

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NOVEMBER 2024



Director's Comments:

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's the perfect time to reflect on the contributions and dedication of the members of the Alabama Utility Contractors Association (AUCA). Each of our members play a vital role in ensuring the strength, safety, and reliability of our state's infrastructure.

Utility contractors are often unsung heroes, working tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver essential services that keep Alabama running. From water and wastewater systems to energy and communications infrastructure, your work ensures that families, businesses, and communities have what they need to thrive.

Thanksgiving is not just about gratitude for the work you do, but also for the spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose that defines AUCA. Through collaboration, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to quality, our members set a standard of excellence that benefits everyone in the industry and beyond.

As we gather with loved ones this Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to acknowledge the impact of our collective efforts. Whether it's completing challenging projects, mentoring future industry leaders, or finding ways to give back to the communities we serve, AUCA members embody the spirit of service and resilience.

Thank you for all that you do. May this season bring you and your families joy, health, and a renewed sense of purpose. Here's to a bright future filled with continued success and gratitude for the vital work we achieve together.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Alabama Utility Contractors Association!

Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events	2
News & Notes	3-9
CWCC Report	10-12
Health & Safety	13

✦ HAPPY ✦
Thanksgiving

Tim

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 5, 2024

Tuscaloosa Area Holiday Lunch Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mobile Area Holiday Lunch Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2024

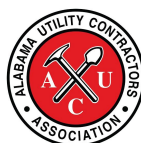
Huntsville Area Holiday Lunch Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Birmingham Area Holiday Lunch Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2024

***AUCA 2025 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***
Thursday, April 24, 2025
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2025 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***
Thursday, October 16, 2025
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL



News & Notes:

U.S. Election News:

Donald Trump has won a second term as President, becoming only the second U.S. President to be elected to office in non-consecutive terms. The Republican captured several unexpected battleground states to coast to a comfortable win in the Electoral College and the national popular vote. At 78, Trump now holds the distinction of being the oldest man ever elected president.

Republicans also won control of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Controlling the House, Senate and White House will make it much easier for Republicans to enact their agenda, especially an extension of sweeping tax cuts set to expire at the end of next year.

Democrat Shomari Figures was elected to represent Alabama's newly drawn 2nd Congressional District. As a result, Alabama will have two Black U.S. representatives for the first time ever.

Alabama Legislative News:

As Alabama prepares to launch the Department of Workforce, which will replace the Department of Labor, in the summer of 2025, Governor Ivey has appointed Senator Greg Reed as senior advisor to Workforce Transformation. Senator Reed is the President Pro Tempore of the Alabama Senate and has represented Senate District 5 since his election in 2010.

The Governor will call a special election for Senate District 5 after Senator Reed's appointment begins, effective January 1, 2025. The Republican caucus will decide in December who will be the new leader in the Alabama Senate, which will become official when the full Senate votes after convening for the 2025 Alabama Legislative Session in Montgomery on Tuesday, February 4th.

Underground Damage Prevention Legislative Committee:

Work continues from the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Legislative Committee. The group has already had a several productive meetings, along with several subcommittees. The next meeting of the full committee will be held via "Zoom" on Tuesday, December 10th. If you are interested in participating in discussions on this important topic, please let us know.

Department of Labor Encouraged by Decline in Worker Deaths:


On November 4th, OSHA [reported](#) that there have been fewer workplace fatalities in 2024. Preliminary agency data show a decrease in fatalities the agency is mandated to investigate, including significant reductions in fatal injuries from trench collapses and falls, two of the leading causes of death among construction industry workers.



News & Notes:

AUCA 2025 Calendars:

AUCA has received a supply of 2025 AUCA Calendars. If you would like to have one of these hanging on your office wall before they're all gone, please plan to attend one of our upcoming Holiday Lunch Meetings to get one, or contact the AUCA office and we will make arrangements for delivery.



Alabama Utility Contractors Association
We Dig Alabama
 Phone: (205) 582-9436 Fax: (205) 582-9155
www.aluca.org

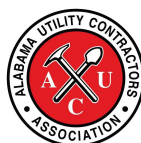
JANUARY 2025

1 Total Days Elapsed in the Year
365 Total Days Remaining in the Year

25 Working Days Remaining in the Year (Excluding Saturdays and Sundays)
11 Working Days Remaining in the Year (Including Sundays)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 2	3 3	4 4
5 5	6 6 FIRST QUARTER MOON	7 7	8 8	9 9	10 10	11 11
12 12	13 13 FULL MOON	14 14	15 15	16 16	17 17	18 18
19 19	20 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	21 21 THIRD QUARTER MOON	22 22	23 23	24 24	25 25
26 26	27 27	28 28	29 29 NEW MOON	30 30	31 31	

2	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
0	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F
2	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
5	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F	S M T W T F



News & Notes:

Russo Corporation Fishing Tournament - October 25th



AUCA member Russo Corporation held their 6th annual Family & Friends Fishing Tournament on October 25th at Lake Mitchell in Clanton. This has become a highly anticipated event, and AUCA was proud to attend and serve as one of the many great industry sponsors.

