

MARCH NEWSLETTER



NUCA
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

BUILDING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
FROM THE GROUND DOWN





NUCA National Convention @ Orlando—March 18th-21st

NUCA FL Legislative Days—March 31st-April 2nd

NUCA SWFL Member Social—April t.b.a.

NUCA FL ASJMSF Bass Fishing Tournament—May 1st—3rd

NUCA SWFL Fishing Tournament @ Tween Waters —May 2nd & 3rd

NUCA SWFL Membership Meeting—May/June t.b.a.

NUCA National Washington Summit—May 13th & 14th

NUCA SWFL Trade Show—June 19th (tentative)

NUCA SWFL Scholarship Awards—July 2025 t.b.a.

NUCA FL Annual Conference @ Ocean Reef, Key Largo—July 16th—July

19th NUCA FL President's Cup @ Longboat Key-September 19th & 20th

NUCA SWFL Scholarship Golf Tournament—October 17th

NUCA SWFL Membership Meeting—November t.b.a.

NUCA SWFL Clay Shoot—December 5th

NUCA SWFL Holiday Social—December 11th

"Building Southwest Florida from the Ground Down"

NUCA
REPRESENTING UTILITY & EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



SPRING CLAY SHOOT

2025



Spring Clay Shoot Winners

1st Place
South Florida Lift Stations

2nd Place
Quality Precast Solutions



Top Shooter
Brett Eckenrode
Southwest Utility Systems

Conservationist
Heath Draper
Linder Industrial Machinery
Company









Thank you Volunteers!

Russell Tripp - Rinker Materials

Brian Colson - Atlantic Pipe Services

Bobby Tyler - Compass Realty- The Darda Group

Taryn Vaughn

Krystal Hunt-Branch

NUCA

REPRESENTING UTILITY & EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

2nd Annual Spring Clay Shoot Sponsors 2025





OSHA Safety Cornerstones

First Quarter 2025

Reminder: OSHA Electronic Reports Are Due March 2

Each year, OSHA requires certain employers to electronically submit information from their [OSHA 300A](#) forms. Applicable employers must submit their reports using OSHA's [Injury Tracking Application \(ITA\)](#).

Important Dates

- Applicable employers must complete and display their OSHA 300A forms in the workplace by Feb. 1. These forms must remain on display until April 1.
- Employers subject to OSHA's electronic reporting requirement must submit their reports using the ITA by March 2.

Applicable Employers

Affected establishments include:

- Establishments with 250 or more employees if they are already required to create and maintain OSHA records.
- Establishments with between 20 and 249 employees that belong to a [high-risk industry](#).

OSHA or the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics may require otherwise exempt establishments to submit these reports on a special, case-by-case basis. OSHA will collect information on injuries and illnesses to identify emerging hazards, characterize specific areas of concern, or target inspection and outreach initiatives under OSHA's emphasis program.

Submission Expansion Rule

OSHA now requires certain employers in designated high-hazard industries to electronically submit injury and illness information that they are already required to keep. The following submission requirements apply:

- Establishments with 100 or more employees in certain high-hazard industries must electronically submit information from their OSHA 300 and 301 forms once a year. These submissions are in addition to the submission of their OSHA 300A forms.
- Establishments are required to include their legal company name when making electronic submissions to OSHA from their injury and illness records in order to improve data quality.

Establishment Size

Coverage under the electronic reporting rule applies to establishments, not employers. An employer may have several worksites or establishments. In these situations, some establishments may be affected while others are not.

To determine whether an establishment is affected, employers must determine each establishment's peak employment during the calendar year and count every individual who worked at that establishment, regardless of whether they worked full-time, part-time, or was a temporary or seasonal worker. A firm with more than one establishment may submit establishment-specific data for multiple establishments.

Contact us today for more OSHA compliance resources.



OSHA Adjusts Civil Penalty Amounts for 2025

An employer receives a written citation upon violating OSHA standards or regulations. The citation generally describes the particular nature of the violation and includes a reference to the provision of the chapter, standard, rule, regulation or order the employer violated. In addition, the citation provides a reasonable amount of time for the employer to correct the problem.

