



North America's **Building Trades** Unions

*#BuildingTradesWhateverItTakes*

*Newsletter*

*5.29.2020*

## FIELD SERVICES

- NCA
- Bechtel Southfield Combine Cycle: Current craft on site is now 515. The plan is to add approximately 60 more next week which will get the project to 575.
- Great Arrow Builders Penn Chem: Currently 1542 GAB craft and another 300 subcontractors. The project is planning to slow down the hiring for next week and re-evaluate the current situation regarding safety and health, and then amend future hiring plans if necessary or recommended.
- Kiewit Power Bluewater Energy Center Combine Cycle: Currently 370 craft on site with no COVID-19 cases. Plans are still to ramp up to 500-600 crafts in the coming weeks/months.
- GPPMA
- Fermi Nuclear Plant: 251 positives and 147 quarantined
- Williams Plant Services applied and was granted a GPPMA at Callaway Nuclear in Fulton, MO.
- TVA
- Continues to stay ahead of the curve with mandatory testing to enter all nuclear sites. Staffing underway for WBN outage.
- Fossil sites outages are mostly complete with minimal work remaining.
- Hydro and Gas site outages continue as planned. However due to smaller plant and scope size craft numbers are substantially lower
- Disney
- Disney has announced that they will be reopening Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom on July 11, then reopen Epcot and Hollywood Studios on July 15. A conference call has been scheduled for Monday with the Company to discuss when they will be contacting our members to report back to work. Disney has also opened some of the Disney owned restaurants and shops at Disney Springs on May 25. Disney is opening some of their Disney Vacation Club Resorts on June 22 which is only to their Club members.
- Southern Company
- Continues to stabilize relative to positive COVID-19 test results.... With 978 total tested, 232 total positive cases, and 741 confirmed negative. There have been 224 confirmed "recovered" workers that are eligible to return to site. (5/28/20)
- Mazda/Toyota (MTMUST) Huntsville, AL:
- No change. Monthly meeting/teleconference has been changed to bi-monthly. This change was presented to maintain communication related to COVID-19, PLA Discussion, staffing, and safety.
- DOE
- Hanford – Plans to start slowly bring people back June 1<sup>st</sup>

## COVID-19 Major Council Cities Report as of May 28, 2020

### Seattle:

- Seattle-King County is still in Phase 1 of Governor Inslee's four phase *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* and *Safe Start Washington* directives, with limited business re-openings. For construction, Phase 1 allows projects previously deemed essential and those substantially underway prior to the *Stay Home* order. It is now appearing unlikely that King County will be allowed to move on June 1 to Phase 2, which would allow for new construction. Governor Inslee has approved the Construction Roundtable's recommendations that permit a move for construction to Phase 2 for now 24 approved of Washington's 39 total counties. These counties have less than 10 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day span and King County is currently averaging 45 new cases per 100,000 residents. Washington's Health Secretary said yesterday, however, that it was likely that there could be a new standard for large counties.
- The decision to move to Phase 2 is 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 reopening 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.
- Seattle Building Trades leadership has continued advocacy along with other regional leaders for \$300M in federal assistance to address a major funding shortfall for the \$1.8B Washington State Convention Center expansion project. Due to COVID-19, lodging tax revenue on which the project is bonded has been decimated. Without assistance, project managers warn the project, which is 30% complete and was deemed essential through the COVID-19 pandemic, will be halted in 10-12 months. At least 2,000 construction jobs and the tremendous long-term regional economic import of the project are at stake. The Washington Congressional delegation is working closely with project management to pursue federal support.

### Cook County Chicago:

- No changes, Construction still going strong. No noticeable jump in COVID 19 cases on construction sites, Apprenticeship schools are starting to reopen but at a reduced scope and size for now.

### Milwaukee:

- Milwaukee projects are continuing being worked on daily. Service work is picking up as well since the State open things back up. Power Plant work is also seeing a bit more activity since being shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Milwaukee Building Trades is working to make PPE protection and thermal scanning and ICRA training a requirement on most large projects and in schools, public buildings and medical related businesses. Unemployment in the locals is still at about a 10-15% average. The Democratic National convention is 81 days out and still up in the air, it being virtual was approved, once they decide how and if to hold it, we can determine the amount of our work to get ready for it.

### St. Louis:

- No changes in St. Louis, again but some of our apprenticeship schools will be starting back June 1st with limited class sizes.