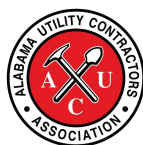
AUCA New Member Company:

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.

Bessemer, AL

Company Representative: Bragg Knott

www.adspipe.com



News & Notes:

**ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
2025 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The list of Officers and Directors below reflects the members elected to serve on the 2025 Leadership Team at the October 10, 2024 Fall General Meeting in Montgomery.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: ROBBIE BUTLER, *CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: RONNIE GOLDEN, *CG JONES, LLC*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

SECRETARY/TREASURER: GAVIN JONES, *BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS, INC.*

BOARD MEMBERS

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

JAKE BROWN, *RUSSO CORP.*

BILL CARTER, *BILL CARTER CONSULTING, LLC*

SHAUN GONZALES, *WEAVER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC.*

ANDY HARSHMAN, *JOHN PLOTT COMPANY*

JAY HOLCOMB, *LAMBERT, INC.**

LARRY LOGSDON, *WALLACE, JORDAN, RATLIFF, & BRANDT, LLC*

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

RYAN McCLENDON, *MARSHMcLENNAN AGENCY*

BILL McGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *EMPIRE PIPE & SUPPLY*

AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

CHARLES SMITH, *VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY*

CHAD TUBBS, *FERGUSON WATERWORKS*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT*



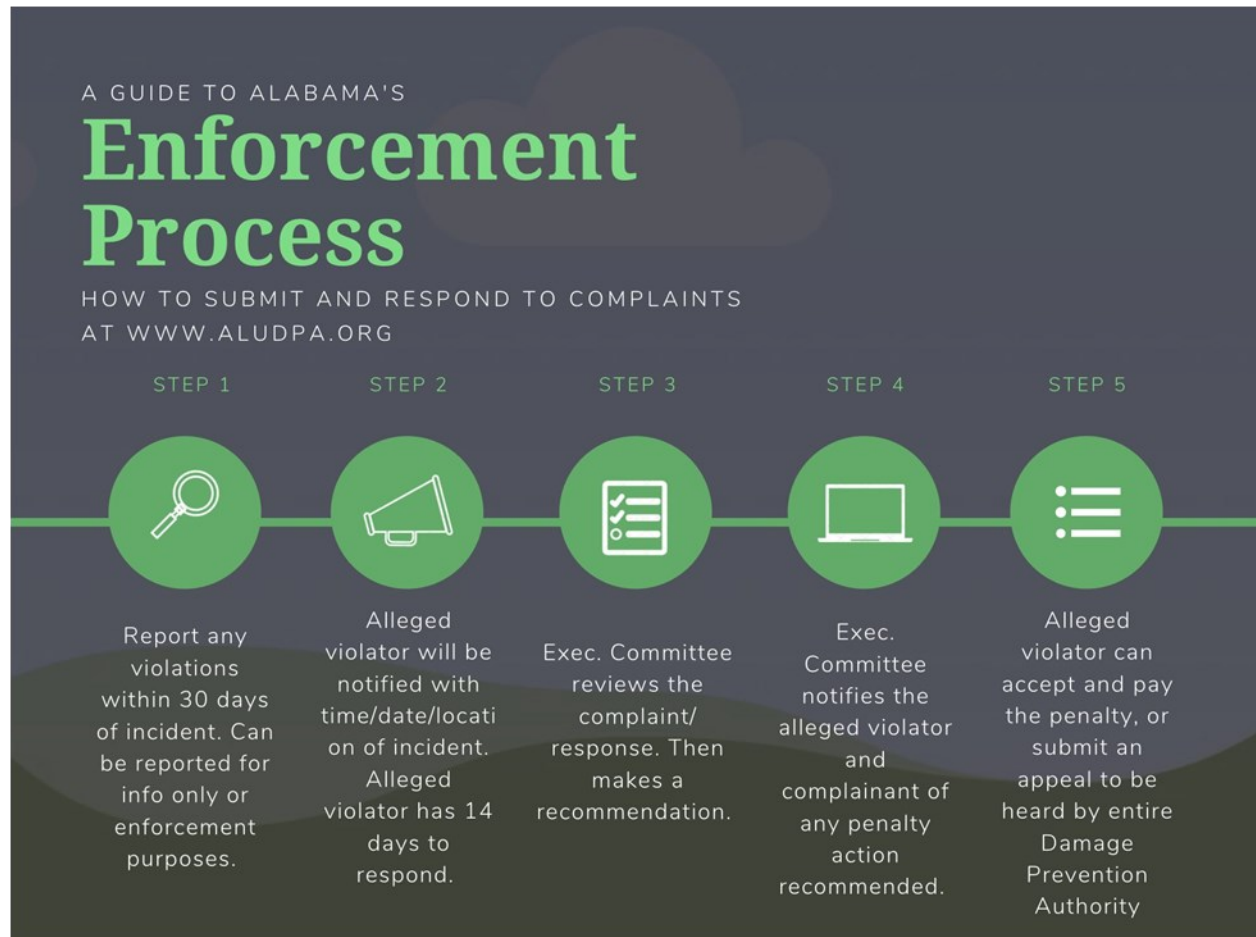
News & Notes:

Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA)

The Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA) was established for the purpose of enforcing the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law, for reviewing penalty provisions, and for reviewing the adequacy of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Program.

The Enforcement Program is a complaint-driven process where a complaint may be submitted against an entity for violation of the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law. A complaint may be submitted as information only and not designated for enforcement penalties.

A complaint may be submitted using the Complaint Form [at this Website](#) no later than 30 days after the occurrence of an alleged violation. The submitted Complaint Form is reviewed by the ALUDPA for determination of an alleged violation and for penalty provisions that may apply. The reported violator is then notified by the ALUDPA that a response may be submitted using the Response Form at this Website no later than 14 days after the ALUDPA notification.



PROTECT WORKERS IN TRENCHES

Prevent trench collapses and save lives:

SLOPE or bench trench walls,

SHORE trench walls with supports, or

SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes



U.S. Department of Labor



Photo: Efficiency
Production - NAXSA

WWW.OSHA.GOV/TRENCHING • 800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 877-889-5627

OSHA 3215-06R 2018

TRENCHING SAFETY

5 Things You Should Know to Stay Safe



1 Ensure there's a safe way to enter and exit.
See 1926.651(c)



2 Trenches must have cave-in protection.
See 1926.652(a)

3 Keep materials away from the edge of the trench.
See 1926.651(j)



4 Look for standing water or other hazards.
See 1926.651(h)



5 Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected.
See 1926.651(k)



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Kyle England - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

****Please Note the CWCC Report was Written Before the Presidential Election****

November 1, 2024

Political Landscape and Election Outlook

Since late September, Congress has been in recess and will remain as such until after the November election. To avoid a full shutdown, a Continuing Resolution (CR) was passed to keep government open and running until December 30, continuing all programs at their FY24 funding levels.

Once newly elected and tenured officials return to Washington, priority will first be put on subsequent election of leadership positions before discussions on FY25 appropriations continue.

Polls across the country have shown no clear leader in this year's race for the United States Presidency. Per the New York Times and Siena College final national poll, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are currently locked in a dead heat for the popular vote at 48% each and most swing states polling at or near the margin of error.

Considering the result of the November elections will largely dictate the direction of new administrative and legislative policy decisions pertinent to our agenda, the CWCC is analyzing three scenarios in preparation:

Best case: Democratic Administration/Two-House Democratic Congress, based on consistent prior support for SRF funding and Title XVI policies.

Neutral: Republican Administration/Two-House Democratic Congress would still give Democrats the upper hand on funding decisions.

Worst case: Split Congress or any other scenario different from the above.

The two leadership positions of the most interest in Congress are the House Speaker and the Senate Republican Leader. Senator Mitch McConnell intends to step aside as party leader with three Members vying for the position— Senator Thune (R-SD), Cornyn (R-TX) and Scott (R-FL). The fate of the House Speaker position is ultimately tied to whether the Republicans can hold their majority.

General Appropriations Status

Of the 12 FY25 appropriations bills, seven bills have been approved by the House Appropriations Full Committee and five have passed the House. Contrary to the bipartisan spending agreement per the debt limit extension bill, the House approach has been to provide a 1% increase in defense spending over the appropriated level and a 6% reduction in non-defense discretionary spending. The Sen-

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 10)

ate Appropriations Committee has approved 11 bills with no action on the 12th and no floor action on any of the 11.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has passed a bill that would provide \$1.63 billion in overall spending for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). Including the reduction from earmarks, Clean Water SRF's are set to receive a total of \$1.27 billion from the Senate. The House has passed a bill that would provide \$1.2 billion to CWSRF, reduced to \$649 million after earmarks.

Safe Drinking Water SRF's are slated to receive \$1.12 billion in funding from the Senate bill, if passed, while the House-passed bill appropriates \$883.5 million. Assuming earmarks as a takedown from base funding, allocations for the Safe Drinking Water SRF's project to be \$883.6 million in the Senate bill and \$404 million in the House legislation.