After receiving a citation, an employer must post a copy of it at or near the place where the violation occurred. The notice must remain on display for three days or until the violation is corrected, whichever is longer. When the violation does not pose a direct or immediate threat to safety or health, also known as a de minimis violation, OSHA may issue a notice or warning instead of a citation. On the other hand, a more serious violation may come with a monetary penalty and, in some cases, a prison sentence.

Current legislation allows the maximum penalty amounts for OSHA violations to be adjusted yearly to account for the cost of inflation, as shown by the consumer price index. If OSHA plans to adjust penalty amounts, it must signal its intention by Jan. 15 of each year.

Penalties for OSHA violations may be determined based on the gravity of the violation and the employer's size, history of previous violations and ability to show a good-faith effort to comply with OSHA requirements. As an additional guideline, maximum penalty amounts for different types of OSHA violations are in place. These amounts are adjusted annually.

Current Penalties

Here is a list of violations employers may receive citations for and a range of corresponding penalties for these citations, adjusted for 2025:

- **De minimis violation**—Warning
- **Other-than-serious violation**—Up to \$16,550 per violation
- **Serious violation** (a violation where there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical

harm could result from an employer's practice, method, operation or process)—Up to \$16,550 per violation

- **Willful violation** (a violation that is committed intentionally and knowingly)—Between \$11,823 and \$165,514 per violation
- **Repeated violation** (a violation that is substantially similar to a violation that was already present in a previous citation)—Up to \$165,514 per violation
- **Willful violation resulting in death of employee**—Up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months with penalties potentially doubling for a second or higher conviction
- **Unabated violation**—Up to \$16,550 per day until the violation is corrected
- **False statements, representations or certifications**—Up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months
- **Violation of posting requirements**—Up to \$16,550 per violation
- **Unauthorized advance notice of inspection**—Up to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to six months or both

Next Steps

Employers should become familiar with these adjusted penalty amounts and review their workplace safety policies and procedures to ensure compliance with applicable requirements, thus minimizing the likelihood of OSHA violations and related consequences.

Contact us today for additional OSHA updates and occupational safety guidance.



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**NUCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S
ANNUAL FISHING
TOURNAMENT
2025**

REGISTER BY MARCH 31ST

AND RECEIVE A FISHING

SHIRT FOR ALL ATTENDEES!

**ASK ABOUT BECOMING A
SPONSOR!**

INSHORE AND OFFSHORE TOURNAMENT

DATE: MAY 2ND - 3RD

**LOCATION: TWEEN WATERS ISLAND
RESORT AND SPA - CAPTIVA, FL.**

ANGLERS - \$330/EACH

JR. ANGLERS - \$60/EACH

CALCUTTA - \$50/EACH

GUESTS - ADULT \$225 / CHILD \$30

OR \$175 - SINGLE NIGHT GUEST

BOAT SLIP RESERVATIONS, CONTACT

CAILYN FINN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

239-939-1952 OR

NUCASWFL@GMAIL.COM



**WELCOME
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Dewatering Equipment, Pumps,,
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FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget totals \$115.6 billion, more than \$3 billion lower than the current year's budget, and continues the Governor's commitment to fiscal responsibility. Of the total \$115.6 billion, the General Revenue portion is \$50.2 billion, a \$383.4 million increase over the current Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Revenue budget. Florida's total reserves are \$14.6 billion, over 12.5 percent of the total budget for the fiscal year, which leaves ample resources for unforeseen circumstances.

EDUCATION

- \$1.5** BILLION in funding that must be used to provide salary increases for eligible teachers and other instructional personnel.
- \$1.76** BILLION in funding for early child education, including a total of \$465.8 million for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) initiatives.
- \$29.7** BILLION in funding for the K-12 public school system.
- \$1.7** BILLION in state operating funding for the Florida College System.
- \$3.9** BILLION in state operating funding for the State University System.
- \$130** MILLION in total funding to reward quality nursing education programs to address nursing vacancies.
- \$100** MILLION for the State University System for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty.

