

THE BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



DCA NEWS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

The background of the cover is a photograph of a desert landscape at sunset. A large, multi-armed Saguaro cactus stands prominently in the foreground. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, red, and purple clouds. In the distance, there are silhouettes of mountains and desert shrubs.

**The
Annual
Convention
Issue**

The Annual Convention Issue



CONTENTS

04 President's Letter

05 2025 Convention

06 Candidate Profiles

13 Auction Donors

14 Convention Sponsors

20 Safety Congress

21 Calendar

22 Industry News

27 DCA Leadership Development Program

28 Insights



Outgoing President Mark Albert Shares the Most Important DCA Takeaways from 2024



2024 DCA President
Mark Albert

As DCA President, I don't think I could have picked a more exciting year to preside over this great organization than 2024.

You'll read plenty about all the big events of the past year when you receive *DCA Connections* this spring, but here are the most important takeaways for me from my year in the big chair.

The first thing I noticed was a change in the mood. In 2023, we saw a lot of concern that the gas distribution industry was struggling, due to policies and politics, and the speakers at our events gave off doom and gloom. This year, the thing that I think has been the most important is coming to terms with the fact that our industry isn't going anywhere. You know that we're strong and going to be strong for the foreseeable future. Everyone can breathe and recognize that we're still part of a great industry and a great organization that helps us navigate the pitfalls of the industry.

Second, I'm tremendously proud of the new board of directors we have, which is younger, more diverse, and very energetic about bringing new ideas to the table to bring DCA into the 21st century. They're finding new ways to make it easier to participate, easier to learn, and easier to get involved in leadership, and they're hitting the ground running to put those ideas into action. In just one year, we've seen a new committee on innovation and technology and new committee structures and meeting formats that bring more people into the discussion, and they're just getting started. I also give credit to the older generation of members like myself

who have shown their openness to passing the torch without a lot of resistance, which doesn't always happen. I'm happy to say that I think we're going to be left in very good hands.

At the same time, the most important thing about the DCA, the thing that brought me in to where I am today, is staying the same. When I got involved years ago with my company, AGI, I was a little concerned initially that I didn't know if AGI was big enough, if you will. Would we fit and be welcomed? And I was so happy to find out that the DCA is the most welcoming group I've ever been involved with. I've been on many committees, many boards, and this organization welcomed Kathleen and me like no other, which allowed us to recognize all the benefits that they offer. The billion-dollar company owners and chairs and presidents and CEOs are some of the most humble people I know. Even as a smaller company like ours, I can get involved. Raise my hand. Be involved on a committee level. Go to the fly-ins, go to the meetings, and go all the way up to becoming the president of the DCA. I mean, it's pretty amazing.

So maybe I'm biased, but I think DCA has a bright future ahead. Show up, wear your red badge, and find out for yourself what makes this organization so special. I look forward to meeting you, and I look forward to seeing where you take us next.

Mark Albert, AGI
DCA President

2025 Annual Convention

For the most up-to-date Convention information including schedules, speakers, auction bidding information, attire suggestions and more, please download the DCA Events App.

Please see pages 6-12 for Board of Director candidate profiles, and for a list of convention sponsors, please see pages 14-19.



2025 Board of Directors and Officers

The election of a new Board of Directors is one of the most important things that occurs at DCA's Annual Convention. The board helps direct the association through regularly scheduled board meetings and informal gatherings.

The board consists of four officers, a past president representative, two associate member representatives, six directors, a director at large, and the association's executive vice president. To help DCA's voting members become more familiar with the slate of candidates available for election to the 2025-26 Board of Directors, we have compiled some basic biographical information on each nominee.

2025 Officer Nominees



President:
Dan Carson
Carson Corporation

Dan Carson is the president of Carson Corporation, headquartered in Lafayette, New Jersey. Carson has more than 30 years of experience in the construction industry as a specialty contractor performing both HDD and civil construction. Carson joined the DCA in 2013, served as co-chairman of the Trenchless & HDD committee and was elected to the board of directors in 2018.

Brief work history: Carson attended the College of Wooster, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business economics. He formed Carson Corporation in 1987 to serve the growing construction industry in northern New Jersey, and his company has evolved to servicing both private and public sectors in the tri-state area.

Carson Corporation is shifting its focus to its civil division which primarily services clients in the private sector, government facilities, solar farms, and public utilities.

Family life: Carson and his wife, Whitney, reside in New Jersey with their daughter, Montana. Carson enjoys cultivating his farm, outdoor activities, golfing, and spending time with family and friends.



Vice President:
Doug Reeves
Primoris Services Corporation

Doug Reeves is president of the gas line business for Primoris Services Corporation (PSC), Little Canada, Minnesota.

Brief work history: Reeves began working in the utility industry in 1989, performing power pole and power line inspections in Indiana. A career change in 1990 initiated a shift to the natural gas industry, where Reeves performed and later managed code compliance services such

as leak surveys and line locating throughout the upper Midwest. Reeves moved to Minnesota in 1997 and joined Q3 Contracting (Q3C) in 1998. During his time with Q3C, Reeves held multiple positions in field operations management and estimating. He was named president of Q3C in September 2017 and moved into the President role with PSC in April of 2024.

Family life: Reeves and his wife, Carol, have two children, Katie and Nathan. The Reeves family enjoys traveling and the outdoors including golf, hiking, and time at the cabin.



Treasurer:
Andy Miller
Alex E. Paris Contracting Co.

Andy Miller is the equipment fleet manager and director of special projects for Alex E. Paris Contracting Co., based in Atlasburg, Pennsylvania. The Alex Paris Company is a fourth-generation full service heavy/civil/utility and pipeline contractor that has been in business for over 96 years servicing the Mid-Atlantic areas.

Brief work history: Miller graduated from Washington & Jefferson College with a B.A. in business and received his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. He has been involved in the construction and heavy equipment industry since childhood. He joined the Alex Paris Company in 1993 and has been active in all aspects of the organization since. Miller attended his first DCA convention in 2012 and has served as co-chair of the Government Relations committee.

Family life: Miller and his wife, Becky, have three sons, Andrew and his wife Morgan, Owen and his wife Dawn, Clark, and grandson Banks. Miller enjoys spending his free time with family and friends, traveling, and taking winter ski trips.



Immediate Past President:
Mark Albert
AGI Construction

Mark Albert is the founder and chief executive officer of AGI Construction (AGI), headquartered in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Brief work history: Albert studied business at Rhode Island College and engineering at the University of Rhode Island prior to founding AGI Construction. Under his leadership, AGI has grown from a small family-owned company into a regional natural gas contractor with nearly 300 employees servicing New England and upstate New York. Albert guided AGI through its rapid expansion in the natural gas industry and helped to create a proprietary cloud-based work management system specifically customized for the industry. He and his team created a training program that also serves as AGI's apprenticeship program for its field personnel, ensuring AGI's employees are the best and the most highly trained in the industry. Albert also developed a very detailed damage prevention process that is now referenced as an industry best practice.

