



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DECEMBER 2020

Director's Comments:



As 2020 draws to a close, and we reflect back on the past 12 months, it's clear to see that it has been a year like no other. We have all faced new challenges that have caused us to shift and adjust our normal ways of living, both personally and professionally.

Despite these circumstances, we have been incredibly thankful for the continued participation and support of AUCA members. While there is still much uncertainty for what 2021 will bring, our goal remains to persevere and represent the needs of our members and our industry with the highest levels of service, professionalism, and integrity.

I would also like to personally thank AUCA President Bill McGough for his wisdom, leadership and guidance during these past two years as he's faithfully served in this role. And, on behalf of Bill and the rest of the AUCA Board of Directors, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Tim

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Inside This Issue:

News & Notes	2-6
Upcoming Events	7
Fleet Safety	8
CWCC Report	9-10

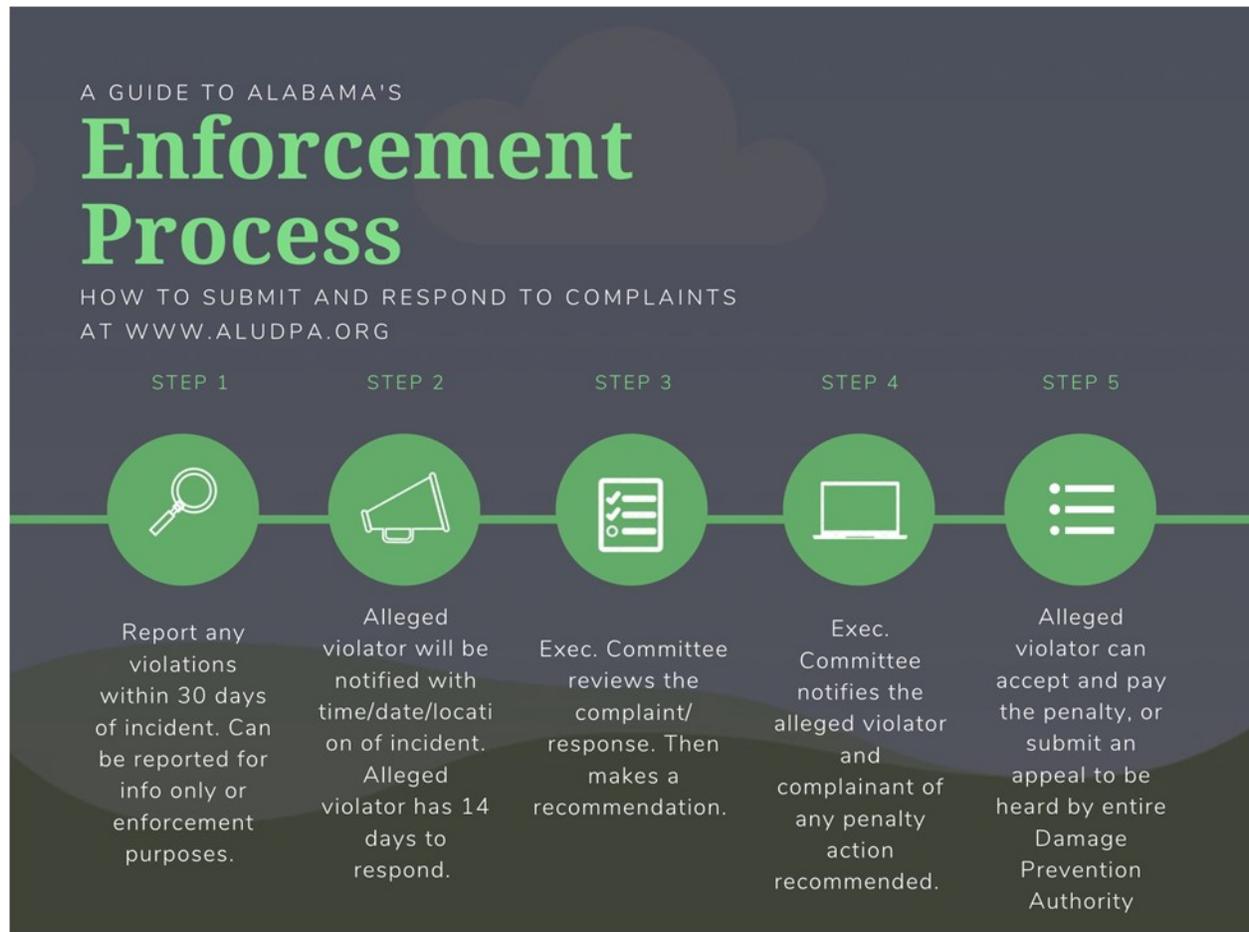
News & Notes:

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.



