



North America's **Building Trades** Unions

*#BuildingTradesWhateverItTakes*

*Weekly Newsletter*

*5.15.2020*

## FIELD SERVICES

- NCA
- Bechtel South Field Combine Cycle: 466 currently onsite. We are adding 22 next week to get us to 488. Currently have 44 (of the 466) on nightshift.
- Great Arrow Builders Penn Chem: 1,300 total employees on site (both craft & non-manuals). Planning to add more each weeks/months.
- Kiewit Power Bluewater Energy Center Combine Cycle: Started back this week with 130 craft. Will be ramping up every week until they reach peak. Approximately 500-600 craft.
  
- GPPMA
- No change since last report
  
- TVA
- Continues to stay ahead of the curve with mandatory testing to enter all nuclear sites. Beginning to request starting for WBN outage.
- Fossil sites are continuing outages with relatively small changes in scope
- Hydro and Gas site outages continue as planned However due to smaller plant and scope size craft numbers are substantially lower.
  
- Disney
- NABTU and Disney have successfully negotiated an MOU regarding recall procedures. We still don't have an exact date to when they will open yet it's promising that we may be getting closer.
- Disney has announced that some of the restaurants at Disney Springs will reopen on May 20. Those restaurants are third party owned so there won't be much involvement from the maintenance group. Disney has not announced any other openings at this time.
  
- Southern Company
- Vogtle - Appears to be stabilizing and flattening the curve relative to positive test results.... With 729 total tested, 216 total positive cases, and 631 confirmed negative. There have been 180 confirmed "recovered" workers that are eligible to return to site.
- Southern Company OpCo's (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi) - No change, and work continues to progress normally with spring outages concluding.
  
- Mazda/Toyota (MTMUST) Huntsville, AL:
- Thus far has only had 1 documented COVID-19 case on site. The project in North Alabama will be the largest construction site in North America by mid-summer. They are at 75-80% of peak staffing currently.

- DOE
- Oak Ridge – Hoping to bring craft back by May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- INL – Craft has returned to work
- Los Alamos – Is returning back to work slowly
- NNTS & NNTR (Nevada – Is starting to bring employees back slowly

## COVID-19 Major Council Cities Report as of May 14, 2020

### Seattle

- Since the extension of Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order until May 31, Washington State is still in Phase 1 with limited business re-openings. For construction this includes projects previously deemed essential and those substantially underway prior to the Stay Home order. The expectation is that Washington will move to Phase 2 on June 1, which would allow for new construction. The decision to move to Phase 2 will be determined based on the infectious disease rates, testing capacity and availability, contact tracing ability, risks to vulnerable populations and capacity of health care facilities. The state has posted the status of these factors on its COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard. The safety protocols for all economic sectors are being modeled after the construction protocols developed by business and labor leaders including Mark Riker, Executive Secretary of the Washington State Building Trades. Mark was appointed to Governor Inslee's new "Safe Start" advisory groups, the "Safe Work and Economic Recovery Community Leaders Group" which has just started convening. The Governor has also announced that 8 of the 10 rural counties with lower cases and deaths have been approved to move to Phase 2.
- There has been significant media coverage in the region about safety concerns, compliance and the lack of safety enforcement in construction, particularly multi-family and residential. On the front page of yesterday's Seattle Times was a story titled, "Despite Gov. Inslee's order – and complaints from the public – construction projects kept swinging hammers during coronavirus lockdown." In part due to the lack of enforcement, the Seattle Building Trades has persisted in our advocacy on addressing significant public safety risks at construction sites, and ensuring that site-specific project Safety Plans are adequate and being implemented. Most major project owners have taken seriously the Industry Emergency Requirements and Screening Plan that we are now expecting all project owners to abide by, but we continue to have challenges on a few major projects. This has required daily engagement with project owners and intensive advocacy for workers.

### Orange County/L.A.

- Work picture is still very good here considering the circumstances with school construction bond work, water district, various city and county PLAs all working. Still working with private developers to get projects entitled with some office and hotels starting soon. Refinery turn around work starting to move, over all probably less than 10% unemployment. We do think capital expenditures in the transit, city, county and state will slow down because of reduced gas and sales, property tax.

### Las Vegas

- The contractor for both NNTS and NNTR have started bringing crafts back to work. No other changes.

