

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MAY 2018

Director's Comments:



This month marks the four year anniversary since I was offered and accepted the opportunity to follow Philip Lee as the next Executive Director of AUCA. Some days it is hard to believe that it has been that long, and gone by so fast. Many of the goals and objectives from my first day on the job in 2014 remain unchanged: Prompt Payment, Retainage, Sales Tax Reform, Infrastructure Funding, Workforce Development, an Improved One-Call Law, etc.

However, as Alabama Coach Nick Saban always stresses, our daily work is all part of "The Process." I'm grateful for those of you that were willing to take a chance on me in this role. I hope that you will all continue to remain as supportive as we work together to advance our causes. Our work is far from done, and as long as our world still keeps turning, and our elected officials remain in office, we'll have a reason to wake up and do it again tomorrow.

Speaking of politics, on June 5th, Alabama voters will go to the poles to vote in the statewide primary elections. You would have to be completely disconnected from the world not to have noticed all of the roadside signs, television, radio, and other mass media and social media advertisements.

However, as silly as this process can sometimes seem, the men and women that we elect will be the ones to help shape the laws and regulations that impact our industry, as well as our everyday lives. Therefore, your vote is critical. Please prioritize the time to go to the poles and exercise your civic duty to help make an difference.

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Tim



AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
Specification Rubber Products



Specification
 Rubber
 Products, Inc.

1568 1st Street North
 Alabaster, AL 35007
 Phone: (205) 663-2521
 Fax: (205) 663-1875

Specification Rubber Products began in 1968 as a manufacturer of molded rubber components for the waterworks industry, specializing in rubber gaskets. Today, our company is a primary supplier for ductile iron pipe, valve, and hydrant producers. We also offer specialty mechanical molded goods for industrial applications.



Our name is an accurate description of the products and services that we provide to our customers. We are custom molders of high quality, close tolerance, engineered rubber products not only for the waterworks industry but any industries that use gaskets when installing iron or any other material pipes. We have the technology, equipment, and experience in producing large parts that other molders avoid. The Polymers that we use to create our products include SBR, natural rubber, nitrile, EPDM, neoprene, silicone, and fluoroelastomer. We welcome the opportunity to recommend or to assist in formulating a rubber compound to meet your specific requirements and specifications.

Specification Rubber Products



1968-2018

www.specrubber.com

Rubber Molding Capabilities:

- Compression, injection, and transfer molding*
- Autoclave and ovens for post curing*
- Special compounding and formulation*
- Certifications, test reports, or test specimens*
- Over 50 presses with 24x24-inch to 84x84-inch platens*
- Parts up to and greater than 76 inches in diameter or length*
- Difficult, large parts are our specialty*
- Dual hardness parts*
- Rubber-to-metal bonding*
- Short run capability*
- Quality system ISO 9001 Registered*
- Three-shift operation*
- Experienced work force*
- Turnkey projects*
- Tool design and fabrication*
- UL, MIL, ASTM*
- ANSI/NSF certified compounds*

News & Notes:

2018 AUCA Scholarship Program:

- AUCA will announce the two (2) Scholarships award winners in June.
- Each scholarship is worth \$1,500, and the money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the winner's choice.
- We thank those students that took the time to submit an application for our inaugural scholarship program.

Upcoming Events:



Alabama Elections:

- June 5, 2018 Statewide Primary Election
- July 17, 2018 Statewide Primary Runoff Election
- November 6, 2018 Statewide General Election

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

**June 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
Montgomery, AL**

AUCA Local Lunch Meetings

Dates and Locations To Be Announced

AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

October 18, 2018

**Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL**



News & Notes:

Upcoming Job Fairs:

A Job Fair is a community sponsored, one day event that brings together a diverse group of employers actively looking for employees.

This provides a fantastic opportunity for you and your job search. It is the place where many employers from around the state and in your hometown area come together to tell you about their companies, introduce you to the jobs available at that particular time, and let you apply for those jobs on the spot. In some cases, employers conduct interviews at the job fair, too. If you find out that there's a job fair in your area, don't miss it! Each Job Fair is FREE and open to anyone looking for a job.

Second Chance Job Fair

When: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Bill Harris Arena - 2337 Bessemer Rd.
Birmingham, AL 35208

Tuscaloosa Job Fair

When: Thursday, June 7, 2018 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: McDonald Hughes Community Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Ft. Rucker Job Fair

When: Thursday, July 12, 2018 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Northview High School, 3209 Reeves Street
Dothan, AL 36303

**EMPLOYERS & JOBSEEKERS REGISTER AT
LABOR.ALABAMA.GOV/JOBFAIR**



Health & Safety:

Provided by www.oshatraining.com

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Working Safely Around Underground Utilities at Excavation Sites

[Reference 1926 Subpart P]

In the middle of the city, out in the suburbs, and perhaps even in the middle of nowhere, there is a pretty good chance that one or more utility line or other underground installation is buried beneath the surface. Striking a buried utility while excavating the soil can not only cause disruption of services to the general public, it could also result in someone getting seriously injured or killed. So today we will review some steps to help prevent striking underground utility installations at excavation sites.