News & Notes:

In Memory of Bill Lee:

We are saddened to report the passing of Mr. Bill Lee at the age of 88. Mr. Lee was a pioneer in the Utility Contracting Industry.

He was born in Evergreen, AL October 17, 1932. Following graduation from Evergreen High School he earned a Civil Engineering degree from Auburn University in 1955. He served as an officer in the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, worked for the state of Florida, and was a founding partner of two Dothan Civil Engineering firms - Lee, Wainwright, Ham, and Polyengineering. He also established Bill Lee Contracting Company, a Utility Contractor serving the tri-state areas of Alabama, Florida and Georgia, and served as President until his retirement. The company was sold and became Blankenship Contracting with Doug Blankenship as President.

Mr. Lee was one of the original leaders of the Alabama Utility Contractors Association. He also served as President of the National Utility Contractors Association and even testified before a United States Senate Committee for improved water infrastructure.

Please keep the Lee family in your thoughts and prayers.

Alabama Construction Industry Craft Training Board:

The Alabama Construction Industry Craft Training Board is soliciting proposals for the purpose of issuing a contract for professional services to lead and oversee the program as its Executive Director.

The Alabama Legislature created and funded this unique program for a coordinated effort between the construction industry and educational institutions to promote and fund construction industry craft training and education to enhance the work force for this industry. This will be an important position for our industry. If you know anyone with the needed qualifications, please encourage them to submit an application.

Deadline for Proposals: 5:00 P.M. CT, Friday, January 22, 2021

The full Request for Proposals (RFP) and job description can be found at the following link:

http://dcm.alabama.gov/PDF/craft/RFP_Prof_Services-ExDir_Craft_Training_Brd.pdf



News & Notes:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM):

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is proposing to reissue the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit ALR100000 for discharges from regulated construction activities to waters of the State of Alabama.

The public notice period began December 22, 2020, and is open for 30 days.

You may find the public notice, draft permit and fact sheet here:

<http://www.adem.alabama.gov/newsEvents/notices/dec20/12alr100000.html>

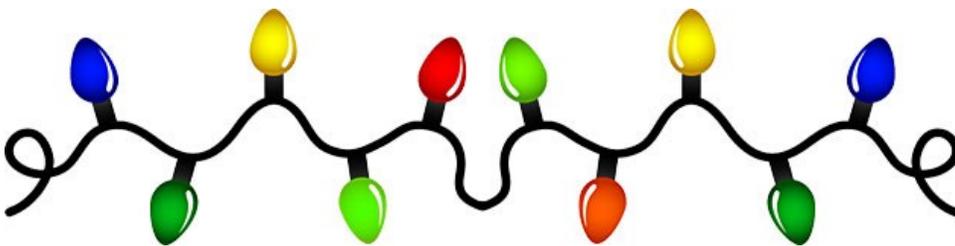
Coronavirus Vaccination for Construction Workers:

A committee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidelines on Dec. 20 that suggest construction workers receive Coronavirus vaccine shots in the program rollout's third phase, after they are provided in earlier stages to the elderly and to healthcare and other "frontline" essential workers. The guidelines, built on federal classifications for essential workers created earlier in the pandemic, are believed to cover all types of construction workers, regardless of project or trade.

The third phase could start from February to late spring 2021 if the vaccination program goes smoothly.

AUCA 2021 Calendars:

We still have a few 2021 AUCA Calendars available. If you would like to receive one, please contact the AUCA office and we will make arrangements for safe delivery.



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

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

News & Notes:

2021 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal:

AUCA 2021 Membership Dues Notices will go out in January. Please be on the lookout for the notice. We appreciate your past support of AUCA, and hope that your company will renew your membership with our group and help us continue to work towards our goals in 2021.

We ask that you please return your dues promptly to ensure no disruption in member benefits.

AUCA Membership "Affinity" Programs:

AUCA Scholarship Program:

AUCA plans to award six (6) scholarships worth \$1,500 each in the Spring of 2021 for children or grandchildren of AUCA members in good standing. Priority may be given to applicants that are studying for a career in the construction industry at either a local trade school, or four-year university. Application forms will be available on the AUCA website in January.

