

## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**MAY 2021**

### **Director's Comments:**



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on May 13th that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. This appears to be the beginning steps of bringing our society back to some sense of social normalcy after what we've all endured for the past 15 months.

With this good news, AUCA intends to resume our regular in-person Industry Lunch Meetings later this summer in various locations throughout the state. In the meantime, we are hosting an upcoming "Zoom" Webinar on June 23rd on a topic that is extremely timely dealing with Cyber Risks, Ransomware Trends & Responses.

We had ironically already scheduled this Webinar prior to the recent Colonial Pipeline event due to current Cyber Crime trends that have impacted our industry. However, as the Colonial incident shows, no company is immune from these types of attacks, so we hope you'll make time to attend and learn how to best protect yourselves.

Also, on the note of negatively impacting our industry, we are well aware of what is currently happening regarding material price escalation and volatility. AUCA is planning to offer an additional Webinar at some point soon on this critical topic. Stay tuned for details.

I hope you all have a safe Memorial Day Weekend, and a great start to a hopefully "normal" summer season!

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*Tim*

*Upcoming Meetings & Events:*

***AUCA Board of Directors Meeting***

**Wednesday, June 9, 2021**

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***AUCA Webinar:***

***Cyber Risks, Ransomware Trends & Responses***

***Presented by Travelers Insurance***

**Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**(Contact AUCA Office to Register and Receive "Zoom" Link)**

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**September 28 - 30, 2021**

**Perdido Beach Resort - Orange Beach, AL**

**[www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com](http://www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com)**

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

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

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



## Alabama Legislative News:

Legislators convened in Montgomery on Monday, May 17th for the final time of the 2021 Alabama Legislative Session. An attempt to pass a constitutional amendment for a comprehensive lottery and gambling package was never brought up for a vote after negotiations between Democrats and Republicans collapsed. If passed, the constitutional amendment would not have gone on the ballot until November 2022. As a result, many lawmakers believe there is still ample time to pass gaming legislation either during the 2022 regular session, which starts in January, or in a potential special session later this year.

Before adjourning sine die, the General Fund Budget was passed, as well as a bill that would prevent businesses and schools from requiring patrons and students to receive the COVID vaccine. Governor Ivey has since signed these bills, as well as the bill that will allow Alabamians to use medical marijuana products for more than a dozen conditions and symptoms such as chronic pain, depression, seizures, muscle spasticity, and terminal illnesses. Alabama is now the 37th state to legalize medical marijuana.

Most expect that there will be at least one special session later this year to redraw legislative and congressional district lines based on the 2020 census. Gaming, and other critical issues such as the disbursement of federal relief funds and prison construction funding could also be included in the call. A special session is limited to 12 legislative days within 30 calendar days, called by the governor for a specific purpose set out in her proclamation. Any measures not included in her call requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

Despite looking much different from most years due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Legislative Session was still a success for AUCA. The passage of HB483 (now known as Act No. 2021-376) represents a key legislative victory, and helps restore the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board (AOWB) back to what it was originally intended to do when it was established by the Alabama Legislature in 1999.

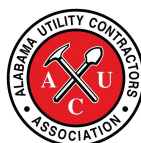
### **Bills of Interest Signed Into Law:**

#### **Act 2021-4 (SB30) - Coronavirus Immunity for Certain Entities**

*Relating to civil immunity; to provide legislative findings; to provide definitions; to provide civil immunity for certain entities and individuals from certain damages claimed by individuals who allege that they contracted or were exposed to Coronavirus during a declared state of emergency; to provide civil immunity for certain health care providers relating to the performance of certain health care services or treatment during the Coronavirus pandemic; to provide for a statute of limitations for certain claims; and to provide for retroactive effect.*

#### **Act 2021-57 (HB49) - Onsite Wastewater Board Sunset Law Review**

*Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Onsite Wastewater*



## Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 3)  
Board until October 1, 2023.