TRANSPORTATION

- \$14.8** BILLION for the Department of Transportation (FDOT).
- \$13.8** BILLION of which is for the state transportation work program.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- \$505** MILLION for illegal immigration enforcement.
- \$1.24** BILLION for disaster response and recovery and mitigation efforts against future disasters.
- \$589** MILLION for the My Safe Florida Home Grant Program to continue assisting Florida Homeowners with free inspections and cost-sharing home-hardening projects.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & MILITARY

- \$100** MILLION to give substantial pay raises to our state law enforcement officers.
- \$23** MILLION for the fourth year of the Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program.
- \$10** MILLION to continue the important work of the Florida State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) Program.
- \$62** MILLION to continue equipping, training, and recruiting new Florida State Guard members.
- \$190** MILLION to support National Guard facilities, guardsmen seeking higher ed degrees, recruitment and retention bonuses, and health insurance premium reimbursements.

TAX RELIEF FOR FLORIDA FAMILIES

- \$2.2** BILLION in tax relief focusing on permanently repealing the business rent tax, creating a new venture tax credit program, renewing four traditional sales tax holidays, and providing additional tax holidays.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$75** MILLION to replenish the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.
- \$80** MILLION for marketing through VISIT FLORIDA.
- \$91.9** MILLION for Small County infrastructure.
- \$500** MILLION Again, fully funding the workforce housing program, which includes continued support of Hometown Heroes.

HEALTH CARE

- \$15.3** MILLION to support capital improvements for the State Veterans' Nursing Homes.
- \$266** MILLION for historic cancer research, including \$132.5 million for the Casey DeSantis Research Program to fund competitive grants and \$30 million for a new Cancer Collaborative Incubator.
- \$114.2** MILLION to support the child welfare system, support for foster parents and caregivers, and community-based services.
- \$151** MILLION for behavioral health services, including preadmission diversion and discharge services.
- \$10.6** MILLION to enhance the Extended Foster Care Program for young adults 18 to 21 to provide financial assistance and resources.
- \$93.7** MILLION to support individuals with unique abilities.
- \$21** MILLION to increase services through the Community Care for the Elderly Program and the Home Care for the Elderly Program. This includes \$6 million to expand the number of seniors served through the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative.
- \$31.8** MILLION to sustain and expand the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network across the state.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

- \$1.5** BILLION for Everglades and water quality projects.
- \$361** MILLION to strengthen Florida's world class coastline, including \$100 million for beach nourishment.
- \$20** MILLION to support the Citrus Industry. This includes \$15 million for research and \$5 million for advertising.

With this recommended budget, Florida will reduce the size of state government and realign resources to focus on fiscal responsibility. This proposed budget also commits an additional \$830 million to the debt reduction program, which will result in a projected 48.7% of the state's total tax-supported debt being paid off since Governor Ron DeSantis took office.

ONLY WEEKS AWAY!

LEGISLATIVE DAYS

2025



Support our Advocacy efforts & sponsor NUCA FL's 2025 Legislative Days.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Platinum.. | \$2500 |
| Diamond... | \$2000 |
| Gold . . | \$1500 |
| Silver..... | \$1000 |
| Bronze..... | \$500 |
| Copper..... | \$250 |
| Advocacy Friend | \$150 |

The 2025 Legislative Session kicks off this next year on March 4th. NUCA of Florida is hosting Legislative Days April 1 - 2, 2025, at A/C Marriott. On April 1st, attendees will gather for a Breakfast Legislative Briefing from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Members will then “walk the halls” and meet one-on-one with legislators at the Capitol. Industry-specific bills covering fire suppression, development, construction practices, crane regulations, & licensure are all on the table. In the evening, we'll gather with lawmakers for a cocktail reception. On April 2nd, the Executive Committee begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Board of Directors convenes at 10:30 a.m. Join us in Tallahassee to advocate for the underground utility industry!

[TO REGISTER & SPONSOR](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

[TO BOOK HOTEL STAY](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)



"Building Southwest Florida From The Ground Down"

Scholarship Applications

Furthering education is a subject that NUCA of Southwest Florida, NUCA of Florida and Construction Angels can proudly stand behind by offering scholarships to individuals who strive to pursue a higher level of knowledge within their desired field.

These opportunities are available to members of NUCA of Southwest Florida, and their immediate family members such as a spouse or child.

NUCA of Southwest Florida, NUCA of Florida and Construction Angels will have applications available for ~~technical or trade school students, high school students, and college undergraduates~~. Applications will be available this May.

Please check our website in May @ NUCASWFL.com or contact us via email @ nucaswfl@gmail.com

Thank you to our Members for their support in contributing to this incredible advancement in all areas of education!