Workers Compensation Insurance:

Before you renew your worker's compensation policy, ask your insurance agent to get a quote from CompTrust AGC. Make sure the agent mentions that you are an AUCA member. If you have questions, you or your agent may contact Terry Young from Millennium Risk Managers at (256) 504-3288. MRM is the Third Party Administrator (TPA) for the CompTrust fund, and a valuable member of AUCA.

Group Retirement Planning:

BenSource Employee Benefits, also an AUCA member company, is staffed to take your call with any questions you may have about starting a retirement plan, or to compare your current plan with the ***Contractor's Retirement Plan***. BenSource can be reached at (205) 536-9204.

Here are just few of the unique benefits of this plan:

- Eliminates all TPA costs, all audit costs, 5500 costs and document costs
- Greatly reduces employee investment costs - the *power* of group buying
- Eliminates nearly all of the HR tasks typically associated with 401k
- Diverts the significant fiduciary liability away from the business owner



Proceeding With Caution

UPDATED STATEWIDE COVID-19 HEALTH ORDER FOR ALABAMA

EXTENDED SAFER AT HOME

The Safer at Home order extends until January 22nd at 5 p.m.



WHAT'S STAYING THE SAME: EVERYTHING

MASKS

Masks required in public when interacting within 6 feet with people of another household, subject to certain exceptions. Masks required in schools and colleges, where possible, for employees and students in second grade and above.

ENTERTAINMENT VENUES (SUCH AS ARCADES, THEATERS, BOWLING ALLEYS)

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Allowed subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

CHILD DAY CARE FACILITIES

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

SUMMER CAMP

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

INDIVIDUALS

Encouraged to stay home and follow good sanitation practices

EMPLOYERS

Businesses may open subject to sanitation and social-distancing guidelines

RETAIL STORES

Subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules

MEDICAL PROCEDURES

Allowed unless prohibited in the future by the State Health Officer to preserve resources necessary to diagnose and treat COVID-19; providers must follow COVID-19-related rules and guidance from state regulatory boards or public health authorities

HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES

Subject to restrictions, patients and residents will be allowed visits from one caregiver or one visitor at a time

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Regular programming still suspended except meals still available through curbside pick-up or delivery

NON-WORK GATHERINGS

Still required to maintain 6 feet of distance between persons not from same household

RESTAURANTS, BARS AND BREWERIES

May open with limited table seating, partitions or 6 feet between tables, and subject to additional sanitation rules and guidelines.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES (SUCH AS FITNESS CENTERS AND COMMERCIAL GYMS)

Athletic facilities may open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines. Partitions allowed.

CLOSE-CONTACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Close-contact service providers (such as barber shops, hair salons, nail salons, tattoo services) may open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines. Partitions allowed.

BEACHES

Open with no limit on gatherings. Must maintain 6 feet of separation.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

***AUCA 2021 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2021 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

Thursday, October 14, 2021

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL



AUCA Local Industry Lunch Meetings
Meeting Dates and Locations To Be Announced



Fleet Safety:

Provided by J. Smith Lanier & Co., a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC company

100% CHANCE OF WINTER – ARE YOU READY?

Its official – Winter has begun. As drivers, we face “out of the ordinary” challenges when we get behind the wheel during the winter months. Snow, sleet, slush, and icy roads can make it harder for us to see and to stop our vehicles, and according to the NHTSA, these conditions are cited by law enforcement as contributing factors in nearly 1 in 4 weather related vehicle crashes. Keep the following tips in mind to help you avoid becoming a winter driving statistic:

- **Slow Down** – An analysis of speed related crashes by the NHTSA found that 45% of fatality crashes and 74% of injury crashes were related to driving too fast for road conditions, and winter driving conditions can be especially dangerous due to freezing rain, snow, and ice. As weather conditions change, slowing down will make it less likely that you will lose control of your vehicle, and will give you more time to react if other drivers make a mistake.
- **Allow more space between vehicles** – it can take us twice the distance to stop our vehicle on a wet road, and if ice is forming on the roads we will obviously travel even further before we can stop. Be aware of this as the temperature drops and try to leave yourself enough room to stop or maneuver in an emergency situation.
- **Watch for clues of road icing** – if you are driving in rain in the winter and see ice building up on your side view mirrors or at the corners of your windshields, it may also mean that ice is starting to form on the roads. Another thing to look for is tire spray coming off vehicles tires in front and around you. If you see a lot of tire spray you know that the road is still wet, but if you begin to observe less tire spray it could mean that the roadway is starting to freeze and you should adjust your speed accordingly.
- **Don't forget wind chill's effect on elevated road surfaces** - Remember that water on bridges and overpasses will usually freeze first due to exposure and wind chill, so slow down as you approach them when temperatures are near or below freezing.
- **Vehicle Maintenance** – Don't shortcut your Pre-Trip/Post-Trip Inspections because it's cold, and pay particular attention during the winter months to your tire condition, tire air pressures, brake performance, windshield wipers, fluid levels, and lights. Make sure you keep your windshield washer reservoir full of a fluid that will de-ice your windshield in freezing temperatures. Take an extra gallon of de-icing fluid with you depending on the length of your trip. Don't let time pressures convince you to delay necessary maintenance that might affect your safety, or lead to much more significant down time on the road.
- **When in Doubt, get off the Road** – No matter how important you think it is to complete your trip in your planned period, it is better to get off the road during bad weather to evaluate conditions and safest options.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

