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PIPELINERS

HALL of FAME NEWS



Maine Drilling & Blasting
Still Having a Blast After 50 Years

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Still Having a Blast after **50** Years

Since 1966, Maine Drilling & Blasting has conducted their work based upon the simple, but sacred principles of hard work, honesty, and quality service. When Ted Purington, Sr. and his wife, Judy, started their business, they were unaware of the full breadth of territory through which those founding principles would take them. Now, they are truly amazed, honored, and proud of the nearly 400 employees who have adopted and carried forward those principles to customers they continue to serve today. Reaching from Maine to the mid Atlantic region and across New York, the Maine Drilling & Blasting Group has been in the pipeline, construction, and quarry drilling and blasting business for 50 years, and is currently celebrating this anniversary milestone.

Throughout this past half-century, Maine Drilling & Blasting has evolved with the pipeline industry, establishing and maintaining reputable and exemplary relationships with scores of customers. After successfully conquering the Phase I and II Millennium Pipelines, El Paso/Tennessee Gas 300, and Spectra Iroquois, Maine Drilling & Blasting can proudly acknowledge its recognizable achievements in the completion of these pipelines while meeting challenges of unforgiving terrain, inclement weather, remote access, environmental sensitivity, and intensive schedules.

Maine Drilling & Blasting's current pipeline work consists of the Vermont Gas Addison Natural Gas Project and for MD Drilling & Blasting, the Spectra Energy Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Project.



Komatsu powder transport developed by Maine Drilling & Blasting to overcome challenging terrain.



Better self-sufficiency gained through innovation.

The Addison Natural Gas Project began in 2015 kicking off in Colchester, VT, and ending the first 11 miles in Williston, VT. Then in 2016, MD&B kicked off in Williston and is currently progressing south, working to finish the 41-mile line to Middlebury, VT. Most of the 41 miles of pipeline is tucked in next to a Vermont electric company (VELCO) easement. Difficult terrain, 20% rock on the line, and specifications, which require 100% of all blasts to be matted, together serve to test any schedule. We currently have two drill and blast crews, and one probe crew identifying rock that needs to be blasted. Additional challenges on this project range from extremely wet conditions due to an unseasonably warm winter along with steep terrain, to neighbor concerns and potential protests. However, one neighbor told Vermont Gas representatives, "At least you hired the right blasting company," Maine Drilling & Blasting.

For MD Drilling & Blasting the AIM project for Spectra Energy began in Eastern Connecticut in 2015. In 2016, work continues in western CT progressing into NY with portions of the 30-plus-mile mostly take-up and re-lay pipeline reaching just shy of New Jersey. This portion of the AIM project consists of 12, 16 and 42-inch pipe blasted within 25 feet of an existing hot line. Major challenges with the AIM project are schedule, vibration control and permitting in a highly sensitive, regulatory-burdened, suburb-filled region. MD had as many as 7 drills on the line last year, and anticipates up to 9 or more to keep up with the schedule.



Crew loading a right-of-way blast in northern Vermont.



Mats being placed on a right of way blast for Vermont Gas Addison Natural Gas project. In 2016 Maine Drilling & Blasting purchased over 200 12x24-foot blasting mats to comply with 100% matting specifications and provide customers with desired breakage.

To create the safest environment possible in dealing with the magnitude and complexities of pipeline projects, MD&B focuses on training and utilizing appropriate equipment. With each new project, job hazard analysis, site security plans are preformed, as well as daily “heads up” meetings to confirm the safety and progress of a site. Technologically advanced drills, such as the self-contained crawler drill with winch capabilities and dust collection systems, along with remote access transportation expressly developed by the company, benefit its energy projects. In addition, Maine Drilling & Blasting has developed internal support departments to provide incomparable services, allowing MD&B to be a one-stop shop. While other companies may need to reach out to outside services to receive the support they need to safely continue serving their customers as requested, MD&B built departments to avoid external inconsistency while improving their value proposition. Maine Drilling is able to manage safety compliance and pre-blast surveys, movement of explosives from the warehouse to the site, and maintain on-site equipment with corresponding departments in order to safely execute procedures and complete a blast without inefficiencies.

For half of a century, Maine Drilling has expanded by recruiting and training employees that are local to the region of work, as local presence is pivotal in successfully servicing customers. The company’s employees establish a home, work, and create families in each region. This concept is crucial in having the capability to found accessible storage facilities across the company’s service geography. Employee loyalty and accountability, enhanced by MD&B’s employee stock ownership program (ESOP) established in 2004, has helped create a company with offices in each region that support local teams, allowing for an easier commute to customers with the necessary products that projects require. In addition to the corporate office in Gardiner, Maine, Maine Drilling & Blasting has offices in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. In 2015, the newest facility was built in Bethel, Pennsylvania. As a result, business has boomed as customers have taken notice of the added brick and mortar, and taken advantage of resources at the ready.



Crew on the Addison Natural Gas Project, Vermont, having a safety meeting.

Maine Drilling, along with its union subsidiary, MD Drilling & Blasting, works to support local services in recognition of their achievement and success, attributed to its people. Optimal equipment and explosives may be purchased, however, it is the education and training of nearly 400 Maine Drilling employees that sets them as a breed apart. According to Ted Purington Jr., Executive Vice President, “our success depends on employing the best people in the drilling and blasting industry in order to continue MD&B’s high performance culture.”



A loading operation on steep terrain in Vermont



Blasting Supervisor, Dave Falvey, loading a ditch blast in Northern Vermont



Feature Article (cont.)

Looking to the future, the company is well positioned with experienced crews of drillers, blasters, engineers, and project superintendents/managers to take full advantage of the numerous pipeline projects slated for the Northeast within the coming year. Maine Drilling & Blasting customers can be confident in the production efficiencies, deep resources, environmental compliance, and safety performance MD&B will bring to their projects.

Maine Drilling & Blasting, recognized as a leader in the industry and a long-term contributor to the local communities it serves, offers drilling and blasting services to the pipeline, construction and quarry markets, along with a variety of specialty services throughout the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic United States, including rock anchors, hoe ramming, public relations, pre-blast surveys, and packaged and bulk distribution. The company has been led to success over three generations beginning with Ted Purington, Sr., Bill (William) Purington, current Chairman and CEO of the company, Ted Purington, Jr., current Executive Vice President and Will Purington, present Eastern Division manager. Working alongside the Purington family, the next generation of managers, executives and MD&B employee owners strive to lead Maine Drilling & Blasting to a century of achieving excellence.



Drilling 25 feet off a hot line in New York.



The MD crew preparing a ditch blast for the load crew in New York



Drilling a blast ditch in Northern Vermont.



Drilling and blasting a steep slope in northern Vermont



Right-of-way improvement blast 15 feet off the road and 30 feet from a 345 kV powerline, Monkton, VT