Albert has served on the Northeast Gas Association Board of Directors for the past two years. He has served on the DCA Board of Directors since 2019 and was co-chair of the Government Relations Committee.

In addition to his business pursuits, Albert is committed to giving back to the community by supporting multiple organizations, such as A Wish Come True, the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, and many local youth sports teams. Albert is also a major supporter of the Boys and Girls Club of Providence and sits on their board of directors.

Family life: Albert's happiest times are spent on his family compound, which houses four generations: his long-term partner, Kathleen, his two daughters, his two grandchildren, and his father. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, boating, and watching the New England Patriots.



Past President Director:
Dale Anderson
Miller Pipeline

Dale Anderson joined Miller Pipeline in 2009 as the Executive Vice President, and in 2020, he was promoted to President and COO. In 2024, Dale was appointed to his current role as President and COO of Miller Pipeline and Otis Minnesota Services, the Union Gas division of Artera, where he is responsible for their operations.

Brief work history: Prior to joining Miller Pipeline, Anderson began his career with the MRM Network of companies as a laborer, eventually working his way to president and COO. Dale joined the DCA in 1998 and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2007 and served as DCA president in 2016. Dale currently serves as chair of the Labor committee and is co-chair of UA-DCA trust.

Family life: Dale and his wife, Theresa, have four children; Katie, Jennifer, Aaron, and Austin, as well as seven grandchildren. When not working, Dale enjoys spending time with his family and completing projects around the house. The Anderson's have participated with various charitable organizations over the years, such as Habitat for Humanity, Reins of Life, Reading Assist, Feed the People, Wounded Warriors and the Red Cross. They also help support the Anderson Family and Friends Annual Fourth of July Charity Auction and Picnic. Each year, a worthy cause is selected to receive 100% of the proceeds. After several years, the Anderson families and friends have raised nearly \$75,000.

(continued on pg. 8)

Candidates for Contractor Member Director

Three to be elected for a two-year term and 1 for a one-year term.



Director:
Bill Colson
Pretec Directional Drilling LLC

Bill Colson is the general manager of Pretec Directional Drilling LLC, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Brief work history: Colson started in the industry in 1997 as an operator in the operating engineers. He worked his way through the ranks of operator, foreman, safety assistant, safety manager, project manager, and general manager. Colson has worked with many union pipeline contractors and HDD contractors across the nation. When Pretec formed in 2016, Colson was asked to fill the role of general manager. Colson has been attending and actively participating in the DCA since 2017, including becoming a co-chair of the Safety & Risk Management committee in 2018 and being elected to the board of directors in 2023.

Family life: Colson and his wife, Kelly, have four children between them, Matthew, Alex, Camrynn, and Morgan, and one granddaughter, Luna Marie. Colson enjoys traveling, fishing, and hunting. Colson also enjoys actively working within the industry through political, educational, and developmental aspects for betterment of the industry.



Director:
Chad Davis
Miller Pipeline

Chad Davis joined Miller Pipeline in 1997. He is the Vice President of Operations for the central and south regions. He has served as a DCA director since 2023.

Brief work history: Chad Davis has a progressive work history within Miller Pipeline, starting as a laborer in 1997, then advancing to an operator and becoming a foreman by 2000. In 2005, he earned a promotion to superintendent and, in 2011, assumed his current role, where he oversees construction operations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. In the past decade, Davis has demonstrated exceptional skills in managing large projects, initiating new ventures, and integrating acquired operations in the eastern and southern regions of the United States.

Davis is actively involved in the DCA and other industry organizations, as well as state gas associations. His dedication and contributions to Miller Pipeline were recognized in 2014 when he was honored with the Daniel Watters Individual Achievement Award, a distinction that highlighted his unwavering loyalty, outstanding leadership, remarkable performance, and integrity. This recognition has set a high standard for others. In addition to his professional commitments, Davis also engages with the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis and annually participates in Habitat for Humanity.

Family life: Davis and his wife, Shara, have one son, Coy. In his spare time, Davis enjoys hunting, outdoor projects, coaching, and spending time with friends and family.



Director:
Nate Eastway
Gabe's Construction

Nate Eastway is the chief operating officer for Gabe's Construction Co. Inc., in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Brief work history: Eastway started with Gabe's in 2011 as the engineering & estimating manager and contract administrator after spending 8 years as a structural engineer for a consulting firm in Indianapolis. He then became the vice president of HDD & specialty projects in 2016, overseeing all aspects of Gabe's HDD and Specialty (Civil) work. In July 2023, Eastway became the chief operating officer as Gabe's added their telecom and wireless divisions to his responsibilities. He continues to be the responsible charge professional engineer for Gabe's.

Nate is active in national, state, and local associations of pipeline, gas, HVUG, water/wastewater, and telecom wireless industries. He is an active participant with the DCA, Pipe Line Contractors Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the IEEE Insulated Conductors Committee. He started attending DCA functions in 2013 and is the current co-chair of the Trenchless & HDD committee. Eastway served as the 2024 DCA director-at-large.

Family life: Eastway and his wife, Kristina Dykstra, have the most perfect mixed breed rescue dog named Udo, who is of interesting origins, and spent his formative canine years roaming the mean streets of Sheboygan, Wisconsin. They enjoy spending time with family, friends, and backcountry kayaking and backpacking. He also enjoys mild success at gardening. Nate is moderately successful with, and enjoys expanding, his collection of carnivorous plants.



Director:
Pete Fojtik
MP Technologies LLC

Pete Fojtik is the vice president of Corporate Development for MP Technologies in Annandale, Minnesota. He was a DCA director from 2022-23 and has served as co-chair of the Workforce Development committee. He currently serves on the Membership & Engagement and the Government Relations committees.

Brief work history: Pete has over 37 years' experience in the utility construction and energy services industry. Prior to his current role at MP Technologies, he was with the Michels Family of companies serving in varying management roles including President of Michels Utility Services, Inc., vice president gas distribution at Michels Pipeline Construction and general manager of Gas Distribution. Prior to joining Michels, Pete worked with InfraSource/Quanta Services for over 20 years in varying capacities, starting with the company back in the Mueller Pipeliner days.

Fojtik earned a bachelor's degree in construction administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but literally began his career in the trenches, working his way up from a laborer/fuser through varying management roles. Pete has also served on the Center of Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) board of directors and on the American Gas Association (AGA) construction operations committee and workforce development task group.

Family life: Pete and his wife Wendy have 4 daughters: Brianne, Kyra, Shaye, and Jaime, and Cooper - the family dog. In his spare time Pete enjoys golfing, traveling, and spending time at the beach with his family.



Director:
Rob Hotz
ECI Contracting

Rob Hotz is the general manager of HDD operations for ECI Contracting located in West Concord, Minnesota.