WIIN Grant Funding

Of the House and Senate Committee approved appropriations bills, the House has agreed to \$30 million to be allocated for Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grants, while the Senate has approved \$20 Million.

President's FY25 SRF Allocations

Per the President's FY25 budget, \$1.24 billion has been requested for the Clean Water SRF, \$4 million for the WIIN Grant Program and no funding for the SRF related earmarks.

CWCC's Position

The Coalition continues to fully oppose the use of earmarks as takedowns. The Coalition has requested a minimum of \$4.4 billion for Clean Water SRF's (\$1.24 billion from the President's Budget and \$3.25 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), \$4.3 billion for Safe Drinking Water SRF's (\$1.126 billion from President's Budget and \$3.25 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) and minimum of \$20 million for WIIN grant funding.

OSHA Proposed National Heat Standard

The Coalition has been engaged to oppose a new ruling from OSHA, in its current form, that would trigger certain employer obligations when the outside temperature reaches a certain degree. The proposed rules would require employers to develop and implement a work site heat injury and illness protection plan (HIIP) specific to each site to evaluate and control heat hazards on the job.

When the initial trigger of a heat index of 80 degrees Fahrenheit is reached, employers must take certain actions, including identifying heat hazards, providing rest breaks and cool drinking water,



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 11)

monitoring employees for heat stress and adjusting workload to allow employees to become acclimated.

If the heat index reaches 90 degrees, employers would be required to provide paid 15-minute mandatory rest breaks every two hours, continuously monitor workers for heat stress and give hazard alerts reminding employees to stay hydrated.

While the health and safety of our members' company workers are always top priority, this mandate would have real-world implications and pose unique challenges to our businesses, most of whom already implement such measures.

Other Legislative Initiatives

The CWCC is still working with Senator Butler's staff on a potential new version of the "STREAM Act," providing \$750 million for surface and groundwater storage and conveyance projects, \$300 million for water recycling, \$250 million for environmental restoration, \$150 million for desalination projects and \$100 million for drinking water projects in disadvantaged communities. The Coalition has submitted a request for more information.

In partnership with several other stakeholder groups, the Coalition continues to support the Garamendi Amendment to H.R. 7023 which would allow the EPA to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for certain public works projects for 10 years instead of five years as allowed under current law. Senate action is still pending as of this report.

There has been no action taken on the CWCC-backed "DROUGHT Act of 2024" which aims to increase the federal share of Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding from 80% to 90%.

The Coalition continues to pursue additional funding for mega recycling projects and the Alternative Water Source Program.



Health & Safety:

Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency - Southeast Risk Control Services

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk:

Personal Protective Equipment – Hand Protection / General Hazards

[Reference 1910.138 / 1926.95]

OSHA's standards for hand protection require employers to provide, and employees to use, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves that are designed to help protect workers from injuries such as cuts, scrapes, punctures, and heat or cold. So it is vitally important to make certain that the gloves you select for use are adequate to protect against the specific hazards you come across while at work. Protective gloves are made from a variety of materials, but not all glove materials offer adequate protection from all workplace hazards. Here is an overview of different glove materials and the type of hazards they offer protection against:

- Sturdy gloves made from metal mesh, leather, or canvas can help protect your hands against cuts and burns. Thick leather or canvas gloves also protect against sustained heat.
- Leather gloves also protect against sparks, moderate heat, blows, chips and rough objects.
- Fabric gloves (like cotton) protect against dirt, slivers, chafing and abrasions. They do not provide sufficient protection for use with rough, sharp or heavy materials. Adding a plastic coating will strengthen some fabric gloves.
- Coated fabric gloves offer general-purpose hand protection offering slip-resistant qualities. These gloves are used for tasks ranging from handling bricks and wire to chemical laboratory containers.
- Aramid fiber gloves protect against heat and cold, are cut and abrasive-resistant, and wear well.
- Aluminized gloves provide reflective and insulating protection against heat, but require an insert made of synthetic materials to protect against heat and cold.

Of course, no glove will protect your hands if you are not wearing them. And gloves will eventually wear out and need to be replaced. So if this is a problem, or if you have any concerns that the gloves you are currently using are not protecting your hands adequately, please notify your supervisor right away so that we can get you some replacement gloves when needed, and so we can schedule a new PPE hazard assessment if necessary.



Alabama Utility Contractors Association
P.O. Box 383185
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185
Phone: 205-582-9436
Fax: 205-582-9155
E-mail: tim@aluca.org

***AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.***

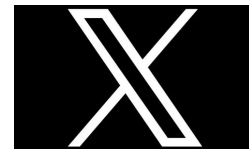
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