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## Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

September 16, 2011



## Be One of the First Certified Storm Water Administrators in Montana

Only one week remains to register for the MCA's Storm Water Pollution Plan Administrator certification. Don't be caught out in the cold - this certification will save you money on job sites, especially in the rainy season. This certification might even help you land your next "best value" contract.

**This class will not be offered again until April/May, 2012.**

Thanks to sponsors, this [two-day class](#) is available at a cost of \$125 for MCA members, on 27-28 September in Billings. Hope to see you there!



## Small Business Workshop in Butte

Senator Jon Tester today announced that his next Small Business Opportunity Workshop will focus on helping Montana businesses find and secure contracting

### Quick Links

[MCA Newsletter](#)

[MCA Training Page](#)

[MCA Website](#)

### Calendar

Sep 21

Highway Technical Committee

9:00 MCA Office

10:00 MDT

*Feel free to call in 1-800-944-8766*

*Enter code 64076#*

Sep 22

Bid-letting

Helena, MDT

9:00 am

Sep 27-28

SWPPP Administrator Certification

Billings

[Registration](#)

### Quote of the Week

"Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

opportunities. The October 7 workshop in Butte will be Tester's ninth small business workshop.

Tester's event, at the War Bonnet Inn, will connect small businesses to numerous government agencies and contractors. The workshop will also feature a roundtable discussion with representatives from industry leaders such as Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

The first session, Marketing Your Product to the Federal Government, will focus on basic contracting strategy as well as helpful tools for established contractors. Later sessions will address unique opportunities for small businesses run by women and veterans.

In addition, the workshop will feature extensive networking opportunities with federal and state procurement officials and major aerospace and defense contractors.

Tester's workshop is free and open to the public. Montanans interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP at [www.testersenate.gov/workshop](http://www.testersenate.gov/workshop).



## AGC Education Survey

The AGC Education and Research Foundation, in cooperation with the Associated Schools of Construction, plans to fund a series of industry case studies for use in the university classroom, providing the opportunity for students in construction management programs to confront real-life decisions as they have occurred on job sites or in business situations. We are interested in your ideas for topics as we move forward in the planning phase of this project. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete this short survey. For further information, contact Foundation Director Melinda Patrician at [patricianm@agc.org](mailto:patricianm@agc.org) or 703-837-5342.



## Help us Repeal the Onerous 3% Withholding Law

Congress returned to Washington this week facing a busy legislative agenda. With several priorities competing for attention, AGC members are urged to

### Header Info

Crews from Dick Anderson Construction and Helena Sand and Gravel work on the State Fund Building in this 2008 photo.

keep the repeal of 3 percent government withholding in the forefront.

House Republican leadership has identified repeal of the 3 percent government withholding mandate as a priority this fall and may consider the legislation as early as October. They are including the repeal legislation as part of their jobs agenda for the fall. Currently there are 232 - a majority - of House members including Denny Rehberg, who have signed on as cosponsors of H.R. 674, a bill to repeal 3 percent government withholding.

While passage of 3 percent government withholding repeal is expected in the House when it comes up for a vote, the Senate has yet to schedule debate on similar legislation there despite a record 29 cosponsors.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! [Click here](#) to send a message to Senators Baucus and Tester, via the AGC's Legislative Affairs website. It only takes a couple of minutes, but it will directly affect you for years.



## Judge Rules For Hutterites

Montana District Judge Laurie McKinnon last week ruled that a 2009 Montana law requiring members of Hutterite colonies to be covered under workers compensation was unconstitutional.

Several Hutterite colonies in Montana have been expanding into commercial construction activities such as ready-mix concrete and farm buildings, creating unfair competition from the perspective of local businesses. It is uncertain if the decision will be appealed at this time. [Click here](#) to read the judge's decision.



## Newton to Represent MCA at Keystone Pipeline Public Meeting

MCA Director Mike Newton of Fisher Sand and Gravel in Glendive, will speak on behalf of the MCA as a proponent of permitting the Keystone XL Pipeline during the September 27 public meeting in Glendive scheduled

by the U.S. State Department. The massive project would bring oil from Canada to refineries in southern U.S., and involves a large "on-ramp" for Montana/North Dakota oil to be constructed at Baker, MT. [Click here](#) for more information on the project and to submit comments in favor of the project.



## DEQ Solicits Ideas from MCA on Opencut Rule Changes

During this week's "Stakeholder" meeting, DEQ officials invited MCA members to submit ideas and priorities for updating the Administrative Rules that gravel operators follow under Montana's Open Cut Mining Act. The MCA is asking interested members to submit comments, which we will compile into official recommendations to DEQ before they actually draft the new proposed rules. DEQ requested the preliminary comments be submitted by December 1. The next meeting of the Stakeholders group is slated for December 14 in Helena.



## MCA Officers Head to Washington, DC

President Tony Martel, Vice President Russ Olsen, and Executive Director Cary Hegreberg head to Washington, D.C. this weekend for the annual AGC Leadership Conference. In addition to learning about how to be more effective chapter leaders, they will contact Montana's Congressional delegation and emphasize issues important to MCA members, such as repealing the 3 percent withholding law, fully funding the Federal Highway Program, and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure.



## Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



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Montana Contractors Association | 1717 11th Avenue | Helena | MT | 59601