



19 June 2019

Mr. Tim Mackey  
President and Business Manager  
LABORER'S DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA  
81 Little Canada Rd East  
St Paul MN 55117

Re: Practices for Duct Bank and Utility Services Entrances

Dear Mr. Mackey,

I am writing regarding your inquiry on signatory contractors' practices regarding work assignments for duct bank and utility services entrances in Minnesota. I first confirmed our understanding of the electrical code with the State's Chief Electrical Inspector, John Williamson, that (a) parts of duct bank work is regulated and subject to electrical licensing and (b) "electrical work" does not include the excavation of soil, the construction, assembly and placement of concrete forms, nor the placement or finishing of poured concrete.

I have outlined below the most common, existing, historical and longstanding practice of work assignments on duct bank and utility services entrances among contractors who are signatory to the Metropolitan Builders' Agreement between AGC and Laborers' District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota on behalf of Laborers' Local 563:

- Operating Engineers
  - Dig the trench with equipment.
  - Backfill and compact if work is performed by seated equipment.
  - Operate concrete pump.
- Carpenters
  - Form the duct bank if forms are needed.
  - Strip the forms after concrete if the forms are to be reused. May be part of composite crew with Laborers.
- Laborers
  - Tend the Carpenters forming the duct banks.
  - Direct traffic including flagging.
  - Place concrete, including direct chute dump or pump, and tend the hose to place the concrete.
  - Consolidate and puddle the concrete after it has been placed.
  - Run vibrator and concrete rakes.
  - Oil, clean and move the forms to place of next installation, or strip forms if the forms are to be discarded. This work is a good example where composite crews with Carpenters are used.

- Compact the backfill if work is performed by remote control compactor, hand or jumping jack.
- Electricians
  - Install/place the electrical conduit.
  - Are present when the concrete is placed.
  - Perform final field placement and assembly of prefabricated electrical duct bank.
- Iron workers
  - Perform rebar or structural support work, if used.
- Cement finishers
  - Finish the concrete surface if finishing work is performed.

I hope that this letter helps clarify these contractors' practices and addresses your inquiry. Please let me know if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,



Mike Schechter

Director of Labor Relations & General Counsel

Cc: Tim Worke, AGC of Minnesota  
Jason George, Operating Engineers  
Dave Schutta, Cement Masons  
Barry Davies, Ironworkers  
Burt Johnson, Carpenters  
Jeff Heimrl, IBEW Local 292  
Robert Boogren, IBEW Local 160  
Jamie McNamara, IBEW Local 110  
Chad Katzung, IBEW Local 343  
Don Smith, IBEW 242  
David Manderson, Minneapolis NECA  
Luke Kuhl, St. Paul NECA