

February 27, 2015 – VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

Channel Concrete Pressure Pipe Industry's Voice and Take Action on Capitol Hill

ACPPA Gets New Golden State Digs

After several decades of being headquartered in the Northern Virginia suburbs outside Washington, D.C., ACPPA has moved its offices to Orange, California. Although the association has new digs, members won't notice any changes. The organization will still be providing all the same products and services. The association will also continue to have a strong presence in the nation's capital thanks to its long-standing relationship with the law firm of Obadal, Filler, MacLeod & Klein, which provides legal counsel and lobbying services to ACPPA.

Please make note of ACPPA's new headquarters address: 4122 E. Chapman Ave. Ste. 27, Orange, CA 92869. The new phone number is 714-801-0298.

Every day, ACPPA works on behalf of its members lobbying for policy to reduce our members' costs of doing business and expand pressure pipe markets.

You can play a vital role in that work. If you don't think outreach matters, keep in mind that almost half the members of the House of Representatives have been office less than five years. That means there are a lot of new people on Capitol Hill who know little or nothing about our industry.

Just remember that you're a voter and that every elected official works for you. Also keep in mind that you know infinitely more about your company, your industry, and how you're affected by federal policy than they do.

Want to get started? Here's a great way – send a quick email to your elected representatives about the issues that matter most to the concrete pressure pipe industry. ACPPA makes it easy. Take a look at the issues, pick and click; ACPPA-action.org will do the rest:

[Support the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act \(SWIIA\)](#)

Enacting SWIIA (H.R. 499) is one of ACPPA's top priorities. The legislation would lift the cap on private activity bonds of water projects and open the spigot for more private money to be spent on infrastructure. ACPPA is helping to lead the coalition to enact SWIIA. The bill has just been introduced and we're working to build visibility, particularly with new members of Congress. Urge your lawmakers to cosponsor SWIIA.

[Protect State Revolving Funds \(SRFs\)](#)

It seems as though nearly every day another water main break or failure of our water infrastructure is in the news. Years of underfunding have taken their toll. The Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are the primary sources of federal investment in sewers and drinking water. Let your lawmakers know you support robust funding the water the SRFs.

[Pro-Manufacturer, Pro-Infrastructure Tax Reform](#)

The tax reform debate taking place on Capitol Hill has the potential to impact both demand for concrete pressure pipe and manufacturer costs of doing business. ACPPA is promoting a comprehensive tax reform agenda aligned with the priorities of our manufacturing and construction allies.

[Clean Up the EPA's Regulatory Agenda](#)

The Obama administration is attempting to circumvent Congress and legislate by regulation in a number of areas that could impact construction and economic development.

High Energy: President Vetoes Keystone Bill; House Advances Energy-Focused Bills

On Feb 24, President Obama vetoed legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline despite strong, bipartisan support in the House and Senate. While not unexpected, the veto leaves the project's path forward uncertain.

The president's actions followed the House's approval of the Senate-passed Keystone XL Pipeline Act ([S. 1](#)), 270-152, sending a strong bipartisan, bicameral bill to the White House.



A tanker transports liquefied natural gas. (Photo courtesy of energy.gov)

The veto will not end what has become one of the hottest debates in Washington. The decision to ultimately issue the pipeline permit is in the administration's hands and Capitol Hill supporters may seek House and Senate votes to override the veto, although early vote counts indicate such a course of action would be unsuccessful. Meanwhile, Keystone advocates will ramp up pressure on the White House for a final decision.

House Passes Bills on Pipeline Permitting & LNG Exports

Having disposed of Keystone XL approval legislation, the House turned its attention to two bipartisan bills to bolster the U.S. energy sector and create jobs throughout the country.

On Jan. 21, [14 Democrats joined 239 Republicans](#) in supporting the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act ([H.R. 161](#)). Introduced by Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.), the legislation aims to expedite the federal review process for natural gas pipeline permit applications by requiring agencies to issue responses within scheduled timeframes. If the government fails to review submissions in a timely manner, they would be automatically approved.

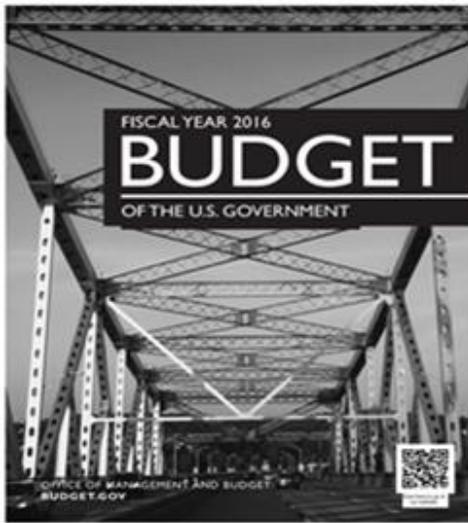
Following H.R. 161's passage, on Jan. 28, the House approved the LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act ([H.R. 351](#)) with strong bipartisan support, [277-133](#).