### Massachusetts

- Construction work continues in most of the state to varying degrees outside the cities of Boston, Cambridge and Somerville which have suspension orders in effect. Some owners have suspended projects on their own.
- As noted last week, Boston is moving on a phased reopening approach to construction with certain projects — road and street work, hospitals, and small residential projects — and open-air work such as digging foundations and erecting steel can start on May 18. Other state-defined "essential" projects, which include large housing developments, can resume on May 26. All of the above

projects must have approved safety plans and signed affidavits filed with the appropriate regulatory agencies before starting work.

- Projects that don't meet the state's definition of essential — such as office buildings or hotels, for now — will not be able to go forward until the state eases its restrictions.
- Massachusetts is working on reopening the state's economy, including construction, in a phased manner. The target date is May 18th but this is potentially a moving target which will be tied to infection rates. This is the same date which he is scheduled to release the report of the Reopening.
- We submitted comments to the panel which incorporated the NABTU/CPWR COVID-19 Guidelines.

Cleveland:

- Ohio has officially opened back up as of Tuesday. Some businesses like bars, restaurants, barber shops and salons will open tomorrow (Thursday). We are hearing no complaints from the field as many of our members are back to work. Face coverings are mandatory on most, if not all sites and temps are being taken.

Greater Kanas City

- Our Ford plant is scheduled to go back online next week with construction projects starting back up shortly after they resume. Kansas DOT has bid letting on May 14th releasing several projects which is hopeful. We still have greater concerns on projects that are scheduled for late fall and 2021 being put on hold.

Oregon

- As of May 11th we are still seeing lots of movement around building permits be issued and projects being awarded. That is definitely a bright spot for our members, and the industry in our region.
- Our affiliates are reporting that work continues to remain strong in their jurisdictions. In fact many have reported that they have struggled to fill some calls as members decided to stay home during the pandemic.
- Regarding our COVID-19 Joint Construction Safety Task Force, we have continued to meet 2-3 times per week, including 2-4 job site visits per week. We issued our second press release on Monday May 11th and had it picked up by a few local mainstream media outlets.

Michigan

- Our return to work started last Thursday and so far with exception of a couple of hiccups it has went rather smoothly. The Big Three has put Good Protocol in place which will need to be monitored and we are ready to reintroduce close to Three thousand Skilled Tradesmen back to work in the next few weeks. The Fermi Refuel Outage has been a challenge and the continuous spike in Positive COVID-19 cases has forced a one week shutdown to regroup and adopt a more aggressive Protocol. We have 30 days for anticipated start up.

Indiana

- Indiana's gubernatorial stay-at-home orders have expired in all but one Indiana County. The [Indiana economy is reopening in five stages](#) between May 4th and July 4th. The construction industry maintained a blanket exemption throughout the duration of the stay-at-home orders.
- For the duration of the stay-at-home orders, masks or facial coverings have been required on construction sites when social distancing is not possible, as per requirements of Governor Holcomb's executive orders. This has become an issue with some members who feel this infringes on their individual liberties. This requirement carries on past the expiration of the stay-at-home orders, as per a new executive order. Although N95 respirators would be preferred in such situations, simple face covering are being used as per the executive order.
- Industrial work (i.e., BP Whiting and the steel mills) has slowed considerably in northwest Indiana with some locals having as high as 50% unemployment. Commercial work there remains OK. The remainder of the state is seeing unemployment of between 10 and 15%, with work having slowed, but most projects moving forward.

#### Minnesota

- The Minnesota construction industry continues to work as a critical industry. The Governor will continue to open up portions of the State in a new Executive Order later today. Our unemployment numbers are beginning to be a concern as the economic impacts of COVID are resulting in projects slowing. We are in the last weeks of our regular legislative session and continue to advocate for a strong (\$2B) state bonding bill to invest in local communities and keep people working.

#### Kentucky

- In Kentucky, some major manufacturing is reopening. The Toyota Plant is in production and the Ford Plants will be back up on May 18th. Construction is improving slightly as the economy starts to return. Restaurants and other retail will be starting back at reduced capacity over the next 3 weeks.