### **Act 2021-145 (SB252) - County Engineer for Elmore County**

*Relating to Elmore County; to amend Section 45-26-130 of the Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2019-90 and Act 2019-205 of the 2019 Regular Session, to further provide for the employment of the county engineer.*

### **Act 2021-194 (HB491) - Monroe County Highway Repair and Maintenance Fund**

*Relating to Monroe County; authorizing the county commission to levy an additional sales and use tax for a set period of time; providing for the collection, distribution, and use of the proceeds of the tax; to prescribe penalties and fixing punishment for violation of this act; to create the Monroe County Highway Repair and Maintenance Fund; and to require annual certification that the proceeds are used as directed by the act.*

### **Act 2021-199 (SB74) - Shelby County Privately Owned Sewer Systems**

*Relating to Shelby County, to propose a local constitutional amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating to privately owned sewer systems; to bring certain privately owned sewer systems that use public rights-of-way of public roads under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission under certain conditions.*

### **Act 2021-226 (HB408) - Employment**

*Relating to employment; to require an employer to use specified guidelines in order to determine whether a worker is engaged in employment for purposes of employment benefits and tax liabilities; to require a state agency, when applicable, to use those same specified guidelines to determine whether a worker is to be considered as an employee; and to provide exemptions for workers' compensation purposes.*

### **Act 2021-244 (SB220) - Indemnification Provisions in Certain Public Works Contracts**

*Relating to public works contracts for roads and bridges; to prohibit certain indemnification provisions in the contracts requiring a party to indemnify another party for damages caused by the conduct of the other party.*

### **Act 2021-273 (SB58) - Underground Damage Prevention Fund**

*Relating to underground utilities; to amend Section 37-15-10, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2019-407 of the 2019 Regular Session, and Section 2 of Act 2019-407 of the 2019 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 37-15-10.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to establish the Underground Damage Prevention Fund in the State Treasury and to further provide for the terms of members of the authority; and to provide for the deposit of monies into that fund.*

### **Act 2021-279 (SB336) - Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission**

*Relating to Tuscaloosa County; amending Sections 11 and 11A of Act 56 of the 1953 Regular Session (Acts 1953, p. 76), as amended by Act 94-535 of the 1994 Regular Session (Acts 1994, p. 976), Act 94-554, 1994 Regular Session (Acts 1994, p. 1010), and Act 2015-202 of the 2015 Regular Session (Acts 2015, p. 596), which authorized the levy and collection of sales and use taxes in the county; to make further provision for the duties and operation of the Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission and the commitment by the commission of tax proceeds.*

### **Act 2021-318 (SB261) - Indemnification in Contracts for the Professional Services of Design Professionals**

*Relating to professions and businesses; to provide certain prohibitions, authorizations, and requirements for contracts for the professional services of a design professional.*

### **Act 2021-336 (HB446) - Utility Energy Services**

*Relating to utility energy services; to prohibit governmental entities from adopting or enforcing any policy that prohibits*



## Alabama Legislative News:

*(Continued from page 4)*

*the provision or purchase of any utility energy service and related connections or reconnections based upon the type or source of utility energy service or fuel; and to provide for an exception.*

### **Act 2021-347 (SB49) - Sewer Laterals**

*Relating to sewer laterals; to authorize a county, municipality, or authority incorporated under Title 11, Code of Alabama 1975, to transfer or use public funds for the repair or replacement of private sewer laterals; and to provide a method by which a county, municipality, or authority transferring or using public funds to repair or replace sewer laterals may recover those public funds.*

### **Act 2021-372 (HB340) - Sales & Use Tax Exemption Certificates**

*To amend Section 40-9-14.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to certificates of exemption from sales and use tax for governmental entities and their contractors for the purchase of construction materials for use on construction projects for the governmental entities; to include any contract for the construction of highways, roads, or bridges entered into after January 1, 2022, in the contracts required to be granted a certificate of exemption by the Department of Revenue for the purchase of construction materials to become a part of the project.*

### **Act 2021-376 (HB483) - Privately Owned Wastewater Systems Exempt from Regulation by AOWB**

*Under existing law, the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board is responsible for examining, licensing, and regulating persons engaged in the manufacture, installation, or servicing of onsite sewage systems in the state. This bill would specifically exempt privately owned wastewater systems from regulation by the board.*

### **Act 2021-398 (SB373) - Unemployment Insurance Program Integrity Act of 2021**

*Relating to the Alabama Department of Labor; to require the adoption of policies to recover improper overpayments of unemployment benefits.*

