



March 01, 2010

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

March 2

March 9

March 10

March 14

Anchorage JATC

Safety Committee

Board/Membership Meeting

St Patrick's Day

Tool Box Talks

March 01, 2010

March 08, 2010

March 15, 2010

March 22, 2010

March 29, 2010

Confined Space Pre-Planning

Cranes & Hoists/Rigging & Slings

DMM (Digital Multimeter) Safety/Test Equipment

Emergency Response

Excavation

National News

Energy Solutions Blog Offers New Information and Practical Advice for Electrical Contractors

[The Role of Electrical Contractors on Leed Projects \(Index #F2902a\)](#), a new report from [ELECTRI International-The Foundation for Electrical Construction, Inc.](#) that members can download for **FREE**.

The [February 11, 2010, Energy Solutions blog](#) highlights the "LEED Credit Impact Slides" in the Foundation report. "It's as if someone went through a typical green/sustainable project seeking certification and pulled out the stuff applicable to an electrical contractor," Joe says. He also points out that the report's section on commissioning offers more practical advice for electrical contractors interested in new markets.

In addition, an item posted to Energy Solutions earlier in the week mentions that rules for commercial mortgages and leases often discourage owners from investing in energy-efficiency improvements. On the bright side, the blog leads to information on a [new way to fund energy projects](#) that could open more opportunities to ECs. *Check it out!*

Obama Discusses Nuclear Power, Green Jobs Training at NECA-IBEW Joint Training Center

Speaking at the [Electrical Alliance Training Center](#) operated by NECA's [Washington, D.C. Chapter](#) and [IBEW Local 26](#) last Tuesday, President Obama revealed that his

administration is guaranteeing \$8 billion to build two new nuclear reactors, the first to be sited in America in nearly three decades. Building the reactors at a power plant in Burke, GA, is expected to create 3500 construction jobs and 800 permanent operations jobs and bring clean, safe electricity to 550,000 homes.

[Obama's February 16 remarks at the JATC in Lanham, MD](#), also revealed that he is impressed by our ["Green Jobs" training curriculum](#). The workers and apprentices present during his tour of the facility provided a glimpse into the future that's possible when it comes to clean energy, he said "It's a future in which skilled laborers are helping us lead in burgeoning industries...It's a future in which we're exporting homegrown energy technology instead of importing foreign oil. And it's a future in which our economy is powered not by what we borrow and spend but what we invent and what we build."

"Our nation's access to affordable, reliable electricity depends on the smooth performance of a complex system," NECA President Rex Ferry notes. "NECA believes in a multi-faceted approach to making the U.S. energy independent that includes nuclear power and green energy, and we're honored that President Obama selected one of our training facilities to focus on these important issues."

Take Action

Online Registration Now Available For 2010 Legislative Conference

NECA's **2010 Legislative Conference**, an opportunity for members to get involved and assist in leading our industry forward on key policy issues, will be held **May 4-5**, with the by-invitation-only **Political Leadership Summit** following on **May 5-6**. More information will be published soon but there are two important items we're pleased to report now: (1) [Mike Allen](#), chief political correspondent for [Politico](#), will be our speaker May 5; and (2) you can register for the conference RIGHT NOW! [Reserve your place at NECA's 2010 Legislative Conference](#)

NECA Lobbying For Legislation To Curtail Worker Misclassification

Via a conference call on Friday, February 19, 2010, our [Government Affairs Committee](#) and the regional chairmen of our [Political Leadership Council](#) discussed NECA's legislative priorities for 2010, including efforts to secure jobs for contractors, pension relief, modifying the estate tax, repealing the 3% withholding provision, and worker misclassification. We hope to see the end of the latter perennial issue since new bills on worker misclassification have been introduced in both House ([HR 3408](#)) and Senate ([S 2882](#)). [Learn all about the new legislative efforts to close the worker misclassification loophole](#)

Addressing Worker Misclassification Outside The Legislative Arena

Since introducing new procedures and the new [Form 8919](#) to help workers who believe they have been misclassified as independent contractors, the IRS has entered into memorandums of understanding with 37 states (*so far*) to share data collaboratively approach worker misclassification. And, last week, the agency announced plans to begin an "intensive" three-year investigation into this pernicious practice. Economic ramifications are driving the increase in activity on this issue. [Find out why, and how, the IRS and the states are tackling worker misclassification](#)

Jobs Bills: Opener For Pension Reform, Energy-Efficiency Incentives?

The center piece of the jobs bill passed by the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, is a tax credit for companies that hire unemployed people. Other helpful provisions include an extension of [stimulus-related Section 179 tax breaks](#). With both the House and Senate planning to pursue a number of jobs-creation measures in the next month, NECA will use every opportunity to push for these and other bills to include [pension law reform](#) and [Building STAR energy-efficiency Incentives](#). [Learn what's in the jobs bill, what's next and what NECA plans to do about it](#)

Meetings & Events

Website, Twitter And Facebook Provide News On NECA 2010 Boston

It's not too early to begin planning your attendance at **NECA 2010 Boston (October 2-5)**. Our **convention website** is already up and running and will be updated on a regular basis. (More about this in next week's NTW.) You can also learn more about our upcoming convention and trade show by checking the tweets on [Twitter @necaconvention](#) and becoming a fan on [Facebook](#). [Our website for NECA 2010 Boston has just gone live. Take a look!](#)

On The Job

From ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR: Are You Ready To Bid More Jobs?

If you put off bidding new jobs until times are better, how will you know when times are, indeed, better? If you're not competing, how can you be sure your estimating database is competitive? And how can you maintain relationships with general contractors and other clients? A new article urges ECs to use downtime wisely by staying in the hunt, analyzing your bid results and comparing them to how they stand up against your current competition, and fine-tuning your estimating database and methods. [Use downtime \(or any time\) wisely: Read this article on EC magazine's website](#)

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

October 2-5, 2010	NECA Convention/Boston, MA
October 22-25, 2011	NECA Convention/San Diego, CA
September 30-October 3, 2012	NECA Convention/Las Vegas, NV
October 12-15, 2013	NECA Convention/Washington, DC