Brief work history: Hotz currently leads ECI's Trenchless Division, which includes the sales, estimating, project management and construction operations teams. Hotz has a Master of Science degree in Civil/Geotechnical Engineering from Missouri University of Science &

Technology and is a licensed Professional Engineer in 10 states. He previously served as manager of engineering, division manager, and vice president of operations at Laney. Prior to joining ECI, Hotz worked with GeoEngineers, Inc., Mears Group and Laney Group.

Hotz is active in several industry associations, including DCA, PLCA, and NASTT. He and his wife started attending DCA functions in 2016 and have enjoyed the many friendships and connections made throughout the years as well as the friends their children have made through DCA functions. Hotz has served as co-chair of the Trenchless & HDD committee, participated on the Strategic Vision and the Future Leaders' committees, and currently serves on the DCA Government Relations committee.

Family life: Hotz and his wife, Stephanie, have four children, Eleanor, Robert, Clara, and Hazel. They enjoy watching their kids participate in numerous activities and are active in their Church.



Director:
Jim Lagios
Atlas Trenchless LLC

Jim Lagios is the president of Atlas Trenchless, a successful, growing national HDD contractor based in Cold Spring, Minnesota. Atlas performs HDD and auger boring services throughout the U.S. in the gas, oil, and public works sectors. Lagios served as a DCA director from 2013-22.

Brief work history: Lagios started as a laborer for Michels Pipeline in the HDD division in 1989. He moved up through the ranks of several reputable HDD providers over the last 30+ years to his current position as president of Atlas Trenchless. Lagios' extensive hands-on experience in the HDD industry has earned him senior management positions in several high-profile HDD organizations throughout his career. He is often called upon by his peers in the industry for advice and solutions in tough drilling situations. He leads the Atlas team in their ongoing commitment as one of the safest, most highly qualified, reputable HDD contractors in the nation. This will be Lagios' fifth term on the Board of Directors.

Family life: Lagios, his wife Sherry, and their four children and grandchildren, always cherish and enjoy their time together. Lagios also enjoys hiking, hunting, and fishing.

(continued on pg. 10)

Three Directors with One Year Remaining on a Two-year Term



Senior Associate Member Director:
Mike James
ISCO Industries

Mike James joined ISCO Industries in 2005 and is presently the vice president of sales and business development.

Brief work history: James started in the mechanical construction industry where his father worked and soon after transitioned to the industrial poly piping business in 1988. Mike's professional experience has been in all aspects of the industry such as fabrication & manufacturing, sales & customer service, sales management, business development and many years of general management with financial responsibility.

While at ISCO, James helps manage a large sales team in addition to a focus on business development activities both domestically and internationally. Mike has over 30 plus years of experience working with companies, such as builders, developers, mining companies, pipeline contractors, pumping companies, engineering firms and government agencies. He develops business through trusting relationships and understanding of what people expect from a quality supplier and is a believer in working hard and creating your own luck. In addition, James and his wife Nicole proudly own specialty businesses selling and installing fireplaces, outdoor kitchens & shade structures located in Tucson, AZ. James has been actively involved in DCA and currently serves as co-chair of the DCA Innovation & Technology committee. Along with DCA, James is also involved in other sister associations that help education and promote the pipeline industry.

Family life: Mike and Nicole have four grown children: Tyler, Shelby, Allison, Carson and now two grandchildren Haven and Teddi. In his spare time, Mike enjoys staying busy with adventurous trips, hanging with his bull dog Lola, cooking and grilling at home, listening to music, running the local trails and traveling to new parts of the world.



Director:
Dan Britz
Michels Utility Services Inc.

Dan Britz joined Michels in 2023 and is the president of Michels Utility Services Inc., headquartered in Brownsville, Wisconsin.

Brief work history: Dan has more than 19 years of industry experience, beginning as a project manager overseeing transmission facility and maintenance projects across the Central US. During this time, he expanded his knowledge and education and was promoted to president of Minnesota Limited in 2021. Dan navigated both dynamic market changes as well as multiple ownership changes during his tenure. In January 2024, Dan accepted the role of president for Michels Utility Services Inc. where he continues to develop strategy and organizational structure.

Britz graduated from Bemidji State University with a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and completed his Master of Business Administration from St. Cloud State University. Britz has been involved with multiple industry events and associations in his career. He served on the PLCA board of directors in 2022 and has been a member representative for the PLCA, DCA, INGAA, and various others. He was elected as a DCA director in 2024.

Family life: Dan and his wife, Amber, have two boys: Wyatt and Myles. They enjoy spending time on their family farm, hunting, fishing, time at the lake and fill time between with the football, wrestling and baseball season with the boys.



Director:
Stephanie Krabbe
InfraSource LLC

Stephanie Krabbe began her career in the industry over a decade ago in an accounting role with a gas contractor, initially managing payroll and purchasing. She quickly expanded her expertise by moving through various accounting functions, which provided a solid foundation for her transition to project management, where she oversaw regional operations. In this role, she collaborated closely with operations teams, gaining valuable field experience and a deeper understanding of the industry.

Brief work history: Stephanie joined InfraSource in 2013, and over her 10+ years with the company, she has held numerous leadership roles. One of her most significant achievements was founding InfraSource's Leadership Academy, a program that continues to thrive and foster talent. This experience ignited her passion for workforce development, inspiring her to establish programs for military personnel, college students, and technical school partnerships to cultivate the next generation of industry talent. She currently serves as senior vice president of organizational development.

Stephanie is also active within the DCA, where she has served as co-chair of the Workforce Development committee. Before this role, she collaborated with previous committee chairs on initiatives such as the SkillsUSA Playbook and contributed to launching the DCA Leadership Development Program in 2023. Stephanie has shared her insights as a panelist for DCA, the American Gas Association, and the Center for Energy Workforce Development. In 2024, she was elected as a DCA director and currently serves as co-chair of the DCA Innovation & Technology committee.

Family life: Stephanie and her husband, Jim, are parents to five children and recently added their first grandchild. When not spending time with friends and family, they enjoy traveling the world and discovering new cultures.



Director at Large:
Randy Bunch
Eastern Utilities Services

Randy Bunch joined Eastern Utilities/Haugland Group, located in Melville, New York, in July of 2023 as director of trenchless operations where he over sees all day-to-day trenchless operations.

Brief work history: Bunch joined BNSF Railway in 1994, where he worked his way through the ranks holding several positions in his tenure with them. He started as a laborer and eventually worked his way to a supervisor. While employed at BNSF Railway, Bunch attended many classes, and training programs at Johnson County Community College in Kansas, such as leadership training, welding school, FRA (Federal Railroad Association) certifications and more. In 2008, Bunch started working in the underground construction industry for Gabe's Construction, Nomad Pipeline Services and Aaron Enterprises. He worked positions from directional drill foreman to vice president of operations.