NUCA of SWFL

MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION



Membership Certificate issued to:

Advanced Drainage Systems

On behalf of the NUCA of Southwest Florida Board of Directors, it is our honor to recognize Advanced Drainage Systems as a valued member since 2015. Thank you for your unwavering support and significant contributions to the only Association dedicated to representing the

Underground Utility and Excavation Industries.

"Building Southwest Florida From The Ground Down"

NUCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

A.M.O.T

2-DAY TRAINING COURSE

AND

REFRESHER

1-DAY TRAINING COURSE

A.M.O.T. REFRESHER JULY 9

A.M.O.T. JULY 10-11 (Friday and Saturday!)

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

***Light Breakfast and Lunch Included**

Southwest Florida Safety Council

1714 Evans Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Two Crucial Days In Washington, D.C.

NUCA achieved an important advocacy victory across two crucial days in Washington, D.C.

Representing our members' most important issues, the NUCA Government Affairs Working Group Committee held a fly-in and met with four critical House committees, two Senate committees, and nine Representatives and Senators. NUCA hammered home the message of increased infrastructure resources, decreased regulation and permitting, and secured new relationships to work with Congress to get the job done.

"It was important for NUCA to be in Washington this month," said Kevin Cripps, NUCA's Vice Chairman and incoming Chairman of the Board. "Meeting with the freshmen Senators and Representatives as our group did in their first weeks of office greatly helps to establish our industry's growing presence in the halls of Congress."

Our department's "Winter Fly-In" special edition of Capital Insider tells the story about what our members and volunteer leadership accomplished on your behalf in the new Washington political environment.

The NUCA Government Affairs Committee Working Group "Winter Fly-In" included NUCA National executive leaders, lobbying staff, Board of Directors, and contractor and supplier members. The Group is always looking for motivated NUCA members to join and participate in this year's future fly-ins and Washington Summit. Will you be there?



Leadership and Committees

This fly-in event was designed to talk to key leadership legislators, House leadership, and committee staff. For example, NUCA contractors and Working Group members met with House Pipeline subcommittee staff, House Water Infrastructure subcommittee staff, Senate HELP Committee staff, and House Energy & Commerce subcommittee staff.

"Meeting with these key staffers is critical to the legislative process," said Zack Perconti, NUCA's vice president of governmental affairs. "These are the legislative experts who write the legislation which creates and funds each of our industry programs. Our technical expertise can hone the legislative language to make it favorable to our advocacy goals."

Each of these subcommittees has jurisdiction over some aspects of our industry's resources and workforce development agenda. In many cases, lawmakers defer to these committees as they employ knowledgeable issue experts who craft pending legislation.

NUCA continues to engage these committees to be more influential over their legislative jurisdictions, such as the Energy & Commerce's historic jurisdiction over water infrastructure. NUCA also met with other committees to further strengthen our reach, such as our long-standing involvement with Republican and Democrats on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Our members met with House leadership, House and Senate committee leadership, and their senior staff, a big step forward in the advocacy process we need to advance this industry's goals.

Leadership bridged the gap opening up new channels of communication, and involvement in the legislative writing process. We offered to each committee our service as subject matter experts, which was

Lawmakers: Keeping Up The Momentum

NUCA members were also on Capitol Hill to build upon our past Washington Summit successes.

"NUCA's reach and influence on Capitol Hill continues to increase," remarked Tom Butler, NUCA's government affairs committee chairman and past NUCA Chairman. The contractors and supplier members who traveled to

Washington met with nine lawmakers and their staff, building upon prior visits and reinforcing the message of our industry's presence in their districts and states.

Our members met with nine House and Senate lawmakers, including House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee chairman Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), Ohio's new Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH), House Judiciary Committee chairman Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), and freshmen lawmakers including Reps. Bob Onder (R-MO), Nellie Pou (D-NJ), and Mike Kennedy (R-UT).

2025 Fly-In and Washington Summit Priorities:

- Reauthorization of the two critical **EPA State Revolving Funds**, and increasing resources appropriated for the funds
- Advocating for the session's pending **highway bill** and inclusion of more resources for water infrastructure projects
- Reauthorizing the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and new **damage prevention programs**
- Passing of **workforce development legislation**, such as increasing Pell Grants for construction and trade education
- Publicizing NUCA and the **industry's own workforce development programs**, such as

recognized by committee staff as being very beneficial for their need to produce quality legislation for the nation's infrastructure needs.