### **Act 2021-408 (HB463) - Joint Road Improvement Authorities**

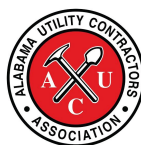
*Providing for the creation of joint road improvement authorities for counties and participating municipalities; providing a procedure for incorporation; providing for the qualifications, procedure for election, and terms of the officers and directors of an authority; providing for the procedure for reincorporating and ratifying the existence of previously created road improvement commissions in counties containing a Class 4 municipality incorporated under Chapter 44B of Title 11, Code of Alabama 1975; providing for the issuance, sale, and execution of bonds; providing for the disposition of proceeds from sale of bonds and refunding bonds; providing for the making of grants and the amendment of articles; providing for powers of an authority; providing for certain exemptions from taxation; providing for limited liability; providing a procedure for validating bond issues; authorizing other governmental bodies to appropriate funds and donate property to an authority; providing for the dissolution of authorities and transfer of funds and assets upon dissolution; allowing municipalities, counties, the state, the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama, the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama, the State Insurance Fund, and fiduciaries to invest in bonds issued by an authority; and authorizing bonds to be pledged as security.*

### **Act 2021-439 (SB109) - Competitive Bid Laws**

*To amend Section 39-2-6, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to competitive bidding on state public works contracts; to allow a local board of education or a public two-year or four-year institution of higher education authority to negotiate with the lowest responsible and responsive bidder under certain specified circumstances.*

### **Act 2021-465 (SB215) - Alabama Digital Expansion Authority**

*Relating to broadband; to create the Alabama Digital Expansion Authority; to provide for the membership and duties of*



## Alabama Legislative News:

*(Continued from page 5)*

*the authority; to provide for the appointment of a director and employees of the authority; to create the Connect Alabama Fund for the deposit of appropriations, gifts, grants, and other funds; to create the Connect Alabama Advisory Board; to provide that the authority is exempt from competitive bid laws; to require certain reports to the Legislature and the public; to provide general rulemaking authority; and to create the Alabama University Research Alliance; to provide for its members and duties; to create the Alabama Digital Finance Corporation; and to provide for its members and duties.*

### **Act 2021-476 (HB220) - Division of Construction Management Educational Institution Exemption**

*Relating to state property; to amend Sections 41-4-400 and 41-4-353, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the authority of the Division of Construction Management; and to provide that the Department of Education has authority to manage the construction and renovation of state property that is part of a K-12 public school, and the governing board of each public postsecondary institution and public institution of higher education has authority to manage the construction and renovation of property as it relates to that institution.*

### **Act 2021-482 (SB4) - Construction Zone Traffic Violations**

*Relating to the rules of the road; to amend Section 32-5A-176.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide further for construction zone speed violations to include moving violations; to further provide criminal penalties; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Compilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.*

### **Act 2021-486 (HB501) - Occupational Licensing Boards**

*Relating to occupational licensing boards; to add Section 41-9A-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to establish a waiver process for the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors, the State of Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board, the Home Builders Licensure Board, the State Licensing Board for General Contractors, and the Board of Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors to use for allowing an employing entity, and its employed licensees, to continue operations on a temporary basis after the incapacity of the designated qualifying representative, license holder, or certificate holder.*

## **Bills of Interest that Failed:**

### **HB127 - State Transportation Commission**

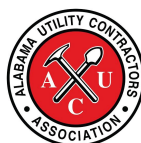
*Relating to the Department of Transportation; to establish the State Transportation Commission; to provide for the members, duties, responsibilities, and compensation and expenses of the commission; to prohibit a person serving on the State Transportation Commission from benefiting by entering employment with or contracting with companies that do business with the Department of Transportation while he or she serves on the Commission or for a period of two years thereafter; to provide for the appointment and duties of the Director of the Department of Transportation; and for this purpose to amend Sections 23-1-21 and 23-1-21.2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the appointment and authority of the Director of the Department of Transportation.*

### **HB146 - Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

*Relating to construction of wastewater treatment facilities; to amend Section 22-34-11, Code of Alabama 1975; to extend the loan payback period for a loan by the Alabama Water Pollution Control Authority to a local governing body to finance construction expenses of a wastewater treatment facility in certain circumstances.*

### **HB318 - Onsite Wastewater Board Administrative Fine Increases**

*To amend Sections 34-21A-6 and 34-21A-25, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board;*



## Alabama Legislative News:

*(Continued from page 6)*

*to delete the requirement that the board transfer certain funds to the State General Fund at the end of each fiscal year; to increase the maximum fine allowed for violations from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per violation; to authorize the board to recover actual court costs sustained as the result of a violation; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose of effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.*

