entries that result from occupational exposure that can be prevented or reduced, or those outside the employer's control which merely occurred at the workplace and provide no indication that a worksite is unsafe or out of compliance with OSHA standards. As the CWS comments conclude:

- “to use these data to establish enforcement measures would be misguided and contrary to the original intent of the no-fault recordkeeping system. In keeping with the agency's original intent of the recordkeeping provisions, an employer's 300 Log and 301 Forms should not be used to trigger enforcement.”

In light of these issues and others, the CWS and other industry groups have pressed OSHA to withdraw the proposed rule. The full CWS comments will be made available shortly at the coalition website, [workingforsafety.com](http://workingforsafety.com). DCA will continue to participate in CWS efforts as we continue to push back against overzealous regulatory activity while championing policies that improve workplace safety.

### **FERC Chairman Glick Renominated**

Federal Energy Regulatory Chairman Richard Glick was nominated for a second five-year term by President Joe Biden on May 20th, setting up a potential confirmation battle in the Senate. Chairman Glick was originally appointed and confirmed to the position under President Donald Trump in 2017, and was named chairman in January 2021 under President Biden. As Chairman, Glick has come under fire for his perceived hostility to natural gas projects; in particular, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman and key swing vote Sen. Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia) has harshly criticized Glick for delays in issuing pipeline permits, such as for the Mountain Valley Pipeline in West Virginia. Sen. Manchin, at a March hearing on FERC's natural gas policy, denounced FERC's decision to approve a controversial natural gas policy that called into question the economic need for new pipelines and gave undue consideration to environmental factors. Though the policy has since been largely walked back, and the pace of gas project approvals has increased, Senator Manchin and Republicans remain skeptical of Chairman Glick's continued leadership, and Senators are likely to thoroughly question him during confirmation hearings. Chairman Glick's term is currently set to expire on June 30th, 2022.

### **Climate Bill Negotiations Continue**

Sen. Manchin (D-West Virginia), Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and key swing vote, continues to negotiate with the Biden Administration and Senators from both parties on a possible energy and climate bill. Reports from preliminary discussions indicate that many of the provisions from the failed Build Back Better (BBB) reconciliation package are not under consideration; however, that isn't to say that there are not potential areas of concern for DCA

*(continued on pg. 24)*

and the energy/construction industries. But as it stands, current negotiations are aiming for 60 votes – which would require significant Republican support, and would remove most of the most harmful provisions of BBB from consideration.

The talks, which reportedly have mostly been driven by Manchin (D-West Virginia) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) have focused on a number of different policy proposals aiming to combine both climate solutions and strengthen American energy production. While Democrats have looked to revive a portion of the \$550 billion in climate spending included in BBB, Republicans are strongly pushing for opening up/restoring access to federal land for natural gas drilling, as well as reforming the broken permitting process for natural gas/pipeline projects. Reportedly, the package could include 10 years of climate incentives and spending, alongside 10 years of measures supporting domestic oil and gas production.

With the midterm elections fast approaching, the window to pass any major climate/energy legislation is shrinking fast. DCA plans to continue to monitor and stay engaged in the conversation, and will work to ensure that any bipartisan agreement respects the energy needs of the American consumer and the critical role that natural gas plays in the American energy landscape.

### **Buy American Requirements Delayed**

In April, the Biden Administration announced in guidance to federal agencies that all projects funded under the

\$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill must use American-made construction materials, with the stated goal of supporting and rebuilding domestic American manufacturing. Construction trade associations immediately sounded the alarm, citing existing materials shortages, skyrocketing costs, and other related supply chain issues.

