



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
APRIL 2018

Director's Comments:



In 2014, the Louisiana Legislature passed ACT 561, known as the Yard Pipe Bill. This bill enabled any person or firm who is not licensed by the State Plumbing Board, but who is properly licensed for municipal and public works utility construction by the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, to perform main-line utility construction on private property or undedicated rights-of-way or servitudes, limited to the following: (a) Gravity sanitary sewer collection lines six inches and larger, including manholes, main lines, wyes, and tees. (b) Sewer force mains four inches and larger. (c) Water mains four inches and larger, including fire hydrants, valves, and fittings.

In 2015, AUCA worked extensively with the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board to establish a Rule Change for the Definition of Plumbing. This change was needed due to the increasing number Utility Contractors being cited for performing work that was considered Plumbing, but should actually be considered Utility work.

We proposed to have no size restrictions, but were told that would not be acceptable to the Plumbers. Ultimately, we agreed to a change that was loosely based upon the Louisiana Yard Pipe Bill. The Plumbers and Gas Fitters Board agreed to make these changes that went into affect in 2016:

720-x-2-.01 Definition of Plumbing. With respect to the single-family residential dwelling domestic water supply, the water line from the meter to the building or from the outlet side of a well pump to the building is considered plumbing. With respect to the sewer, the building sewer begins at the

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Directors Comments:

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connection with the building drain and is considered plumbing until it reaches the property line, an individual disposal system, or a point within an easement or right-of-way.

Non-residential domestic water supply and sewer represented by mechanical drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall be considered plumbing. Non-residential domestic water supply four inches in diameter and greater, and sewer lines six inches in diameter and greater, represented by civil drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall not be considered plumbing.

Sewage grinder pumps and sewage lift stations with discharge lines four inches and greater, and force mains four inches and larger shall not be considered plumbing.

Author: David H. Wilcox

Statutory Authority: Section 34-37-2 (Code of Alabama 1975 as amended)

History: Rule Change

Certified: February 5, 2016

Now, in 2018, with a new Director at the helm, the Plumbers and Gas Fitters have proposed a Rule Change that would modify the Definition of Plumbing that we had previously agreed upon.

Below is the changed wording:

Sewage grinder pumps and sewage lift stations with discharge lines six inches and greater, and force mains six inches and larger shall not be considered plumbing. Cutting, boring, and removal of concrete shall not be considered plumbing.

Here is a link to the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board website with the proposed changes:

<http://pgfb.state.al.us/pdfs/2018/2018ProposedRuleChanges.pdf>

We realize this is a touchy issue, as some of our members also hold a Plumbers License and may benefit from the change. However, the proposed size increases will be problematic to many Utility Contractors in our state. There is a Public Hearing scheduled for May 31, 2018 at the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board's Office in Birmingham. We appreciate any feedback on this topic that our members can provide prior to the meeting.

Tim



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

Corporate Sponsors:



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We appreciate the many sponsor companies, volunteers, and participants that graciously made this event possible.

Thanks for your continued support of AUCA!

AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

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AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:



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AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

Team and Individual Golf Prize Winners:



1st Place Team:
CLS General Contractors



2nd Place Team:
Ferguson Waterworks



3rd Place Team:
Alabama Pipe & Supply



Closest to Pin:
McKay Lyvers
Alabama 811

Longest Drive:
John Cammack
John Deere Financial



Longest Putt:
Pete Mackey
Knapheide Truck Equipment



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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

Infrastructure: The Status

Since the February 12th unveiling of its infrastructure plan; namely, to turn \$200 Billion in federal money into \$1.5 Trillion for fixing America's infrastructure by leveraging local and state tax dollars and private investment), we've observed two apparently differing paths that the Administration has been pursuing with respect to Congress.

On the one hand, key Administration officials - Secretary Elaine Chao, DOT, et al - have been making the rounds with key Members urging support for, and action on, a mega infrastructure bill. They continue to tout this effort as high on the President's list of priorities. While they continue to sidestep the answer as to the source of Federal funding for the bill - on that they continue to say they will defer to Congress - they are pushing the argument that such an effort would be a political and substantive win for all.

On the other hand, we are also hearing that the Administration prefers "a different cadence than tax reform," and that they expect infrastructure to pass as "a series of legislation, not one large piece of legislation," because of the sheer number of Congressional committees involved, plus administrative actions on project permitting.

For Congress' part, hearings are ongoing. We are aware of at least two key committees that have engaged in discussions and drafting of infrastructure proposals - the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Details and status of both efforts are closely guarded.

Also, Members of both parties and in both Houses are saying privately that they hope Congress passes an infrastructure package before the midterm elections. House and Senate Democrats are saying that they have put forth great infrastructure proposals - a trillion dollars, 10 million new jobs for roads, bridges, sewer, water and new programs like rural broadband and, they assert, they have paid for it.



News & Notes:



**National Trench Safety Open House
Mobile, AL
April 12th**



**Competent Person Safety Training Class
Dothan, AL
April 13th**

2018 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

If your company has not submitted your membership dues renewal, please make arrangements to submit your payment by April 30, 2018. If dues are not received by this date, your company will be considered delinquent, and will not be included in the upcoming AUCA Membership Directory, or eligible for the Scholarship Program.

Should you have any questions, need another copy of the invoice sent to you, or wish to pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

AUCA Scholarship Program:

- AUCA will be awarding two (2) Scholarships worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website.
- The Scholarship Committee will select the two winners from AUCA member company employees, or family members that apply before the April 30th deadline.



Fleet Safety:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING MONTH

April would be a good time to break your addiction to using your cell phone while you are operating a vehicle. If you “honestly” never use your cell phone while driving, give yourself a pat on the back and move on to the next topic in this newsletter. If you use your phone “hands free”, don’t move on to the next article – this applies to you too. If you are driving and you are on the phone, you are distracted – period. Hands free might eliminate a physical distraction, but you are still cognitively distracted if you are driving while engaged in a phone conversation. If you don’t believe it, go to National Safety Council Distracted Driving website for facts that may change your mind.

Although you also should not eat, shave, apply makeup, read the paper, or referee children in back seat while driving, we will stick with cell phone use in this article. Many companies are taking distracted driving very seriously and are completely banning the use of cell phones while driving. Here are some tips from one large national company to help you with your addiction:

- Change your voice message on your cell phone to communicate that you are a cell free driver and not available to make or take calls while driving;
- Turn your phone off while driving on shorter trips that don’t necessitate you being “always available”. If you need to go totally cold turkey while you are weaning yourself off the phone, put it in the trunk of your car until you can avoid the temptation;
- If you have to be “always available”, then you have to learn some phone discipline. Don’t take that call – it can wait until you can get off the road and safely park and your new voice message will explain;
- If your company hasn’t banned cell phone use communicate to your colleagues that you are trying to form new safe driving habits, and come up with an alert system. – For example, “If you need me right now hang up and immediately call me back, and I will get off the road and call back”;
- On long trips plan rest stops into your travel every couple of hours to return calls and e-mails;
- If you are traveling with someone else take turns driving and return your calls and e-mails while in the passenger seat;
- Don’t accept invitations to Conference Calls at times when you know you will be driving;
- Research and install phone applications, or vehicle installed devices that turn off your phone when vehicle speeds above a specified limit – i.e. 10mph – are detected by GPS systems;
- Include your family in your “cell phone addiction recovery program”. If you have teen drivers, consider the applications and devices that disallow texting or cell use while driving.



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***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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www.aluca.org**

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