### **HB384/SB224 - Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors**

*To amend Sections 34-36-3, 34-36-4, 34-36-6, 34-36-7, 34-36-8, 34-36-9, 34-36-13, and 34-36-16, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors; to provide further for definitions, to delete references to master electrician; to provide further for the election of board officers; to provide further for the duties of the board, including the subpoena of witnesses, the investigation of complaints, and providing for reciprocity; to provide an individual previously issued a provisional license three years to take the licensure examination, and require the board to waive the examination fee for one sitting; to lessen the time frame for restoring an expired license from five years to two years; to provide further for exemptions; to remove the authority of a county or municipality to require an additional electrical contracting proficiency examination before issuing a local license to work within the county or municipality; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.*

### **HB398 - State General Fund Transfers From Licensing Boards**

*To amend Sections 34-8-25, 34-21A-6, 34-27B-6, and 34-36-17, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the funds of the State Licensing Board for General Contractors, the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board, the Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy, and the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors; to remove the requirement that monies in those funds annually transfer to the State General Fund.*

### **HB461 - State Minimum Wage**

*Relating to employment wages; to require employers to pay employees a minimum wage of \$10 per hour or the federal minimum wage, whichever is higher.*

### **HB524 - Preference in Public Works Contracts**

*Relating to the award of public works contracts; to amend Section 39-2-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize certain local awarding authorities to give preference to responsible bidders having a place of business within a local preference zone; and to authorize certain local awarding authorities to give preference to certain categories of responsible bidders under certain conditions.*

### **HB587 - Professional Design Indemnification**

*Relating to professions and businesses; to provide certain prohibitions, authorizations, and requirements for contracts for the professional services of a design professional.*

### **HB593 - Sewer Laterals**

*Relating to sewer laterals; to authorize a county, municipality, or authority incorporated under Title 11, Code of Alabama 1975, to use public funds to repair or replace private sewer laterals; to provide a method by which a county, municipality, or authority using public funds to repair or replace sewer laterals may recover those public funds; and to require a county, municipality, or authority repairing or replacing a private sewer lateral to restore property to its original condition following the repair or replacement of the private sewer lateral.*



## Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 7)

### **SB208 - Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board**

*Relating to the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board; to repeal Chapter 37, Title 34, Code of Alabama 1975, and replace that chapter with Chapter 37A, Title 34, Code of Alabama 1975; to transfer and update the law relating to the board and its operations; to reorganize and simplify definitions; to require the registration of a principal master for one entity at a time; to authorize the board to require continuing education for certificate renewal; to authorize the board to issue emergency certificates during a declared state of emergency; to provide transitional language; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.*

### **SB248 - Civil Liability for Contractors**

*Relating to civil liability; to amend Sections 6-5-701, 6-5-702, and 6-5-703, Code of Alabama 1975; to eliminate certain conditions under which a contractor who performs work on a road, bridge, or street may not be granted civil immunity.*

### **SB281/HB556 - Gasoline and Motor Fuel Taxes for Road & Bridge Construction**

*Under existing law, gasoline and other motor fuel taxes levied by the state are restricted in use. Motor fuel taxes levied by municipalities and counties are not restricted in use. This bill would require a municipal or county that levies a motor fuel tax to use the proceeds for road and bridge construction and maintenance with certain exceptions.*



## News & Notes:

### **AUCA Scholarship Program:**

AUCA sincerely appreciates all the students that took the time to apply for the 2021 Scholarship Program. The selection of the winners will be finalized at the upcoming AUCA Board of Directors Meeting on June 9th.

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### **Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA) - Large Project Committee:**

The ADPA Large Project Committee held a meeting on Monday, May 10th. The group has reviewed other state laws and obtained feedback from those working in the field relative to large projects. Two key elements that continue to surface as the most important are communication and a project schedule/length/definition.



There has been continued discussion on how best to define a "project". Alabama 811 conducted an analysis of locate requests data and found that there seems to be a separation between "large scope" requests and "large project" requests. USIC has provided data on what a locator can typically mark within a given timeframe. Currently the task team is looking at how to document working agreements as outlined in state law and how to designate what should be considered as a project.

The Alabama Utility Contractors Association was recognized for having several members participate on the Large Project Committee to ensure the excavator perspective is part of the equation, in addition to the concerns of the facility owner and locator.