- Never dig until after all underground utilities have been marked. We must first contact our state's One Call Notification Center, who will then notify *their members** to mark the approximate location of their buried utility lines at the excavation site (**Keep in mind that Alabama is one of only 3 states that does not require all underground facility owners to be members of the One Call program. As a result, some utility owners will have to be contacted directly before their lines can be located and work can safely begin*). The amount of lead time we must allow for the lines to be marked varies as dictated by state law (Visit <http://call811.com/811-your-state> to find your State law). But we must usually allow at least two to three working days, excluding holidays and weekend, and then we must confirm the utilities have been marked before we start to excavate. Paint, stakes, or flags of various colors will be placed to identify the approximate location of the utilities buried at the site.
- Locate any underground utilities that are present inside the "tolerance zone" by hand digging or utilizing other non-destructive digging measures approved by the Competent Person. The tolerance zone is the area along each side of each existing utility line that has been marked. The tolerance zone varies from state to state, but usually ranges from 18 to 24 inches from each side of the utility line (*18 inches is the tolerance zone in Alabama*). But in some States, believe it or not, the tolerance zone is as much as 30 to 36 inches from each side of the utility.
- Support exposed utility lines, if necessary, so they do not collapse under their own weight. This could require placing a heavy timber or pipe across the top of the trench, and then tying a rope from the timber or pipe to the utility line to support its weight.
- Ease up when you get near the underground utility when digging with hand tools. You want to

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Health & Safety:

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avoid damaging the utility line as you are digging, so slow and easy does it!

- Immediately report any damage you accidentally cause to a buried utility, no matter how minor, to your Supervisor or the Competent Person. The same applies to any damage you discover that was caused during previous excavation operations. Damage to a buried utility that goes unrepaired could worsen over time and cause the line to crack, corrode, or rupture.
- Use caution when back-filling near utility lines in excavations. Dumping a large load of backfill soil directly onto an unsupported utility line could cause it to break. So firmly backfill the area beneath the utility line with soil before placing and compacting soil over the top.

If you are ever in doubt about these or other important procedures you should follow while digging near buried utility lines or installations, ask your Supervisor or the Competent Person for help. Better safe than sorry!

Marking Color Code

For Marking Underground Utility Lines



White

Proposed excavation



Pink

Temporary survey markings



Red

Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables



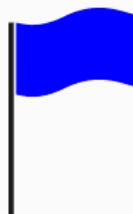
Yellow

Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials



Orange

Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit



Blue

Potable water



Purple

Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines



Green

Sewer and drain lines



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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

Uncertainty on “Mega-Infrastructure” Bill Continues

It has been previously reported that a \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill passed Congress and was signed by the President. The omnibus bill includes \$21.2 billion for infrastructure spending. Water related infrastructure spending identified in the measure includes the following:

- \$2.97 billion for EPA’s water infrastructure programs. Funding includes \$2.857 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water revolving funds, which are provided directly to the states for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. This is an increase of \$600 million above fiscal year 2017.
- The bill supports an estimated \$6 billion in new lending under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program (WIFIA) by utilizing \$63 million in appropriations to finance more than 100 times that amount to accelerate investments in water projects with national and regional significance.
- Funds new water programs authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WINN) Act to support testing for lead contamination in schools and child care centers (\$20 million), lead reduction projects in rural areas (\$20 million), and water projects in communities working to improve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (\$10 million).

In addition to getting out of the cycle of short term budgets, this action resolves FY18 water infrastructure spending with a meaningful increase for various programs. As the weeks go on, a significant bill covering all infrastructure programs appears unlikely. If niche funding bills proceed, it is likely that policy priorities (such as accelerating project review and approval timeframes) will be included therein.

President’s FY19 Budget: Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF’s

Contradicting his Administration’s purported priority on infrastructure, his budget proposal calls for backtracking on SRF funding from the FY18 levels. The figures total \$997M for the Clean Water SRF and \$863M for the Safe Drinking Water SRF totaling \$1.86 (a full \$1B less than FY17 levels). Congress is going through the appropriation process, having hearings and markups. Being that this is an election year, it seems unrealistic that Congress will pass all 12 Appropriation bills prior to the end of the fiscal year. Key Advocates has a proven record of lobbying Congress for substantial increases in the funding levels past what is included in the President’s budget proposal. They will be



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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hard at work on getting this figure at or above FY17 levels.