On Wednesday, May 25th, the Transportation Department officially published a notice of a 180 day delay of the new "Buy America" requirements, to give agencies, states, and the industry time to work on compliance procedures. The Administration has requested additional information and feedback from stakeholders regarding the implementation of the new requirements, including specific information on construction materials used in projects that may require general waivers while the necessary domestic capacity is yet to exist. While this is a step in the right direction, industry groups and state agencies still have significant concerns about the likelihood of project delays stemming from the implementation requirements. If industry feedback is not taken into account, the Buy America requirements could significantly drive up costs and lead to major delays across all construction projects, as contractors are forced to shift materials purchases to domestic suppliers that are already struggling with availability amid the ongoing supply chain crisis. DCA will continue to monitor how these requirements are affecting the gas distribution market and the underground construction industry. ▲



**Eben M. Wyman**  
Principal  
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# Calendar

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## DCA & Industry Events

### 2022

#### JULY 18-21

DCA 2022 Mid Year Meeting  
Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
[www.dcaweb.org](http://www.dcaweb.org)

#### SEPTEMBER 19-23

International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors  
Association (IPLOCA) 2022 Convention  
Hilton Hotel  
Prague  
Czech Republic  
[www.iploca.com](http://www.iploca.com)

#### OCTOBER 24-26

DCA 2022 Fall Meeting  
Amway Grand Plaza  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
[www.dcaweb.org](http://www.dcaweb.org)

### 2023

#### FEBRUARY 7-11

Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA)  
2023 Convention  
Grand Hyatt Kauai  
Kauai, Hawaii  
[www.plca.org](http://www.plca.org)

#### FEBRUARY 14-16

Global Excavation Safety Conference  
Tampa Convention Center  
Tampa, Florida  
[www.globalexavationsafetyconference.com](http://www.globalexavationsafetyconference.com)

#### FEBRUARY 20-25

DCA 2023 Convention  
Fontainebleau Hotel  
Miami Beach, Florida  
[www.dcaweb.org](http://www.dcaweb.org)

#### MARCH 14-18

CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023  
Las Vegas Convention Center  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[www.conexpoconagg.com](http://www.conexpoconagg.com)

### ATTENTION ALL DCA MEMBERS!

*So you do not miss out on future meeting and event notices, please have your company's IT representative whitelist all emails from [dcaweb.org](http://dcaweb.org). If you have any questions, please contact Teri Korson at [tkorson@dcaweb.org](mailto:tkorson@dcaweb.org).*

# Member News



Dr. Samuel Ariaratnam

## Ariaratnam Appointed to USDOT Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee

Samuel Ariaratnam, professor of construction engineering in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University, will now play a role in ensuring the pipelines through which oil and other fuel supplies are moved stay up and running across America.

Ariaratnam was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee, also known as the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC). As a public member of the committee, Ariaratnam will help ensure pipelines that move important resources stay up and running across America.

GPAC is mandated by federal law and was established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 to review the regulatory initiatives undertaken by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). GPAC members also determine the technical feasibility, reasonableness, cost effectiveness, and practicality of those initiatives.

"I'm very honored by this role," said Ariaratnam, who is the Beavers-Ames Chair in Heavy Construction in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, one of the seven Fulton Schools. "There are a lot of responsibilities, obviously, that come with it, but to me it's about knowledge and asking the right questions."

The committee is composed of 15 individuals representing public, industry, and government entities, and makes recommendations to stakeholders, giving

guidance on the laws and regulations that protect and advance the nation's pipeline infrastructure. Ariaratnam is representing the public sector and will serve a three-year term on the committee.

Ariaratnam brings a unique background to his role on the committee, with extensive experience in the underground construction industry, with a focus on trenchless construction methods, trenchless pipe replacement, and horizontal directional drilling.

Ariaratnam describes his work as providing pipeline installation and replacement methods that are less invasive and will have less detrimental impact on the environments around them.

"We're looking at ways of doing things better," Ariaratnam said. "When it comes to pipelines, whether it's gas or liquid, the public safety aspect is the critical thing. I hope to share the use-inspired research I've conducted with key decision-makers so they can make informed changes to laws and regulations."



Ruth Michels  
Allen J. Buechel Lifetime  
Achievement Award

**MICHEL'S**

## Lifetime Achievement Award Honors Ruth Michels' Legacy

Envision Greater Fond du Lac presented the Allen J. Buechel Lifetime Achievement Award to Ruth Michels, leader of Michels Corporation, during its annual meeting recently. The award was gratefully accepted by Ruth's four sons, Pat, Tim, Steve and Kevin.