December 2, 2020

ELECTION RESULTS SET STAGE FOR LAME DUCK / '21 ADVOCACY

We find ourselves again with a split Congress, though the margins in the House have tightened, which defied the common thinking of pollsters / pundits. How the key cabinet and undersecretary key nominations play out at relevant agencies and The White House will say a lot about how the President-elect plans to govern.

As previously reported, a Continuing Resolution (CR) is keeping the federal government running through Dec. 11. Congress is now back in session with the focus on FY21 appropriations bills and possible COVID relief stimulus legislation.

Regarding FY21 appropriations, on Nov. 24 the House and Senate appropriators clinched a deal on a bipartisan overall spending total - \$1.4 trillion – to fund all 12 appropriation bills in one massive omnibus bill. Now with agreement on the overall number, over the next two weeks the appropriators will decide how to divide it up by program with the goal of reaching a bipartisan, bicameral final bill on or before Dec. 11, thereby avoiding another continuing resolution.

Regarding COVID relief, House Democrats appear to be willing to get past their push for a mega omnibus bill and concede to the Republicans, who want a smaller targeted approach. Without stimulus enacted by Dec. 31, a number of programs will expire, including expanded unemployment benefits, student loan payment pause, eviction protection, paid family leave, and relief funds for states. The trickle-down impact on state budgets and infrastructure capital plans is already impacting the project pipeline throughout the nation.

The case for upgrading the U.S. infrastructure system was made clear four years ago and as we know, no major "mega infrastructure package" has been agreed to. With COVID-19 economic lockdowns bringing part of the country to Depression-level unemployment, the timing for funding more public-works projects is critical. This should be an opportunity for whatever political party resides in the White House and/or controls Congress. The CWCC remains hopeful that the new leadership group will get past "infrastructure" being a political buzzword and takes advantage of the opportunity to strengthen the economy and enhance our infrastructure systems.

UPDATE ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Since Congress agreed to a short-term extension of the FAST Act, the need for a longer-term fund-



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 9)

ing discussion is eminent. As previously reported, the House passed its mega infrastructure bill by a mostly partisan vote of 233-188 which puts markers down for programs and funding levels. The cornerstone of the bill was the reauthorization of the FAST Act – the highway/transit program, which still needs a long-term solution. See the following links:

- Text of the Moving Forward Act is: <https://transportation.house.gov/download/bill-text-moving-forward-act>
- A Section by Section is: <https://transportation.house.gov/download/sec-by-sec-moving-forward-act>

“Water items of interest” included:

- Alternative Water Source Program - \$600M - see p. 49 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1122-1124 of the Bill Text;
- Clean Water SRF -\$40B (\$8B annually for 5 years) - see p.50 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1132-1133 of the Bill Text;
- Safe Drinking Water SRF - \$4.140B for FY22; \$4.8B for FY23; and \$5.5B for FY 24 and 25 - see p.61 of the Section-by-Section and p.1463 of the Bill Text; and,
- Title 16 WIIN Grants - \$500M - sec p.78 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1781-1783 of the Bill Text; and,
- Rewrite of the Huffman omnibus bill including a process to de-authorize inactive USBR water projects

The three bills of greatest importance are the WRDA reauthorization bills, "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020" (AWIA) and the "Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020"). These include funding levels that are supported by the CWCC.



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.***

**We're on the Web !
www.aluca.org**

Please print out this newsletter to share with others in your company. And, if you are receiving this for the company owner, please print out a copy for him/her.

**Let AUCA Be Your Source For All Your
Training Needs**

Contact the Association Office for more information

facebook



@AlabamaUCA

LinkedIn