## CPWR

CPWR assisted NABTU in releasing the standard on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. A copy is attached. The Standard is also available in Spanish here:

[https://cpwr.com/sites/default/files/NABTU\\_CPWR\\_Standards\\_COVID-19\\_Spanish.pdf](https://cpwr.com/sites/default/files/NABTU_CPWR_Standards_COVID-19_Spanish.pdf)

CPWR launched a new COVID-19 clearing house and is populating it with safety and health guidance from multiple sources, state and local construction requirements, employer association recommendations, and tips and trick on how to implement safe work practices. <http://covid.elcosh.org/index.php> Send suggestions for postings to [covid19@cpwr.com](mailto:covid19@cpwr.com)

CPWR continues to offer live distance learning courses on COVID-19 and ICRA/COVID-19 awareness to affiliates. We also can train trainers and supply curriculum for integration into affiliates' own learning management systems. We are continuing to explore online asynchronous delivery to reach many more members. We are modifying grants and subgrants to address affiliates H&S training needs.

We are planning to launch weekly webinars with our federal partners to provide information to keep workers healthy and virus-free.

## TRAINING

The NABTU Standing Committee on Apprenticeship and Training will hold its next quarterly meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

NABTU has also added three new sections of Building Trades Academy 107, the Online MC3 Train-the-Trainer class for Instructors and Coordinators. These new sections will be held on June 24-25, July 15-16 and July 29-30. The first three sections of the Online MC3 Train-the-Trainer in May and June are filled to capacity.

## COMMUNICATIONS

This week, NABTU Communications continued COVID-19 rapid response news and social media engagement, conducted council, staff, and industry outreach and updated our [COVID-19 resource webpage](#) with the latest resourceful information for our members and industry. We also hosted our weekly international affiliate communications directors, met with industry partners' communications teams, and conducted individual calls with department staff, officers and council leaders to provide support and guidance through statements, press outreach, interview preparation, content editing, talking points, outreach assistance, and social media promotion.

NABTU's communications and marketing team continues to strategically leverage opportunities and platforms to educate and promote our messaging to the public, media, government officials and key stakeholders on critical issues impacting our industry during this pandemic. Also, through our #buildingtradeswhateverittakes online media campaign, we continue to amplify our commitment to community, health and safety, and publicize the helpful efforts and extraordinary contributions of our members.

## LEGISLATIVE/ LEGAL

Please find the attached updated CARES 2 summary of relevant provisions.

## CANADA

Last week, the Federal Government held a roundtable with industry stakeholders to discuss infrastructures role on coming out of COVID-19. Canadian Executive Board Members Lionel Railton (IUOE) and Joe Mancinelli (LiUNA) represented the Building Trades on the roundtable. There will be more interaction with the roundtable, and issues of the CBTU will be advocated for including things like community benefit agreements, key projects that have been identified, getting underrepresented groups back to work. CBAs will continue to be a sticking point as we move forward on any federal stimulus plan. The Federal Wage Subsidy program's online portal opened Monday, April 27. Employers, including Local Unions, Training Centers and Councils should qualify for the wage subsidy program.

On the CERB, clarification was received that local unions are able to utilize health and welfare plans to top up the CERB benefit up to \$1000 per month for members, without affecting their eligibility to receive the CERB. Additional lobbying is needed on the use of sub funds through the Minister of Finance and Minister of Employment, this is ongoing.

### Newfoundland and Labrador

- 85% unemployed
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members.

### Nova Scotia

- 65-70% employment
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members

### New Brunswick

- About 50% employed.
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members

### Quebec

- Construction reopened in the province, except for Montreal, on May 11.
- Four known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members
- Currently in the open period, the Council has created ads running now until June.

### Ontario

- 70-75% employed.
- No new cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members.
- Commercial construction expected to reopen this week.

### Manitoba

- 60% employed, trending upwards. Government eased restrictions as of May, with a graduated return to work for May 19.
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members

### Saskatchewan

- 50% employed, reduced hours and worksharing taking place often.
- Phased-in reopening taking place in the province. Stimulus funding announced and the Council is pushing for local hire provisions.
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members

### Alberta

- Roughly 50% employed.
- No known cases amongst Building Trades members

### British Columbia

- 80% employed
- Planning is underway to reopen the economy and include Community Benefit Agreements are used on site, Premier is expected to announce plan for reopening next week.