Bunch has been an active member in the DCA since 2014. He served as co-chair on the Safety & Risk committee from 2021-2024. He currently serves on Safety & Risk and HDD & Trenchless sub-committees. Randy participated in several other subcommittees and round table discussions that have focused on trenchless operations. He represented DCA in the 2022 Below Ground Worker Demonstration Day in Washington DC and the Celebration of Construction at the National Mall in 2023.

Family life: Bunch and his wife Wendy have been married for 15 years and have 6 children and 5 grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling the country and camping out and riding side X sides at a Private 6,400-acre UTV ranch where they are members.

(continued on pg. 12)

Candidates for Junior Associate Member Director

One to be elected for a two-year term



Junior Associate Member Director:
Siggi Finnsson
Digital Control Incorporated

Siggi Finnsson joined Digital Control Incorporated (DCI), headquartered in Kent, Washington, in 1995 and is currently a senior product manager.

Brief work history: Siggi started his career in the underground in 1989 as an applications engineer for the Robbins Company and spent 5 years working on various tunneling projects, the most significant of which was the Chunnel crossing between England and France. He turned his focus to creating smaller tunnels when joining DCI and had various roles during his tenure, ranging from customer service management to more engineering-focused roles. He has been involved in developing most of DCI's locating products and is primarily concerned with new product development and product and design definitions.

Finnsson has been active with the educational aspects of the HDD industry since joining it, serving as a member of Drill Masters editorial board of Trenchless Technology magazine and contributing to numerous presentations, round tables, and articles on trenchless technology. He has presented at the HDD Academy in Arizona since its inception and is a long-time member of the Underground Equipment Manufacturers of Equipment of AEM. Siggi has also taught trenchless technology to engineering students at various universities. He has been involved with NASTT since joining DCI, presenting at multiple NoDig conferences and serving on the NASTT program committee. Siggi has been an active participant with DCA for well over a decade.

Family life: Siggi and his Lisa have three children: Karl, Emma, and Tómas. They enjoy spending time with family and friends and discovering new places and wines. Siggi is a lifelong student and player of "the beautiful game."



Junior Associate Member Director:
Ken Hugen
RDO Equipment Co.

Ken Hugen joined the Vermeer organization in June of 1984 and is presently the general manager of Sales for RDO Equipment Co.'s Vermeer division in the US. RDO Equipment Co. distributes Vermeer industrial equipment in Minnesota, North Dakota, Northern Nevada, Oregon, California, and Hawaii.

Brief work history: In 1984 Hugen started in the parts department at Vermeer in Memphis, Tennessee then moved to a sales position selling in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi. In late 1985, he moved to Northern California taking an account manager position in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1991, he bought the Northern California Vermeer dealership with a partner, and they named it Vermeer, Inc. They opened locations in Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Fresno. For the next 13 years Hugen learned the ins and outs of the Vermeer dealer life serving at different times many of these key roles: aftermarket manager, sales manager, account manager, secretary treasurer and vice president of sales. In November 2004, RDO Equipment Co. purchased the Vermeer organizations in California and Oregon and Hugen stayed with RDO as General Manager of Northern California. In 2009, he accepted the role of general manager of sales for the RDO Vermeer Area of Responsibility (AOR) in the US, which is the current role he serves today. In this role he works in the gas and oil pipeline sector and works with corporate and key accounts. He was a leader in the creation of RDO's customer guarantee program, the RDO Promise, which was launched in 2010 and remains an instrumental part of the organization today.

Hugen is active in the pipeline and gas distribution industry association, as well as Vermeer product application and fleet ownership strategist. He started attending DCA functions in 2012. He regularly attends the convention, mid year and fall meetings. He currently holds the secretary position on the Government Relations Committee and has attended a Washington DC fly in.

Family life: Hugen and his wife, Deana, have three children: Travis, Christopher, and Olivia and four grandchildren from nine to newborn. They enjoy spending time with family, friends, love to travel, enjoy general aviation and they are AVID DIY project people.

2025 Annual Auction Donors

AGI Construction Inc.	Mears Group
Alex E. Paris Contracting Co. Inc.	Michels Corporation
ARB Inc.	Miller Electric Mfg. Co.
Atlas Trenchless LLC	Miller Pipeline
Brandt Industries	Northern Clearing
Carson Corporation	Otis Minnesota Services LLC
Caterpillar Inc.	Pe Ben USA Inc.
Century Products Inc.	PipeLine Machinery International LP
CETCO	Pipe View America
Cleveland Brothers	Price Gregory International Inc.
Cross Country Infrastructure	Primoris Services
Darby Equipment Company	Q3 Contracting Inc.
Derrick Corporation	Reed Manufacturing Co. Inc.
Digital Control Incorporated	Right Turn Supply
Ditch Witch	Ring-O-Matic
ECI Contracting	Sharewell HDD LLC
Express 4x4 Truck Rental	T T Technologies Inc.
Fabick Cat	The Hallen Construction Co. Inc.
Footage Tools	<i>Trenchless Technology</i> magazine (Benjamin Media Inc.)
GF Central Plastics	Trump National Doral Miami Hotel and Resort
Global Underground Corp.	<i>Underground Infrastructure</i> magazine
Groebner	(Gulf Energy Information)
Herrenknecht Tunnelling Systems USA Inc.	United Rentals
InfraSource LLC	Utility Line Services Inc.
INROCK Drilling Systems Inc.	Vacuworx LLC
ISCO Industries	Vermeer Corporation
John Deere Construction & Forestry Division	Wyo-Ben
McElroy	

**Thank you to all of the DCA Auction Donors -
your generosity is appreciated.**

2025 Annual Convention Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors



American Augers, Inc.
www.americanaugers.com



Caterpillar, Inc.
www.cat.com



Century Products, Inc.
www.centuryproducts.net



Digital Control, Inc.
www.digitrak.com



Ditch Witch
www.ditchwitch.com



INROCK Drilling Systems, Inc
www.inrock.com



John Deere Construction
& Forestry Division
www.deere.com



McElroy Manufacturing, Inc.
www.mcelroy.com



Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers, Inc.
www.rbauktion.com



Sharewell HDD
www.sharewellhdd.com



TT Technologies, Inc.
www.tttechnologies.com



Vacuworx
www.vacuworx.com

Platinum Sponsors (continued)



Vermeer Corporation
www.vermeer.com

Gold Sponsors



Case Construction Equipment
www.casece.com



Darby Equipment Co.
www.darbyequip.com



Express 4x4 Truck Rental
www.express4x4truckrental.com



Footage Tools
www.footagetools.com



Groeber
www.groeber.com



International Union of
Operating Engineers
www.iuoe.org



Laborers International Union of N.A.
www.liuna.org



Pipeline Machinery International
www.plmcat.com



Ring-O-Matic
www.Ring-O-Matic.com

(continued on pg. 16)

Gold Sponsors (continued)