Ruth was one of Michels' guiding forces from the day it was established until her passing in 2020. Ruth and her husband, Dale Michels, partnered with Ruth's brother, Ted Koenigs, and his business partner, Jim Michel, to establish



Michels Pipeline in Dale's hometown of Brownsville in 1959.

In the early years, when Michels had a handful of employees, Ruth traveled throughout Wisconsin, scoping out prospective jobs and relocating trucks and equipment. As the company grew, Ruth continued to support the business while focusing on raising her sons. She re-entered a leadership role at Michels in 1998, when Dale passed away. Serving as the Chairwoman of the Board, Ruth and her sons guided Michels growth.

Ruth was a respected leader in energy and infrastructure construction. She was also a staunch supporter of her community, both as an active volunteer and a dedicated philanthropist. She oversaw the Michels Family Foundation, a charitable organization that has given millions of dollars to local educational institutions, medical facilities, and community organizations, including The Dale Michels Atrium at Marian University and The Dale Michels Center for Heart Care at St. Agnes Hospital. Ruth served on the board of directors of American Bank and was a member of the Agnesian Hospice Charity Open Committee. Ruth received the Women of Achievement Award from the Fond du Lac Area Women's Fund in 2008.

Ruth Michels is an Honorary Member of DCA and helped administer the DCA - Dale R. Michels Scholarship.



Butch Graham

### **Butch Graham joins Jeff Martin Auctioneers as Pipeline and Energy Consultant**

Jeff Martin Auctioneers is pleased to introduce Pipeline Hall of Fame member, veteran, and industry legend Butch Graham as a Pipeline and Energy Consultant.

Graham, known as the "voice of the pipeline industry," has been in the auction industry since 1971. He grew up in the auction industry, where his father worked in marketing livestock auctions, and his uncle, cousin, and brother worked as auctioneers. Through the years, Graham made a name for himself in the oil and gas pipeline industry and was heavily involved with the industry's trade organizations, specifically the Distribution

Contractors Association (DCA), the International Pipeline and Offshore Contractors Association (IPLOCA), and the Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA).

After 50 years in the industry, Graham retired in 2021 but missed the action too much. He liked the way Jeff was building relationships and moving across the country. "The more I talked with Jeff, the more I was impressed," said Graham. "I saw that Jeff was not only driven, but he also lived by the ethic of making the customer your friend because your friend will always be your customer."

Known for his honesty and integrity, Graham's equipment knowledge and market expertise is an asset to Jeff Martin Auctioneers. He knows what is currently going on in the industry and applies that knowledge to the equipment he is selling, allowing buyers to be confident when bidding.

"We are looking forward to working with a legend within the auction business and pipeline and energy industry," commented Jeff Martin, CEO. "The addition of Butch is a resource that will serve our current and future clients as we continue to grow."

Jeff Martin Auctioneers is North America's fastest-growing live auction company with four fully staffed offices and 12 auction sites nationwide. In 2021, the Jeff Martin family of companies conducted over 200 live and online auctions in 15 states.



Frank Forest

### **Frank Forest, Sharewell Co-Founder Passes Away**

Frank (Buddy) Calvin Forest, 80, passed away peacefully with his wife, Dawn, at his side on May 12, 2022. He was born on Dec. 28, 1941, in Liberty, Texas, and was the youngest son of Calvin Bert and Tina Forest.

Frank spent his school years in Richmond-Rosenberg and graduated from Lamar Consolidated High School in 1960. Soon after graduation, he was employed by the railroad service and then served his country in the Army.

After his service, Frank began his career in the oil industry. Little did he know, this career would take him

*(continued on pg. 28)*

around the world and offer opportunities never foreseen for a boy from Liberty County, Texas.

Over the next few years, Frank's career continued to grow along with his family with the birth of his eldest daughter, Amy, and son, Jeff. In 1980, Frank moved to Singapore where he met his wife, Dawn. Soon after, they made their way to London and welcomed their daughter, Katie, before moving back to Texas.

Facing the economic collapse in the 1980s, Frank and his partner, Tom Wagner, were determined to overcome every hardship coming their way. They created a company whose philosophy was to 'share the wealth' and Sharewell LLC was born in 1984.

