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For Immediate Release

### **Maine Drilling & Blasting Earns ABC National Safety Designation**

**Gardiner, ME (June 24, 2008)** – Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Maine today announced that Maine Drilling & Blasting has achieved the GOLD level of ABC’s Safety Training and Evaluation Process (STEP) program.

To achieve ABC’s STEP gold level, among other requirements, a company must have a total recordable incident rate 25 percent below the industry average in one of the past three years, submit their official U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration form on work-related injuries and illness, and secure a declaration from their insurance company that supports the company's STEP self-evaluation score.

“It truly is an honor and a privilege to be able to recognize Maine Drilling & Blasting for their continued dedication to providing training and safe workplaces for their employees,” said ABC President and CEO Kirk Pickerel. “These companies have used the STEP program to evaluate and build upon already stellar safety programs and become leaders in training and incident prevention. Indeed, these companies continue to strive for our most important goal, to send every construction industry employee home safe to their families, every day.”

STEP was established in 1989 by the ABC National Environment, Health & Safety Committee to assist ABC member contractors in evaluating and improving corporate safety practices and recognize outstanding safety training efforts. STEP awards are presented annually. Each year, more than 2,000 contractors of various sizes participate in the STEP program.

Maine Drilling & Blasting, recognized as a leader in the industry and a long-term contributor to the local community, offers drilling and blasting services to the construction and quarry markets, along with a variety of specialty services throughout the Northeastern United States, including rock bolting, hoe ramming, engineering, public relations, preblast surveys and packages and bulk distribution. In addition to the corporate office in Gardiner, Maine, Maine Drilling & Blasting has offices in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

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