Action Item: NUCA will be now testifying at an upcoming House Water Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on funding water resources for upcoming fiscal years.

our new Dozer Day initiatives for NUCA Chapters

- Passing **permitting reforms** stalled in the last Congress in the new 119th Congress
- Investing in **other subsurface infrastructure activities** for economic growth, such as broadband and electric power

The Newsletter of the NUCA Governmental Affairs Department



NUCA member Victor Serrambana (right center) describes his business challenges as NUCA Chairman Tony Privitera (center) and other fly-in attendees listen during their lengthy meeting with House T&I Committee Chairman Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) and his staff in the Congressman's crowded Longworth Building personal office.

Upcoming Federal Department Meetings

The Working Group is planning for more intense NUCA member visits to Washington later this year. In March, the group members will be meeting with new Trump Administration regulatory agency political staff, discussing our infrastructure issues with those making the decisions in this new administration. And our government affairs staff is already planning for a "Fall Fly-In" return to Capitol Hill during a critical time of the legislative process.

It is important to establish early ties to key Trump Administration officials as they settle into their departments and make changes. This industry depends on the federal government for a majority of our infrastructure construction funds through EPA, USDOT, Commerce, DOD, and other funding structures.

"During our time in D.C. I felt that our visits to the various offices was greatly appreciated," said NUCA Chairman Tony Privitera, who led several meetings of the Working Group. "The leaders, both in the agencies and the elected officials know that NUCA is a true partner not only with campaign resources but also with our data and experience--and especially our time. In almost every meeting we offered our assistance to communicate the message regarding long-term infrastructure funding. It must have worked because we have already been asked to speak in a hearing to assist the Transportation and Infrastructure committee."

Action Item: Discuss with key EPA leadership and staff the critical importance of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to America's water infrastructure restoration and our communities.

NUCA Thanks Our Many National Partners For Their Generous Support Of NUCA's Washington Summit & Advocacy Programs

Elections and NUCA/PAC: Going Strong Since 1976

Get involved! NUCA's Political Action Committee, **NUCA/PAC**, continues to be your strong voice on Capitol Hill - supporting pro-infrastructure policies, and defending your business against harmful laws and regulations that can affect your bottom line.

NUCA/PAC enables the American utility construction industry to approach vital public policy issues by helping to elect like-minded Members of Congress.

Get engaged in the process by authorizing NUCA/PAC to share information with you and your employees. Federal law requires NUCA/PAC to first obtain your written permission to solicit your voluntary contributions.

Please click here for the online NUCA/PAC authorization form.

(You will need you NUCA member logon. If you do not have it, please contact NUCA's Lauren Hensley at lauren@nuca.com or 703-358-9300.)

NUCA/PAC was strongly involved in the 2024 election--let's make our industry's PAC the strongest it can be in future election cycles with your help.



NUCA Choice: Our Industry's Choice For Commercial Insurance Coverage

NUCA Choice delivers to NUCA members commercial insurance options for auto, crime, property, general liability, marine, surety, umbrella and workers' compensation.

NUCA Choice is offered in partnership with FCCI Insurance Group and is offered to all NUCA members where FCCI writes business. Members can also consult with FCCI's local risk control team and use the FCCI Risk Solutions Network, a cloud-based platform to help participants stay compliant, manage risks and educate employees to build a safer workforce.

To find out more about **NUCA Choice** and how it can help your bottom line in 2025, go to **NUCAChoice.com** to find a FCCI agent in your area.



Get involved! If you're a NUCA member, your Washington government affairs team wants you to be part of our Capitol Hill advocacy program! NUCA urges you to sign up to receive our **Muster advocacy alerts**. These emails will alert you to pending legislative action where your opinion can make a difference.

It's easy to sign up via the link below. Use your personal home address if you can do so, since our online Muster advocacy program finds your members of Congress via your voter registration address. But business addresses work just as well to receive our alerts.

I'm a NUCA member and I want to receive NUCA's Advocacy Alerts!



Join NUCA's Government Affairs Committee!