SRF WIN Bills

There remains bi-partisan co-sponsorship support for S. 2364 and H.R. 4902 (branded the "SRF WIN" bills). Generally, the bills--a new loan program--are intended to combine the "best aspects of the SRF's with the leveraging power of WIFIA." The Coalition should look favorably on this bill and the program opportunities it would offer to SRF programs nationwide.

WRDA Reauthorization

WRDA Reauthorization could create a niche opportunity to increase funding for some or all SRF Programs. To date, the House T&I Republicans are saying that the bill will be a traditional, straight-forward Corps of Engineers only bill. The T&I Democrats would like to include other items - for example, reauthorization of the Clean Water SRF and Alternative Water Source Program. Details on these bills are being tracked and should be making progress in the coming month.

WRDA 2016 authorized 30 new construction projects at a federal cost of more than \$10 billion, as well as dozens of studies identified through the new processes established in WRRDA 2014. Provisions in WRDA 2016 further altered how nonfederal project sponsors may participate in the financing of water infrastructure activities; other provisions changed authorities for crediting and reimbursing nonfederal entities for project-related expenditures. Many topics may shape deliberations on the current water resource reauthorizations, including the use of the two navigation trust funds, the operation of Corps dams for water supply and recreation, and civil works permissions and permits for high-profile public and private infrastructure projects. Three broad topics of relevance to deliberations on Corps and water resource projects are an infrastructure initiative, nonfederal expectations and partnerships, and floods and disasters.

CWCC Member Update on "WRDA" / Infrastructure Package

Sante Esposito recently met with House and Senate staff, Republicans and Democrats separately, of the House T&I and Senate EPW Committees to discuss their WRDA reauthorization efforts.

House Meetings on "WRDA"

Discussions with House staff centered on the Committee's recent markup of its version of WRDA reauthorization - H.R. 8, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2018." The bill is a "pure" Corps of

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Engineers bill - no extraneous matters. It was supported on a bipartisan basis in the Committee which is somewhat disappointing in that the hope was that the Democratic leadership of the Committee would have pushed/insisted/prevalled on the inclusion of other "water programs." That was not the case as evidenced by the fact that no Democrats offered any amendments along those lines. After markup, Rep staff said the Chairman is still committed to a Corps only bill and that other water issues could be the subject of an infrastructure bill. When asked what the Committee majority's position is on the Senate bill which is more than a Corps bill, staff said it was up to their Members to decide although they did point to what happened during the last reauthorization when the House held firm to a Corps only bill and the Senate caved in the end without getting any of its other issues - voluntary fee labeling, watersense, etc. Conversely, the Democratic staff said that their Members "like" many of the add-ons in the Senate bill and that conference will be "interesting."

Senate Meetings on "WRDA"

Discussions with Senate staff centered around EPW's recent version of WRDA reauthorization - S. 2809, "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018," included in the Manager's amendment (S. 2364/H.R. 4902, the "SRF WIN Act") with the following changes- the annual authorization level was reduced from \$200M to \$100M (and corresponding loan support totals); the duration of the new program reduced from 5 to 2 fiscal years; the \$7B per state cap deleted; and language regarding the funding relationship to the SRF's included. The first two changes were scorekeeping driven in that the higher authorization amount and additional fiscal years could not be supported by offsets. Overall, the EPW reported bill has strong Committee bipartisan support.

Infrastructure Package

Lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol made some news recently regarding infrastructure. In the House, sources familiar with the talks say Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) is gearing up to introduce infrastructure legislation this summer — before the August recess, or perhaps even before the July 4th break, per one source close to the chairman. Meanwhile, Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) said earlier in the day that members would be working on a "framework" of transportation infrastructure concepts to put forward later in the year. "We won't even start that process until after the August break, so if we do anything, it won't be until after the election," Graves told reporters. And ranking Democrat Peter DeFazio said that, while he and Shuster are "having some discussions," they are "talking about potential funding, even though it's not our jurisdiction. We haven't talked about policy yet."

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Takeaways

Coming off the heels of the CWCC member-led hill visits and "Infrastructure Week," the meetings Mr. Esposito arranged provided a great opportunity for the CWCC priorities to be reinforced. It is becoming clear that WRDA reauthorization is emerging as a real opportunity for progress to be made on water infrastructure priorities. Although the issue of SRF reauthorization levels (increasing from FY'18 levels) was raised by CWCC and others, absent from either version of WRDA is any meaningful discussion on that matter. So far, both sides have said that they could not "come together" on SRF reauthorization levels but pledged to continue discussions on the possibility of an Infrastructure bill.



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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