Subsite Electronics
www.subsite.com



**Pipeline &
Gas Journal**

**Underground Infrastructure &
Pipeline & Gas Journal (Gulf Energy)**
undergroundinfrastructure.com
pgjonline.com



United Association
www.ua.org



United Rentals
www.unitedrentals.com



Viking Mat
vikingmat.com

V O L V O

Volvo Construction Equipment
www.volvo.com



Wyo-Ben Inc.
www.wyoben.com

Silver Sponsors



AIS Construction Equipment
www.aisequip.com



Benjamin Media
benjaminmedia.com



Brandt Industries
www.brandtind.com



CETCO
www.cetco.com/dpg



CRC-Evans Pipeline International, Inc.
www.crc-evans.com



Derrick Corp.
www.derrick.com



Ditch Witch West
www.ditchwitchwest.com



Georg Fischer Central Plastics LLC
www.centralplastics.com



Isco Industries
www.isco-pipe.com



Reed Manufacturing Co. Inc.
www.reedmfgco.com



Vermeer Midwest
www.vermeermidwest.com

(continued on pg. 18)

Bronze Sponsors



ALLU Group
www.allu.net



Brooks Tractor, Inc.
www.brookstractor.com



Consolidated Pipe & Supply
consolidatedpipe.com



Ditch Witch Midwest
www.ditchwitchmidwest.com



Drilling Mud Direct
www.muddirect.net



Fabick CAT
www.fabickcat.com



Herrenknecht Tunnelling Systems
www.herrenknecht.com/en/products/tunnelling



J.T. Miller
www.jtmillerinc.com



Miller Electric Mfg. Co.
www.millerwelds.com



Ozzie's
ozzie.com



Right Turn Supply
rightturnsupply.com



RDO Equipment Company
www.rdoequipment.com

Bronze Sponsors (continued)



Vermeer All Roads
vermeerallroads.com



Vermeer Colorado
www.vermeercolorado.com



Vermeer Iowa & North Missouri
www.vermeeriowa.com



Vermeer of Indiana
www.vermeermidwest.com



Vermeer Mountain West
www.vermeermountainwest.com



Vermeer Texas-Louisiana
www.vermeertexas.com



Vermeer-Wisconsin, Inc.
www.vermeerwisconsin.com

**DCA wishes to thank all of the
2025 Annual Convention Sponsors**

Registration is Open for the DCA Safety Congress

Hyatt Centric, French Quarter
New Orleans, Louisiana

March 24 – 26, 2025

Register at www.dcaweb.org



Calendar

2025 & 2026 DCA and Industry Events

2025

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1

DCA Annual Convention
Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
Scottsdale, Arizona
www.dcaweb.org

MARCH 4-6

Underground Infrastructure Conference (UIC)
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, Texas
www.ui-conference.com

MARCH 24-26

DCA Safety Congress
Hyatt Centric, French Quarter
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.dcaweb.org

APRIL 2-4 & APRIL 23-25

Session 1 & Session 2
DCA Leadership Development Conference
Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport
Dallas, Texas
www.dcaweb.org

MAY 26-29

Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada
(PLCAC) Convention
Fairmont Banff Springs
Banff, Alberta
www.pipeline.ca

2025 (cont.)

JUNE 23-27

SkillsUSA TechSPO
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, Georgia
www.nlsc.skillsusa.org

JULY 14-17

DCA Mid Year Meeting
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
www.dcaweb.org

SEPTEMBER 16-18

Global Damage Prevention Summit
Hilton Anatole Hotel
Dallas, Texas
www.actsnowinc.com/globaldps/registration

OCTOBER 29-31

DCA Fall Meeting
Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center
Grapevine, Texas
www.dcaweb.org

2026

FEBRUARY 23 - 28

DCA Annual Convention
Trump National Doral
Miami, Florida
www.dcaweb.org

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. If you have any questions, please contact Jacob Adams Mireles at jadams@dcaweb.org.



Industry News

AI's Impact on Pipeline Construction: Transforming Productivity and Safety

By Mark Bridgers and Kyle Kerestes, Consultants, and Pete Blonkvist, Business Analyst, Continuum Capital

Reprinted with permission from *Underground Infrastructure* at undergroundinfrastructure.com



(UI) — Artificial Intelligence is all the rage. Nearly all of the discussion is how efficiently it can perform repetitive tasks, forecasting, etc. There are fears, as well, that AI will displace humans and their jobs.

The pipeline industry has long believed that physical pipeline construction work required such a high skill level and experience, it will be insulated from change...is this true any longer? Over the coming months, Continuum will profile 100 artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and robotic innovations.

A famous Indian yoga teacher, B.K.S. Lyengar wrote, "Change is not something that we should fear. Rather, it is

something that we should welcome. For without change, nothing in this world would ever grow or blossom."

AI is the most powerful change that we will experience over the coming decade and firms that embrace it will have an opportunity to blossom. The pipeline construction industry and the construction industry in general have tended to be late adopters of innovation and technology.

As Lyengar described, real opportunity only originates from change and the already underway AI driven transformation is an opportunity to embrace this change to compress schedule performance, drive down total cost, raise achievable profit and more.

As we enter the age of AI, pipeline operators, contractors and designers have a new opportunity to embrace innovation, pursue waste reduction, and improve construction productivity. But how?