Get involved! If you enjoy analyzing politics and find the inner workings of Congress and our industry's legislative program interesting or useful to your business, why not take the next step and join **NUCA's Government Affairs Committee**? Membership is open to all NUCA members, and we welcome the active participation of those seeking to make a difference in their industry, and to help shape NUCA's official policies on legislation.

Help shape the legislative and advocacy program of your association. Contact NUCA's Vice President of Government Affairs **Zack Perconti** to get started today.



The House's Cannon HOB subsurface infrastructure being rebuilt, 2019. Photos: AoC.

25TH ANNUAL
NUCA FL / ASJMSF 25TH ANNUAL

BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT



SAVE THE DATE
MAY 1-3, 2025

GET READY FOR THE 2025 ANDREW SCOTT JOHNSON MEMORIAL BASS TOURNAMENT MAY 1-3!

THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD IN OKEECHOBEE CITY ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE
WITH THE WEIGH-IN AT SCOTT C. DRIVER PARK.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Hotel reservations may be secured at our NUCA FL discounted rate at Days Inn/
Wyndham by Lake Okeechobee by calling 863-623-4704.

REGISTER NOW

Note: Sponsorships are 100% tax-deductible.



NEWS

INDUSTRY AND ADVOCACY

NUCA Holds First-Ever Winter Fly-In

NUCA achieved last month an important advocacy victory across two crucial days in Washington, D.C. In the first-ever Capitol Hill event for the new NUCA Government Affairs Committee Working Group, our members met with four critical House committees, two Senate committees, nine Representatives and Senators, delivering NUCA's message of increased infrastructure resources for our important work, and offering our assistance to Congress to get the job done and sent to the President for his signature.

This event was an important milestone for the committee's Working Group, formed last year to be a quick-reaction group of NUCA members actively involved in our government advocacy program. The Feb. 25-26 "NUCA Winter Fly-in" featured 20 NUCA members and supporting National staff, traveling to Capitol Hill to achieve this year's opening advocacy goal: explaining first-hand to the nation's new decision makers the incredible value our industry delivers every day to tens of millions of American citizens.

NUCA Chairman Testifies At U.S. House Water Infrastructure Hearing

This hearing, held March 11 by the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, featured NUCA's past chairman and three other expert witnesses discussing the status of EPA's water infrastructure resources. NUCA's former Chairman Dan Buckley of member company Garney Construction hammered home in his powerfully delivered testimony several key takeaways of our industry and the importance of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the Drinking Water SRF.

Buckley explained that the SRF system has faced persistent challenges that undermine its ability to meet the nation's growing needs. The resources allocated to the SRF by Congress have never fully matched the scope of the problem. Our advocacy on Capitol Hill in February directly led to NUCA's and Chairman Buckley's expert testimony at this hearing. The March 11 subcommittee hearing is online and can be viewed via the Committee's website at transportation.house.gov.

Trump Tariffs: NUCA Responds

NUCA is urging the Trump Administration to reconsider its tariffs on steel, aluminum, and other construction materials. President Trump announced in his March 4 address to Congress that his tariffs on foreign-made steel and aluminum would go forward. In his media statement, NUCA Chief Executive Office Doug Carlson responded, "While NUCA strongly supports efforts to increase the domestic manufacturing of the robust products we use to build America's clean water infrastructure, an increase of 25 percent on these foundational materials will raise project costs, delay project completion, and further strain the American taxpayer who finances these community improvements." NUCA encourages the Administration to consider exemptions for critical materials used in domestic infrastructure projects. We will keep the NUCA membership informed about the Administration's next steps.

Administration Repeals Existing NEPA Regs

On Feb. 18 the Trump administration issued an interim final rule repealing decades of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, marking a significant shift in federal environmental policy. Signed into law in 1970, NEPA required agencies to assess the environmental impacts of major federal projects, a process often criticized for causing delays in infrastructure development. The White House, under Trump's direction, rescinded all Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations dating back to 1977, following his Jan. 29 executive order titled "Unleashing American Energy" (EO 14154).

This interim final rule aims to streamline permitting for energy and infrastructure projects like pipelines and highways. Legal challenges under the Administrative Procedure Act are expected, though the D.C. Circuit's recent ruling against CEQ authority may bolster Trump's position. A working group is being established to assist federal agencies in revising their own NEPA rules. Agencies will remain responsible for conducting environmental reviews — and NEPA remains the law of the land — but enforceability will shift from CEQ's overarching rules to these agency-specific regulations.

