



2023

A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S

YOUR INDUSTRY'S VOICE IN D.C.

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WHAT HAPPENS IN WASHINGTON ...

The public utility construction market in New Jersey relies almost entirely on federal funding. Having our team in Washington fighting for the largest water investment possible by Congress, protecting our state's share, and cutting red tape so you can build the job is all made possible by your membership.



... DOESN'T STAY IN WASHINGTON

NUCA to Agencies - Stop Overregulating!

NUCA fought for contractors and associate members to ensure that Buy American regulations are administered fairly while ensuring material availability. NUCAs were successful in clarifying or explicitly removing several material categories from the law's scope, such as excluding temporary items like equipment, as well as removing from BABAA rules paint/stains/coatings and certain aggregates.

We also pushed back against several harmful and overreaching Biden Administration policies, including Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) regulations that ultimately were overturned by the courts. Utility construction projects need predictability to make project deadlines and contain costs, so the rollback of confusing WOTUS rules was welcomed by NUCAs members.



your support allowed us to:



Oppose Huge Funding Cuts

A small group of House Republicans slashed nearly \$2 billion from what was originally programmed for water funding in FY24. This cut would set the level of funding back to that of the 1990's. This extreme faction views this as a way to undo the debt ceiling deal and the IJA while retaining the power to syphon off dollars for their own pet projects. NUCA continues to lobby in the Senate, where Democrats agree with our industry on this issue, and ultimately, in the White House.

Secure Permitting Reforms

NUCA worked with Congress to pass the first steps of permitting reform, including streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process. The new law designates a single lead federal agency to coordinate with other federal agencies and supervise the preparation of a single environmental permitting document. And it streamlines environmental documentation by revising the "One Federal Decision" approach to NEPA review, helping to simplify an already complex process..

Protect Your Jobsite

OSHA proposed a new walkaround rule that would give a designated representative (or representatives), likely from a union, the right to accompany an OSHA inspector during a facility walkaround. This alters current regulation by removing the explicit requirement that the representative be an employee of the employer being inspected, and that the representative have some sort of documented expertise in the area under investigation and associated with the need for a visit. NUCA has spearheaded a widespread awareness campaign about the problems this politicalization of workplace safety creates. The downside to contractors having unlimited, unqualified lay people, former employees, or competitors roaming their jobsites is huge. We continue to battle its adoption.



back in Jersey...



Meaningful Networking

Whether showing off your swing at Top Golf, watching our very own board member Lou Pillari shred the keyboard with his band in Asbury Park, or trying some of the best small batch libations at the Colts Neck Stillhouse, this year was filled with fun and intimate events that brought our members together.

NJUA Collaboration

Our relationship with the utility companies, for whom many of you work, grew even stronger in 2023. We have begun working on a pioneering mediation program between the associations that is aimed at solving damage disputes brought about by mismarked or unmarked utility lines.

Industry Reinforcement

Working with state trade groups like the UTCA and our friends in organized labor, NUCA NJ assisted industry efforts in several statewide initiatives, including traffic control reforms and the NJ Infrastructure Bank expansion. NUCA NJ staff also monitored legislative activity at the State House as well as actions taken by the BPU.



even more benefits...

"We have benefits that make it possible to see savings well in excess of the cost of membership. It is now a poor business decision to not be a member of NUCA."

Ryan Kinning
NUCA Chairman of the Board
Penro Construction Company

Two New Programs You Must Check Out

NUCA Assurance is a construction-focused group captive insurance program offering members workers' compensation, general and auto liability, auto physical damage, and surplus distribution eligibility. NUCA Choice offers general business insurance policies covering auto, crime, general liability, surety, umbrella, and other products.

Educational Events

As part of our in-state informational series, we held local events aimed at educating our members in new technology and equipment tracking, as well as just how exactly the NJ Infrastructure Bank works to fund projects.

Podcasts & Webinars

NUCA continued holding webinars on breaking industry topics throughout the year, including a webinar on Davis-Bacon Act changes affecting NUCA members working as federal contractors, and other legal topics by NUCA NJ's own general counsel Shawn Farrell.

Safety, Safety, Safety!

NUCA partnered with OSHA and other construction trade associations to form an alliance to reduce the number of trench and excavation hazards. Training resources in several languages are being developed by partners and will focus on trenching and excavation hazards.



NJ TAKING LEADERSHIP ROLE

@national



VINCENT SANTAITE
NJ President

Named to the NUCA National Government Affairs Committee which is in charge of developing and executing all of the national policies for the industry.



LISA CHOWANSKY
NJ Vice President

Named to the NUCA National Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee whose efforts focus on growth and improving member experience.



JAMES RUDOLPH
NJ Board Member

Elected to the NUCA National Board of Directors and elevated to a leadership role within the Northeast region comprising NJ, NY, PA, CN, RI, and DC.



EVAN PISCITELLI NJ Executive Director

Named the Executive Director in charge of overseeing the NUCA National Government Affairs Committee and national policymaking.



NUCA NJ would like to thank our members who have taken on an even greater responsibility and time commitment to do the work of bettering the utility construction industry for all of us.

The more engaged we can be with National, the more influence we will have in its policymaking. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please email us at NUCAofNJ@gmail.com.

2023 SPONSORS

THANK YOU!