Introduction to AI

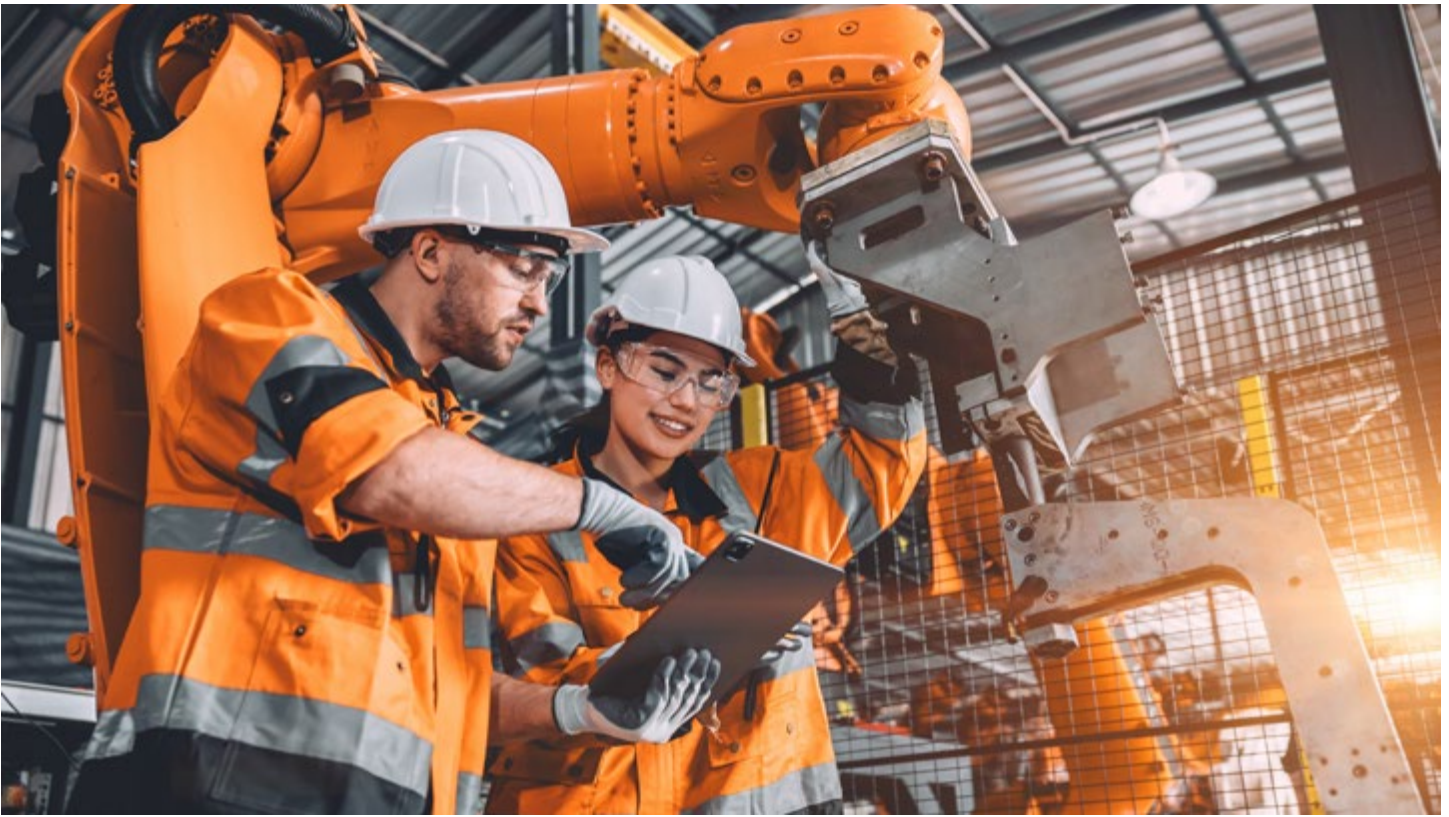
In order to understand AI, it is important to recognize the differences in these tools. While AI seems brand new, there is significant history beginning with English mathematician Alan Turing who theorized that a computer program could interact with humans in a way that humans could not differentiate between the computer and another human.

Today's AI tools, in many instances, approach or meet this standard. To help organize the broad concept of AI, Continuum has divided tools into three categories:

- Artificial Intelligence – the ability of machines to sense, perceive, reason, engage and problem solve in a manner that seems intelligent.
- Machine Learning – enabling machines to learn, problem solve and improve based on data or experience, without being explicitly programmed. Deep Learning is a subset of machine learning which uses multiple layers of data processing and analysis to mimic the neural structure of the human brain and allows for complex and multi-level experience based enhancement of performance over time.
- AI Enabled Robotics – AI or ML empowered robotics that are augmented with a variety of sensors (including vision devices such as 2D/3D cameras, LiDAR sensors, vibration sensors, proximity sensors, accelerometers and other environmental sensors) that feed them with sensing data they can analyze and act upon in real-time. A subset is "cobots" where a robot can respond to and learn from human speech and gestures without worker-assisted training.

(continued on pg. 24)





The vast majority of conversation about the application and use of AI revolve around what Continuum refers to as “thinking” exercises – consider large database analysis, forecasting, contract writing or review, etc.

The ultimately more interesting and impactful assessment is how AI, ML and robotics will be applied to augment, not displace, the pipeline construction workforce in three ways:

1. Production Increase (Output Expansion) - solutions allow crews to raise production and perform more work, safely and in compliance with specifications, in a given time period – offset part of workforce availability constraints.
2. Individual/Crew Augmentation (Capable Workforce Expansion) – solutions increase the number of field staff or crews that can perform specific activities – larger number of people who can lift heavy equipment or materials, utilize complicated equipment, operate in confined space, etc.
3. Accelerate Personal Performance (Average to Superior Performance) – solutions allow individual crew managers and crew members, with limited or average experience, to perform at a superior level – shorten the “on-the-job” experience gain time period, accessing expertise, etc.

The three applications above will lead to significant performance improvement by driving out the eight wastes (**Exhibit 1**).



Exhibit 1. 8 Wastes in Lean Construction. Construction centric redefinition of traditional 8 wastes. Source: Continuum adaptation of 7 original wastes identified by Taiichi Ohno within the Toyota Production System.

Output expansion

Is it possible to improve unit/parts installation 177 percent? The pipeline construction segment is in a lower spending cycle while gas distribution remains relatively healthy and growing.

Historically and going forward there remains a workforce shortage that results in spending that is budgeted and planned for in a given year and cannot occur until the following year. Solutions in this category allow crews to raise production and perform more work, safely and in compliance with specifications, in a given time period – offsetting part of workforce availability constraints. Yes, it is possible to improve unit/parts installation 177 percent. Examples include **(Exhibit 2)**:



- Recoverable Lost Time Reduction – reduction in unneeded material touching or movement before install.
- Accurate Mapping & Project Planning – accurate crew placement and material laydown raises wrench time.
- Effective Project Management – detailed predictive analysis, resource allocation and optimized crew size.

Crew augmentation

Is it possible to reduce the rework percentage below 10 percent? The pipeline construction segment requires extensive training and ability to operate, lift and utilize dangerous and heavy equipment, tools and materials.

This requirement restricts the number of individuals and size of the workforce capable of performing this work. Solutions in this category increase the number of field staff or crews that can perform specific activities – larger number of people who can lift heavy equipment or materials, utilize complicated equipment, operate in confined space, etc. Yes, it is possible to reduce the rework percentage below 10 percent.

Examples include **(Exhibit 3)**:

- Crew Efficiency & Zero Emissions – expansion of workforce that can safely operate equipment.
- Safety Monitoring & Compliance – safety compliance raises production and reduces rework.
- Construction Robotics & Automation – automation, efficiency and accuracy in time consuming or repetitive tasks.



Accelerate performance

Is it possible to reduce schedule duration by 71 percent? Effectively shortening schedule duration is perhaps the hardest and most impactful type of change possible due to the cascading positive impacts. It is hard because it takes the most experience and capability to successfully do it.

The pipeline construction segment faces the most challenging schedule requirements, crews are large, work is complicated and requires high coordination, the jobsite changes as work moves down the line, and planning is restricted by weather and other conditions. Solutions in this category allow individual crew managers and crew members with limited or average experience to perform at a superior level – shortening the “on-the-job” experience gain time period, accessing expertise and shortening schedule.

Yes, it is possible to reduce schedule duration by 71 percent. Examples include **(Exhibit 4)**:



- Effective Meeting Management – documentation of agreements, actions, and next steps, all of which are shared efficiently raising the collaboration and coordination among the project team participants.
- Mistake Avoidance – algorithms analyze project parameters, historical project data, material costs, and labor rates to generate accurate cost estimates and optimized construction schedules.