### Greater Kansas City:

- All projects are going smoothly, following the CDC Guidelines, and making sure our members work safe.
- The Ford plant started back up and shut down briefly due to a UAW member testing positive. The facility was cleaned and is now back up and running. We have several pre-jobs schedule for work at the plant next week.
- Kansas Gov. Kelly announced the funding of 40 transportation projects totaling 9.9 billion dollars set to begin 2020.

### Oregon:

- Life in Oregon continues to move in the right direction slowly, as most of the counties are in phase 1 of reopening, except for Washington and Multnomah Counties (Multnomah County comprises mostly of the City of Portland). Understandably, Multnomah County is the most populous county in Oregon. However, today Multnomah County did issue a statement saying the target date for Phase 1 reopening is June 12th.

- Again, the Building Trades continues to thrive, all jobs are now open, and work remains strong for our members. Thankfully we have not had any outbreaks on any job sites, or any new cases reported on jobs since back in April. However, we still have some members staying home creating some challenges for our affiliates trying to fill open job calls. Unemployment is still trying to work through a 30-40k backlog.
- Our Joint COVID-19 Joint Construction Safety Task Force is now meets 2 times a week, as well as doing 2-4 job site visits around the state.

#### Michigan:

- Michigan continues to experience positive results with regards to restarting most of the projects that were shut down. GM has postponed a number of jobs at the Tech Center. Ford has most of their projects up and running and Chrysler has MAC1&2 and Warren Dodge Truck manning up. DTE Fermi Refuel Outage restart has now been pushed back to June 28th and the Positive COVID cases have leveled off these past couple of weeks allowing to get back to the scheduled time frame.

#### Indiana:

- The Indiana economy has entered stage 3 of the 5-step reopening process. The construction of a new LaPorte hospital has been suspended as 10 construction workers have been confirmed with COVID-19, and another 10 are suspected of having it, among a workforce of 200. The project is on hold until at least June 1, as the project undergoes decontamination. It appears the number of bid announcements are decreasing, and there is a growing fear of fewer projects breaking ground past the 12-month horizon. As a result of lost and deferred tax revenues, the state of Indiana is reducing agency budgets by 15% across the board and reversing a decision to use surplus dollars to fund certain public works projects. Instead, it will move ahead with the original plans to bond these projects.

#### Minnesota:

- We are continuing to work here in Minnesota though we have had more instances of positive COVID tests on construction sites. Public health authorities around the state are dealing with this differently and we continue to work with our contractors to develop appropriate responses to keep our members safe. Highway heavy construction is going very well, however some commercial and industrial work is beginning to slow.

#### Kentucky:

- In Kentucky, more work continues to open up for our members. Some Locals that had reported 30% unemployment have dropped to about 10%. Much of the state restrictions have been relaxed with numerous businesses allowed to re-open this week. The COVID cases and deaths are beginning to decline in Kentucky.
- The KY State tax revenue has dropped 4% and the Road Fund has dropped over 10% which will surely impact our members.

## 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 biweekly webinars with our federal partners to provide information to keep workers healthy and virus-free.

OSHA finally released guidance that is largely in conformance with our NABTU/CPWR Standards on COVID-19 in construction this week, and it can be found here: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/construction.html>

## TRAINING

Research and Education Department will complete our second virtual BTA107 MC3 Train the Trainer this week. The first training was held May 20-21 and was reserved for west coast attendees. Both classes have gone better than expected (we are all getting used to teaching and learning via Zoom!) and we have three more sessions scheduled 6/24-6/25 (session set aside for west coast attendees), 7/15-7/16 and 7/29-7/30. We will plan more as needed.

## 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.

This week, we issued [a statement on the AFL-CIO endorsement vote](#). We also released [a statement in observance of Memorial Day](#) and a [press announcement from CMRAVE welcoming David Porter as the new executive director of Helmets to Hardhats](#). We are preparing our monthly toolkit for June that we will provide after next week's Council call on Tuesday, June 2 at 2pm ET.

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

### TIMING OF CARES 2

- This week has largely focused on what policies Senate Republicans are assembling to use as counter-offers to the House Democrats CARES 2 bill as well as when they want to begin negotiating them. The general consensus for when CARES 2 negotiations will begin is sometime in the next 2 weeks with a final bill passage sometime between the middle of June and potentially as late as the end of July.