Frank and Tom named their first survey tool, CHAMP, after their favorite breakfast joint in Houston. This was initially a memory-based survey tool used in oil and gas surveying but was soon converted to a wireline tool used for HDD and oilfield horizontal drilling.

In 1986, Sharewell partnered with Tensor Inc. to solve the problem of magnetic interference while drilling pilot hole bores. This led to the development of a locating system, TruTracker, that provided verification of the calculated magnetic location of the bit using a wire (the coil) placed on the ground surface. This was a pivotal advancement in the HDD industry and has been utilized successfully to complete millions of feet of pilot hole.

In 1993, Frank decided to "retire" and sold his interest in Sharewell, which eventually became Sharewell HDD, to John Teer, Sam Anderson and Todd Caspary. Todd Caspary remains Sharewell HDD's CEO to this day.

Frank enjoyed sports fishing, real estate investing, and spending time with family in his retirement.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Texas Quarter Horse Foundation at <https://www.tqha.com>. ▲

(continued on pg. 30)

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Robert (Bob) Cooley

**Robert (Bob) Cooley  
DCA 1987 President**

Robert (Bob) C. Cooley, 93, an amazing Christian man passed away at Montereau Retirement Community on April 9, 2022, in Tulsa, OK. He was born on May 14, 1928, in Independence, KS to William Glenn and Edna Mae (Dillman) Cooley. Bob and his wife, Barbara, met on June 9, 1945, in Independence, KS at ages 17 and 15, respectfully.

Bob served in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1946 – 1948. Upon returning to Independence, KS, he attended a junior college for two years using his GI bill. Bob and Barbara dated on and off for four years and then eloped to Bentonville, AR and were married on March 16, 1949. They then moved to Tulsa where Bob attended the University of Tulsa and graduated with an Engineering degree. Bob's career was always in the gas, pipeline business. They had two children, Pam and Robert "Chip". The family moved to Tripoli, Libya and Beirut, Lebanon from 1961-1964 for Bob's pipeline work throughout the Middle East, Pakistan, Italy, Australia, and South America. They returned from overseas and in 1965, Bob and five other men started their own gas and pipeline company, Distribution Construction Company. He served as treasurer, and later president, for the company. He was active for many years in the Distribution Contractors Association and was elected president in 1987.

Bob and Barbara were members of First United Methodist Church in Tulsa since 1978 and were members of the "Joyner's" and "Builders" Sunday school classes. He was passionate about his role of overseeing the construction of the Youth Family Center building for the church. Bob was a volunteer at St. Francis Hospital for 12 years and earned his 5,000-hour pin before resigning at the age of 90. He was a 32nd Degree Mason. Bob and Barbara were avid OU fans, holding season tickets for over 50 years. He was a loving and generous husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather and we will miss him and his amazing stories!

He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Barbara; his son, Robert C. "Chip" Cooley II; his parents, Glenn and Edna Cooley; his brother, James Cooley. Bob is survived by his daughter, Pam Hooten (Bill) of El Paso, TX; 4 grandchildren, Ryan Kile (Candice) of Forney, TX, Jason Kile (Karley) of Lucas, TX, Clay Hooten (Amber) of McKinney, TX, and Cari Barclay (Marshall) of El Paso, TX and 13 great-grandchildren; youngest brother Donald Cooley (Beverly); sister-in-law, Margie Cooley, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Donations may be given to the charity of your choice or the First United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 1115 S. Boulder, Tulsa, OK 74119. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

Pam Hooten  
924 Cortijo Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79912



**DCA MEMBERS - SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

DCA would like to publish your company news in upcoming issues of the DCA newsletter and on the DCA website. Please send news items, press releases, images or videos to [cgreen@dcaweb.org](mailto:cgreen@dcaweb.org).



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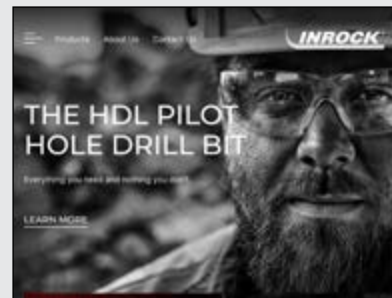
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