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### **COVID-19 Update:**

Governor Kay Ivey issued her twenty-sixth supplemental emergency proclamation transitioning the state from an amended Safer at Home Order to a new Safer Apart Order, the third phase of COVID-19 pandemic health orders. Masks will no longer be mandated statewide, but individuals are strongly encouraged to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people. This order will end Monday, May 31, 2021, and the state of emergency will end Tuesday, July 6, 2021



## News & Notes:

### **Governor Ivey Announces End of Participation in All Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Programs:**

Governor Kay Ivey announced that Alabama will end its participation in all federally funded pandemic unemployment compensation programs effective June 19, 2021 including:

- I. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), which provides for an additional \$300 weekly payment to recipients of unemployment compensation.
- II. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides benefits for those who would not usually qualify, such as the self-employed, gig workers, and part-time workers,
- III. Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provides for an extension of benefits once regular benefits have been exhausted, and
- IV. Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC), which provides an additional \$100 benefit to certain people with mixed earnings.

Any weeks filed prior to and up to June 19 and are eligible under any of the federal program requirements will continue to be processed under these programs.

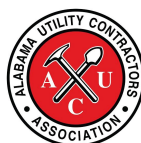
The Alabama Department of Labor (ADOL) has reinstated the work search requirement for all claimants, which was temporarily waived during the height of the pandemic. This requires all claimants to actively search for work to remain eligible for unemployment benefits.

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### **Sales and Use Tax Audit Issues:**

AUCA has recently been made aware of concerns regarding the Alabama Department of Revenue's interpretation of the Sales and Use Tax Exemption for sanitary sewer products under the Air and Water Pollution Control Exemption. While undergoing a Sales Tax Audit from the ADOR, some companies are being told that sanitary sewer products may not be exempt from sales tax.

AUCA will be discussing this critical topic in greater detail at the upcoming June 9th Board of Directors Meeting, and also plans to schedule a meeting with the Department of Revenue to help resolve this issue. In the interim, if you or your company have any questions or concerns on this matter, please contact the AUCA office.



## News & Notes:

### **Equipment Operator Training Program:**

With our industry in dire need of workers, below is some information on an upcoming Construction Equipment Operator Class hosted by Northeast Alabama Community College. The class will be taught by AUCA member John Paul Lambert from Lambert Inc. For more information contact Kerry Wright at 256-228-6001 ext. 2217 or by email at [wrightk@nacc.edu](mailto:wrightk@nacc.edu).

### ***Northeast Alabama Community College***

#### **Construction Equipment Operator Training**



Have you ever wanted to learn how to operate heavy equipment? If so, register for the Construction Equipment Operator Class at Northeast Alabama Community College. Learn to operate an excavator or a bulldozer through hands on instruction and earn college credit while doing so. This intensive training course will run June 21-25 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

For more information contact Kerry Wright at 256-228-6001 ext. 2217 or by email at [wrightk@nacc.edu](mailto:wrightk@nacc.edu).



## News & Notes:

### June is Trench Safety Month:

June 2021 has been declared "Trench Safety Month" by the National Utility Contractors Association. This declaration of safety further highlights the association's innovative educational and safety program, the "Trench Safety Stand Down" week, that will held June 14 - 18, 2021.

# 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



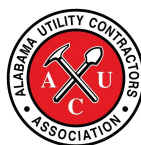
U.S. Department of Labor



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Production - NAXSA

OSHA 3215-08R 2018

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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 Dan Kennedy - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

**May 3, 2021**

### **US SENATE PASSES DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER ACT OF 2021**

On April 29th, by a vote of 89-2, the United States Senate passed the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 (DWWIA) sponsored by Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois.

DWWIA would reauthorize the critical programs supported by the CWCC. Specifically, the bill would:

- Reauthorize the CWSRF at increased levels--growing the program to \$3.25 billion annually over five years for a total of \$14.65 billion.
- Reauthorize the DWSRF, which expires at the end of 2021--growing the program to \$3.25 billion annually for a total of \$14.65 billion.
- Each SRF would receive escalating funding on the following schedule: \$2,400,000,000 for FY2022; \$2,750,000,000 for FY2023; \$3,000,000,000 for FY2024; \$3,250,000,000 for both FY2025 and FY2026.

Although these funding levels are less than the House proposal and the proposal floated by President Biden (currently the two programs have combined averaged about \$2.5 billion annually) If DWWIA were to become law, in the first year alone the SRF programs would see a 92% increase over prior years.

DWWIA also authorizes \$710 million to address the public health crisis of lead contamination in drinking water, including:

- \$100 million annually to the Lead Reduction Grant program
- \$35 million annually for the emergency fund at EPA that can be used to address public health emergencies caused by lead in drinking water
- Expands the Small and Disadvantaged Community Grant Program to allow grant funds to be used for the purchase of filters and filtration systems

Passage of the DWWIA represents a significant increase over previous reauthorizations, but falls short of the massive investment called for by the House of Representatives and President Biden's American Jobs Plan, which each dedicated upwards of \$100 billion. It is unclear at this time how Congress will bridge the gap between plans, but one thing is clear: CWCC members stand to gain substantially from the passage of either of these proposals.

## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

(Continued from page 14)

### **JOIN THE PUSH FOR FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

CWCC leadership will be participating in several national events in the coming weeks to push for our PRIORITIES. Just a reminder for you to take the time to set up meetings with your home state delegations to ensure your representatives in DC understand the priorities from the CWCC perspective. A push on your chosen social media platform(s) is also encouraged. There is a lot of buzz right now around infrastructure with water finally being considered a federal priority for the first time in a generation.

CWCC sponsored and participated in "Water Week" in several virtual events between April 25th - May 1st. This series of virtual events and targeted communications was organized by a group of national partners including the CWCC. This broader water sector approach helps us push our priorities as others push for the same and more--addressing water affordability and making our critical infrastructure more resilient. The pandemic has underscored the critical role the water sector plays in ensuring the health and well-being of all communities. 2021 will be a critical year for engaging with federal policymakers to advance this message.

UTCA of NJ and other CWCC members will also be participating in the virtual ARTBA Federal Issues Program & TCC Fly-In on May 18th-20th. This will feature discussions on infrastructure funding, workforce, and economics with ARTBA senior leaders, industry executives, members of Congress and their staffs, and Biden administration officials. CWCC members that participate in this event should pay particular attention to conversations about the broader infrastructure package and avoid any concessions that disadvantage water infrastructure.

For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week—a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. This year's celebration will be May 2-8, 2021.

A broader "Infrastructure Week" is taking place on May 10th-14th sponsored by United for Infrastructure, with key partners in the engineering and broader business community at the table. CWCC will be participating in some of those events and you are welcome to join.



## *Fleet Safety:*

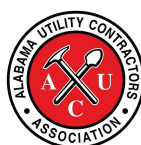
*Provided by J. Smith Lanier & Co., a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC company*

### Memorial Day Weekend

Memorial Day weekend officially kicks off the start of the summer driving season. This year, AAA anticipates over 37,000,000 Americans will take to the highways. Unfortunately, the National Coalition for Safer Roads states that Memorial Day is the most dangerous holiday to drive. Here are some holiday safe driving tips.

- If you are not making a road trip, avoid local travel on the interstate
- Fill your tank before the holiday to avoid the normal spike in gas prices
- Check fluid levels for brakes, power steering, coolant and windshield wipers
- Inspect windshield wipers for wear and check air pressure in tires
- Check belts and hoses for wear, cracks and leaks
- Pack an emergency kit containing jumper cables, flashlight, first aid kit, basic tools, cell phone charger, extra water and non-perishable food
- Plan your holiday travel route in advance, and monitor road conditions during the drive to help avoid accidents and back-ups
- Stop every 2-3 hours to rest and stretch the legs
- Don't drive fatigued or impaired
- Drive defensively and avoid distractions such as cell phones

Everyone wants to enjoy Memorial Day trips and summer vacations. However, a little preparation and patience will help keep you and your family safe.



## A Solution For Employers

### Contractors Retirement Plan *Features:*

#### Employer

- No cost to employer, no TPA or audit fees
- Fiduciary relief from most 401k liabilities
- Powerful recruiting and retention tool
- Association leadership oversees the plan operation

#### Employee

- Reduced "group" costs on investments
- High focus on *Retirement Readiness*
- Easy enrolling, daily investment changes
- Call center is both live and 24/7 voice response
- Brand name, diverse investment options

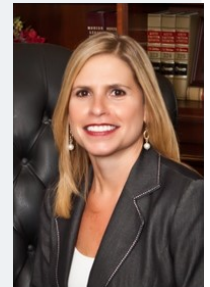
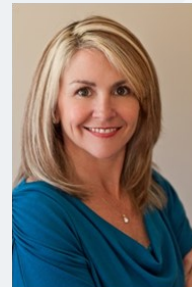
#### Plan administrator

- We track eligibility and mail enrollment kits to home address
- Participants call vendor for all issues
- New compliance process eliminates costly errors
- Arduous paper notices mailed by vendor
- Loans, hardship, etc., all handled by vendor!



For more information please contact  
**Linda Smith and Jodi McMahon at  
205-536-9204**

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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

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