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

- The White House and Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have said they are opposed to extending the federal government's \$600/week UI payment. Instead, they have tasked Senate Finance Chair Chuck Grassley with assembling proposals to incentivize employers to rehire their workers. One proposal would build on the employee retention tax credit included in the CARES Act. Another would provide "incentive pay" on top of wages that the individual would earn as a part of returning to work.
- House Democratic Congressman Mark Pocan is continuing to push a proposal to expand state-based work share programs. His plan allows a business to pay a reduced wage to their workers while unemployment insurance covers the remainder of their wages. Senator Van Hollen is working with him on a Senate version.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Senators Klobuchar, Booker, Tim Scott and Sasse are working on a bipartisan proposal to offer tax credits to individuals to offset the cost of participating in workforce training programs. NABTU is currently working with them to ensure apprenticeships are treated correctly.

### THE PPP

- The House overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill to amend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). It requires loan recipients to spend 60 percent of their loan on payroll. This is a change from the existing 75 percent requirement. The bill did not expand the PPP to other non-profits besides 501(c)(3)s. It is unclear if the Senate will take up this bill or another version. If the chambers are unable to agree on any version, it is likely this issue would get folded up in CARES 2 negotiations.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Despite denouncements about the need for robust infrastructure spending in CARES 2 from McConnell, several of his influential Republican colleagues have come out publicly in support of it. Senators Roy Blunt, Roger Wicker and Lindsey Graham have all said they want to see infrastructure spending as a part of the next legislative package. While encouraging, it is still uncertain whether this will move McConnell. In the House, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is working on releasing a surface transportation bill soon that may lead to a larger infrastructure package being assembled in that chamber.

### RETURN TO "NORMAL"

- With a pause on COVID-19 relief legislation and the new House rules allowing for remote voting, both chambers' committees are examining how to move other important legislation that normally is passed each year. House and Senate Appropriations committees are gearing up to pass their annual spending bills in June and July and both chambers' armed services committees are expected to pass the annual defense policy bill known as the National Defense Authorization Act or NDAA.

## CANADA

Canadian Executive Board Members Lionel Railton (IUOE) and Joe Mancinelli (LiUNA) currently represent the CBTU on the Federal Government's roundtable to discuss infrastructure spending going forward. There will be more interaction with the roundtable, and issues of the CBTU will be advocated for including things like community benefit agreements, shovel-ready projects that have been identified, getting underrepresented groups back to work. On this front, the CBTU hosted a call with the Canadian Executive Board and Minister of Labour last week.

The CBTU sent a letter to the Prime Minister's Office supporting the advancement of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors as being currently developed by ARC Nuclear Canada Inc. last week.

Chairperson of the CBTU will be addressing the HUMA Government Committee on the Government's response to the COVID-19 crisis on Thursday, May 28.

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.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) has been utilized by many members; government relations work continues with issues identified with the benefit including the use of sub funds eligibility to top up members wages; using CERB versus EI and the needed overhaul of the EI system is ongoing.

On the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the Minister of Finance announced last Friday an extension of the program to extend eligibility of pension plan investments that may have partnered in the operation of business that employed workers that were previously deemed ineligible to now include them if they meet the criteria.

### Newfoundland and Labrador

- 90% unemployed
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members.

### Nova Scotia

- 80% employed
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members

### New Brunswick

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

### Quebec

- Construction reopened in the province, except for Montreal, on May 11. Gradual reopening in greater Montreal area happening next week.
- 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

- 80% employed.
- Six to seven known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members.
- Construction has completely reopened; many other businesses are reopening.

### Manitoba

- 60% employed, trending upwards. Government eased restrictions as of May
- Blockade issue resolved at Keeyask Hydro Site.
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members

### Saskatchewan

- 40-45% employed, reduced hours and worksharing taking place often.
- Second phase of reopening started this week, with many returning to work. Training centres starting to reopen to apprentices.

- Stimulus funding announced and the Council is pushing for local hire provisions.
- No known cases of COVID-19 amongst Building Trade members

#### **Alberta**

- 60% unemployed.
- No known cases amongst Building Trades members
- Shutdowns including Syncrude, Shell and Suncor starting but with significantly reduced crews.

#### **British Columbia**

- 80% employed
- B.C. is in the second phase of reopening, with more businesses being allowed to reopen.
- Site C and LNG are starting to retool and bring people back to site slowly.
- The BC Building Trades have called for a public inquiry into health and safety in the construction sector; and submitted recommendations to the Province's Economic Recovery Taskforce.