(continued on pg. 26)



	Application
Effective Meeting Management	Fireflies AI uses artificial intelligence, specifically natural language processing (NLP) technology, to assist with note-taking during meetings and calls. Fireflies AI can differentiate between speakers, accurately transcribe dialogue, and improve over time thanks to its machine learning capabilities.
Mistake Avoidance	AI algorithms analyze project parameters, historical project data, material costs, and labor rates to generate accurate cost estimates and optimized construction schedules.
Mistake Avoidance	AI can extract key information (soil conditions, permit requirement, jurisdictional disputes, inspection details, etc.) from documents for efficient searching, review contracts for key terms and risks, and check plans for compliance with codes and regulations, especially when designing, pricing, or working in new geography.

Exhibit 4. Example Accelerate Personal Performance. Preliminary Continuum tool investigations which allow individual crew managers and crew members with limited or average experience to perform at a superior level. Source: Proprietary Continuum analysis of AI related tools and concepts.

Conclusion

The application of AI, ML and robotics to the construction space and more specifically into the pipeline market will serve as the most disruptive force over the next decade. True opportunity only originates from this type of disruption for firms that embrace it.

There is fear however: fear of change, fear of displacement, fear of job loss or even fear of the unknown. B.K.S. Lyengar saw this fear of change as paralyzing and embracing it is critical to opportunity and growth. The introduction of AI is already occurring and to balance the fear, there is opportunity.

Over the last 20-plus years, average productivity improvement in the construction industry has stalled. When Continuum Capital conducts time and motion studies in the field, part of the effort is to document a baseline of performance; establish a plan and set of action for improvement; implement this plan and

action; and then monitor improvement. In one example, improvement from the baseline achieved the following:

- Improved unit/parts installation rate 177 percent
- Reduced rework occurrences by 85 percent
- Reduce rework percentage below a target of 10 percent
- Reduced schedule duration by 71 percent

The application of AI tools makes this type of production improvement possible by compressing schedule performance, driving down total cost, raising achievable profit, and more. Pipeline operators, contractors and designers have a new opportunity to embrace innovation, pursue waste reduction and improve construction productivity.

The time to embrace change is now.

Authors: Mark Bridgers, Pete Blonkvist and Kyle Kerestes are consultants with Continuum Capital, which provides management consulting, training, and investment banking services to the worldwide energy, utility, industrial and infrastructure construction industry. They can be reached at MBridgers@ContinuumCapital.net and connected with on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/in/mark-bridgers-0819b412/ and X (formerly Twitter) at [@MarkBridgers](https://twitter.com/MarkBridgers). For more information on Continuum, follow at www.linkedin.com/company/continuum-capital or visit www.ContinuumCapital.net. ▲

Register Now at www.dcaweb.org



Leadership Development Program



Session 1

April 2-4, 2025

Session 2

April 23-25, 2025

Hyatt Regency DFW Int'l Airport
2334 N. International Pkwy.
Dallas, TX

Visit dcaweb.org for more information

Insights



2024 Election Changes the Game

Donald Trump's election as America's 47th president last November marked what many are calling one of the most dramatic political comebacks in U.S. history. Four years after leaving Washington as a pariah to many, Trump's victory defied two assassination attempts, two presidential impeachments, and several controversial criminal charges. In the midst of a seriously divided electorate, Trump won 312 electoral votes and took virtually all of the key "battleground" states.

Republicans won control of the Senate, flipping four seats, and will enjoy a 53-47 majority. Republicans also won a narrow 220-215 majority in the House of Representatives, meaning for the first time since 2016, Republicans have unified control of both Congress and the White House.

Trump Cabinet Nominees Put on Fast Track to Confirmation

Trump wasted no time announcing his cabinet nominees, who faced a whirlwind of Senate confirmation hearings

just before Inauguration Day. Many nominees faced hours of grilling, especially from distrustful Democrats still reeling from the election results.

Following is the status as of publication of a few nominees of particular interest to DCA.

- **Secretary of Transportation:** President Trump nominated former Wisconsin congressman Sean Duffy (R) to lead DOT, a department that will oversee billions of dollars in federal infrastructure funds as well as Trump's policy agenda for the aviation, automotive, and rail industries. Important to DCA, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is part of DOT and is an agency of major interest to the pipeline construction industry.

Duffy is an attorney who represented Wisconsin in the House for nine years after being elected as part of the "tea party" wave in 2010. Duffy joined Fox News as a contributor in 2020 and has been one of Trump's most visible defenders on cable news.

At his confirmation hearing on January 15 before the Senate Commerce Committee, Duffy pledged to prioritize safety and focused on his plans to restore confidence in Boeing Co., which plunged into crisis last year after a door panel blew off a Boeing plane. Duffy also plans to review penalties that U.S. aviation regulators proposed against Elon Musk's "SpaceX" program, and he supports a federal framework for self-driving cars — something Musk also supports.

Duffy says he'll cut red tape slowing big infrastructure projects if confirmed for the role, stating that the President "has told me that this department is a top priority for him," and that he "asked me to focus on big, durable projects that connect our country and people."

On January 22, Duffy sailed through his confirmation vote, winning unanimous approval by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and was expected to be confirmed by the full Senate the week of January 27.

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator:** Lee Zeldin, President Trump's choice to run the EPA, is a former Republican congressman from New York and has been a consultant to a wide swath of conservative organizations. Zeldin's work for these groups, combined with his plan to transfer the ownership of his public relations firm to his wife, has generated concern among government watchdogs. At his confirmation hearing on January 16, Zeldin worked to assure senators on the Environment and Public Works Committee that he had fully transferred control of his consulting firm to his wife and that there would be no conflict of interest if he was confirmed as head of EPA.

A major issue addressed during his confirmation hearing was whether and how Zeldin would "look into" and potentially "claw back" funds dispersed under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The IRA is one of President Joe Biden's signature accomplishments and provides significant funding for combating climate change and expanding clean energy production.

"The EPA must be better stewards of tax dollars, honor cooperative federalism, and be transparent and accountable to Congress and the public," Zeldin said during his opening statement before the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee. "We can and we must protect our precious environment without suffocating the economy."

Trump has been critical of Biden's handling of the auto industry and is widely expected to roll back the Biden administration's new vehicle emissions standards, including a strict limit on tailpipe pollution that is designed to cut greenhouse gases by compelling automakers to increase sales of hybrid and all-electric vehicles. Zeldin noted during his testimony that he believes climate change is real, but did make a point to articulate the progress made over the years to effectively reduce emissions.

"Senator, United States emissions have been going down over the course of the last couple of decades," Zeldin said. "Unfortunately, there are other countries where it is not going in the same direction, and I would say that we will have never done enough to ensure that our water and our air is clean, safe, and healthy. Whatever we do every day to achieve this objective, we need to wake up the next day looking for ways to do more."

