Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Black Lab Pub, Churchill Room • 4100 Montrose Blvd.
Social Hour 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Cost: $30 Preregistered members; $35 non-members/walk-ups

To guarantee a seat, pre-register on the HGS website & pre-pay by credit card.
Pre-registration without payment will not be accepted.
Walk-ups may pay at the door if extra seats are available.

If you are an Active or Associate Member who is unemployed and would like to attend this meeting, please call the HGS office for a discounted registration cost. We are also seeking members to volunteer at the registration desk for this and other events.

Troy Meinen
Environmental Resources Management

Is There Anything Dangerous Down There? Mitigating the Dangers of Digging, Trenching, and Drilling

All too often the news is filled with stories of evacuations, flooding, and in many cases injuries or death as the result of damage to underground lines. Whether digging with hand tools or machines, trenching, drilling borings, or simply cutting concrete, it is very easy to damage underground lines. Sometimes the consequences of striking underground lines are an inconvenience, such as in a recent event where a project team conducting hand dug pits for an acheological study unintentionally punctured an HDPE water line interrupting the water supply to an agricultural field. Many times, however, the consequences are much more severe as evidenced by recent examples of gas line explosions and electrical burns resulting from damage or impact to underground lines.

A robust pre-planning exercise before digging can greatly minimize the risk of hitting or damaging underground lines. Elements of planning should include, at a minimum, one call notification, a review of known information about a location, visual surveys, and conversations with knowledgeable people. Prior to selecting locations, technology can be used to trace known lines, and in many cases, assess potential obstructions in the ground. Finally, non-destructive excavation methods can greatly reduce the potential to damage underground lines.

This presentation will review industry practices for pre-planning ground disturbance activities, as well as the pros and cons of many non-intrusive technologies for tracing or locating lines. In addition, alternative technologies for physically uncovering lines or safely conducting excavations will be discussed. ■

Biographical Sketch

Troy Meinen is a Technical Director and Global Health and Safety Advisor with ERM in Houston. Over his 20-year career, he has worked on a wide variety of industrial facilities and upstream oil and gas projects to address contaminated ground water, soil and sediment issues. His background includes managing investigation and remediation of upstream oil and gas sites and assisting with due diligence for large oil and gas acreage position transactions for major Oil and Gas clients, which includes assessment of water use and protection, property transaction support, environmental impact assessment, environmental permitting and management, and Stakeholder concerns. He currently utilizes his field experience to support teams globally in improving health and safety performance in key ERM accounts.