Association News

Join NUCA's National Equipment Operator Championship At The 2025 Convention

New in 2025, NUCA is hosting a National Equipment Operator Championship on March 20, 2025, in conjunction with NUCA 2025 National Convention in Orlando, Florida! Does your crew have what it takes to be crowned the first-ever NUCA National Champion. A special thanks to our National Equipment Operator Championship sponsor U.S. Pipe. Convention onsite registration is available beginning March 19 at 7:00am. For more details, go to nucadigs.com.

2025 Washington Summit Registration Now Open

The new Administration and new Congress are presenting opportunities not seen in several years for permitting reform, new infrastructure resources, tax and business reforms, FY2026 SRF program funding, and many other important industry issues. This is the year to come to Washington and introduce your business to your lawmakers, and help out your Chapter and your industry! Our headquarters hotel is once again the convenient Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Register today for our May 13-14, 2025, conference, and book your hotel room at WeDigAmerica.org.

Your Damage Information Is Needed: NUCA DIRT

In 2025, NUCA and the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) are teaming up to present the updated Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT). DIRT is now a secure web application for reporting excavation-related damages and near-miss events involving underground utilities. NUCA has a crucial section of the DIRT report called the "NUCA Dirt Data Network." Your information is directly added to the DIRT report, and with your help we can also use our own members' data to tell our industry's story. To find out more and access the app, visit NUCA's Damage Prevention webpage at nuca.com/damage-prevention-programs/.

In 2025, Share The Details About Trenchless Tech Efficiency

Are you seeking to know more about horizontal direction drilling, or auger boring, or wish your city's administrators did, too? NUCA's "Trenchless Construction and New Installation Methods" manual can help your estimators, engineers, and project managers recognize that trenchless technology could deliver large cost savings to your excavation projects. The 148-page, full-color illustrated manual carefully addresses and explains the most common trenchless installation methods. This year, buy a copy for your local planning department as a professional gift to introduce their staff to these cost-efficient subsurface construction methods. The manual is available exclusively from NUCA and can be ordered online at my.nuca.com/online-store/nucastore.

NUCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Advertising Opportunity

BUSINESS CARD SIZE AD (1/4 page) ~~~~ \$150.00

BUSINESS CARD X2 (1/2 PAGE) ~~~~ \$250.00

FULL PAGE ~~~~ \$350.00

Pricing is for 1 full year of advertising on the website and newsletter

Over 100 Electronic Newsletters are sent out semi-monthly to contractors, associates, and affiliates in our industry.

If you would like to place an ad, email your ad in jpeg format and email to: NUCASWFL@gmail.com

Please complete the following

Member Company Name:

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail payment to:

NUCA of Southwest Florida

P. O. Box 62207, Fort Myers, FL 33906

If payment preference is by credit card please request an authorization form.



Officers and Directors - 2025

OFFICERS:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| President | Cheryl Ricciardi – Andrew Sitework |
| President Elect | Aaron Hunt-Branch – Guymann Construction |
| Vice President | Trevor Reese – B C Underground |
| Secretary | Russell Tripp – Rinker Materials |
| Treasurer | Jerry Haas – Honorary Director / Treasurer |
| Past President | Dustin Gibson – Denco Construction |

DIRECTORS:

A large, stylized, pixelated yellow excavator is positioned in the background, facing right. It has a long boom and a bucket. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be read over it.

Brian Balsley – Core & Main
Brian Brandfass – Andrew Sitework
Chase Anderson – B C Underground
Chris Stewart – Flygt a Xylem Brand
Dominick Stefanacci – Quality Precast Solutions
Keith Lant – Synergy Equipment Pump Division
Kenny Cabana – Cabana Construction
Mark McFalls – Ferguson Waterworks
Matt Swan – Foley Products
Mike McDonnell – Quality Precast Solutions
Mitchell Penner – Mitchell & Stark Construction
Scott Anderson – Grundfos Inc.
Scott Ferrell – BC Underground

“BUILDING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FROM THE GROUND DOWN”

Rhonda Cason, Executive Director
Cailyn Finn, Executive Director Intern
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