On January 23, the EPW Committee voted to advance the nomination of Lee Zeldin in an 11-8 vote to serve as EPA chief. Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ) was the only Democrat on the committee to join all Republicans in voting in favor of his confirmation. A final floor vote on Zeldin's confirmation was expected the week of January 27.

- **Secretary of Energy (DOE):** Donald Trump's choice for Secretary of Energy is Chris Wright, founder of Liberty Energy Inc., a natural gas and oil production company. Wright has run several energy companies since 1992 and has been a Trump ally since his first administration. At his confirmation hearing on January 15, Wright stated that the U.S. must remove bureaucratic barriers and "unleash" production of natural gas and coal, as well as liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports.

"The security of our nation begins with energy," Wright said at his confirmation hearing before the Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee. "Previous administrations have viewed energy as a liability instead of the immense national asset that it is."

Wright said that implementing Trump's energy agenda will include increased use of natural gas and oil, which underpin the nation's economy; coal, nuclear power, and hydropower as major sources of energy; rapidly-growing wind and solar power; and geothermal energy, which could become a meaningful source of

(continued on pg. 30)

energy. Wright also said his priorities would include a focus on innovation and technology breakthroughs. As secretary of the Department of Energy, Wright will also play a crucial role in approving projects to export LNG, something that was paused during the Biden administration.

Wright has been an unapologetic advocate for the energy industry, declaring the moral virtues of fossil fuels for decades, and even drank fracking fluid to refute opponents who questioned its safety.

The Senate ENR Committee approved Wright's nomination in a 15-5 vote on January 23. A final vote on his confirmation was expected sometime the week of January 27.

Unprecedented "Day One" Brings Flurry of Executive Orders and Actions

President Trump began his second term in office by signing 118 executive orders, actions, and memoranda within hours of taking the Oath of Office on January 20, 2025.

The set of executive orders include "Unleashing American Energy," which provides a range of executive actions intended to bolster energy policy. Section 3., entitled "Immediate Review of All Agency Actions that Potentially Burden the Development of Domestic Energy Resources," includes measures to improve the project permitting process.

Of interest to DCA, these executive actions would:

- Require the heads of all agencies to review regulations and identify those that impose an undue burden on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy — with particular attention to natural gas and oil, among other resources.
- Require agencies to "undertake all available efforts to eliminate all delays within their respective permitting process..."
- Require federal cooperation to facilitate the permitting and construction of interstate energy transportation and other critical energy infrastructure (including pipelines).
- Require the secretary of energy to restart reviews of LNG export license applications as soon as possible, and to add consideration of U.S. economic and employment impacts and allies' energy security impacts of U.S. LNG exports (ending the "pause" on LNG exports).

Permit reform has been a priority issue for DCA since it expanded its government relations program several years ago. This is very positive news, but keep in mind, while these executive orders and actions are effective immediately, they are only enacted into law after going through the legislative process. In other words, don't think permit reform is going away as a legislative priority for our association.

On his first day back in the White House, the president issued another executive order declaring a "National Energy Emergency." The order directs agencies to utilize their statutory emergency powers to speed up the development and authorization of energy projects.

The order contains several applicable provisions, including:

Emergency approvals: The order directs the heads of federal agencies to identify authorities to facilitate domestic energy production on federal and other lands, including "eminent domain" authorities under federal law.

Expediting the delivery of energy infrastructure: The order directs agencies to use all relevant lawful emergency and other authorities to:

- (a) expedite the completion of authorized and appropriate energy projects
- (b) facilitate energy production and transportation through the West Coast, Northeast, and Alaska
- (c) report on these activities to designated White House staff

Emergency regulations and nationwide permits under the Clean Water Act and other statutes administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The order directs agency heads to identify potential actions to facilitate energy production that may be subject to the Army Corps' emergency permitting provisions and use these authorities to facilitate the nation's energy supply.

The order also requires agencies to report on evaluations under this provision and directs the Army Corps and EPA to promptly coordinate with agencies regarding application of Army Corps permitting provisions.

While the order clearly expresses the Trump administration's policy to encourage the development of domestic conventional energy production, agencies must still act within prescribed statutory limits. Therefore, it will take time to see how future legal challenges will shape the order's ultimate impact on permitting and siting future conventional energy projects throughout the nation.

Regulatory Freeze Leaves Many Biden Proposals in Limbo

Trump's executive orders included one titled "Regulatory Freeze Pending Review," which directs federal agencies to stop all rulemaking activity pending within the agency and to consider all rules already published as paused for 60 days.

The executive order specifically states that agencies are to:

- Halt all rulemakings that the agency has not yet transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register until Trump officials have reviewed the rule
- Withdraw any rules the agency transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register so they may be reviewed by Trump officials
- Consider whether the agency should postpone, for 60 days from the date of the executive order, the effective date of any rule issued by the agency for the purpose of reviewing any questions of fact, law, and policy.

While efforts to prioritize which rules would be reviewed and scrutinized and when, two PHMSA regulatory proposals related to leak detection and repair, as well as proposed regulations over carbon dioxide pipelines, were withdrawn or suspended as part of President Trump's "reg freeze."

Agenda for the 119th Congress

Tax Reform

Future editions of *DCA Insights* will include more details of the packed agenda offered by the Trump administration as policy proposals are rolled out. Among the many issues DCA will engage in during the 119th Congress, priorities will include:

- Energy production and transportation
 - Introduce and pass pipeline safety legislation
 - Enact meaningful legislation that will make further reforms to the outdated permitting process for critical infrastructure
 - Ensure robust support for pipeline infrastructure in all federal efforts to increase carbon capture, use, and storage efforts as well as hydrogen transportation
 - Repeal EPA methane rule
- Tax reform
 - Repeal the federal estate tax
 - Retain or lower the current 21% corporate tax rate
 - Maintain and extend tax provisions for infrastructure investment
 - Expand tax credits (i.e. the "45Q" tax credit)

The result of the 2024 elections may seem like a very good thing for the construction industry, but our association has to be ready to jump into the 119th Congress. DCA has set the table when it comes to pipeline safety reauthorization, and the association's Government Relations Committee has presented a solid and regular set of industry "fly-in" events. Unfortunately, increased partisanship has compromised the debate, and the latest pipeline safety reauthorization has effectively been pushed to next year.

When a political party wins big in an election, and claims about a national mandate start to be thrown around, that party tends to overshoot. DCA members should be ready to hit the ground running when the next Congress is sworn in. This is no time for the energy sector to sit on the sidelines.

More to come, soon. Get ready for a big year... we thank you all for your ongoing participation and support. ▲



Eben M. Wyman
Principal
eben@wymanassociates.net



DCA NEWS is a bi-monthly publication of
Distribution Contractors Association
101 West Renner Road, Suite 460
Richardson, Texas 75082
972-680-0261
www.dcaweb.org



Robert G. Darden
Executive Vice President

Candace Green
Director of Communications