H.R. 351 ends unnecessary delays blocking the export of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) by requiring the Department of Energy to issue a decision on applications following the conclusion of environmental review of the LNG facilities. Lifting the export ban is expected to not only create jobs in exploration and production, but also

reverberate down through the vast community of local, regional and national energy supply chain companies. In particular, the increased energy development resulting from the legislation would increase market demand for industry.

President Obama's FY 2016 Budget Emphasizes Transpo Infrastructure, Tax Reform

The White House released its [FY 2016 budget proposal](#) amid much fanfare earlier this month. The government is currently funded until September 2015 and if the last several years are any indication, the spending plan for next year will likely come down to -- or even over -- the wire yet again. With that said, President Obama's budget offers a look at the priorities of the executive branch and sheds light on areas of both disagreement and opportunities for cooperation with the new Republican Congress.



The cover of the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget of the U.S. Government. (Photo courtesy of [whitehouse.gov](#))

“transition toll” of 14 percent that would be levied against money U.S. corporations are holding in overseas bank accounts. The entirety of the “transition toll” would go towards transportation reauthorization in order to make improvements without increasing the deficit.

The budget does propose a permanent extension of the research and experimentation tax credit along with other policies targeted at business investment in new technologies and resources. In addition to funding these programs, the administration proposes a to reform these incentives – along with the formulas used to calculate them – in order to create simpler and more efficient management of the tax code.

Remember, this budget is just a proposal from the executive branch. It articulates the administration's priorities but has no binding effect. Now that it is out, Congress is up to bat to determine what its priorities are. There is certain to be plenty of disagreement between White House and the lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

The [Office of Management and Budget's \(OMB\) summary of plan](#) says infrastructure development is a major part of the president's plan to “create a 21st-century economy.” The budget contains a six-year, \$478 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal that seeks to buoy the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), modernize and expand transportation systems, and improve the permitting process for major infrastructure projects. However, other federal programs would find themselves on the chopping block, despite being valuable to industry. One is the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), which fund water infrastructure construction. Combined, they would drop from \$2.356 billion to \$2.302 under the Obama plan. Maintaining SRF funding is a priority for ACPPA as the program has seen dramatic cuts since 2010, falling from nearly \$3.5 billion to current levels – nearly a 33 percent loss.

The budget plan would pay for the increased infrastructure investment by changing the way U.S. corporations' foreign earnings are taxed. Integral to the surface transportation reauthorization is a one-time

As Temperatures Drop, Highway Debate Heats Up

Two months into the 114th Congress, the highway reauthorization process is heating up on Capitol Hill. That's good news as lawmakers look for solutions to fund a multiyear, robust surface transportation bill prior to MAP-21's expiration at the end of May.



Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx speaks at this month's Senate EPW Committee hearing on the highway bill. (Photo courtesy of epw.senate.gov)

EPW Committee Hearing: Foxx Urges Action

On Jan. 28, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) held its first hearing to examine the need for federal transportation infrastructure investments and the importance of a long-term highway bill. Most importantly, the hearing provided a venue to explore the threat to businesses, states and workers caused by the once-again looming insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF).

Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, the sole participant on the day's first panel, called for swift, bipartisan action in unequivocal terms. "We must do something dramatic," Foxx said. "To hell with politics." The secretary then promised to return an updated version of President Obama's mostly-

ignored [GROW America Act](#) to lawmakers in the weeks to come. The second panel featured governors from South Dakota, Connecticut, Alabama and Vermont discussing the federal highway program's importance for their respective states.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Capitol, the [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee](#) has been trying to hold its own hearing to highlight surface transportation reauthorization's economic and job creation impact. Weather and scheduling issues have twice delayed the event, but the issue remains at the forefront of the committee's agenda.

Odd Couple Unveils Highway Funding Proposal

As conservative groups (such as [Club for Growth](#) and [Americans for Tax Reform](#)) delivered [a letter](#) to Capitol Hill opposing an increase in the federal gas tax, a strange alliance developed in the Senate.

Long-time liberal Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Cal.) joined conservative Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) to announce introduction of the [Invest in Transportation Act](#). The proposal allows companies to voluntarily return (i.e., "repatriate") their foreign earnings to the United States at a tax rate of 6.5 percent with the revenues transferred directly to the HTF. Many lawmakers have coalesced around repatriation as a fix to the federal highway program's pending insolvency. However, AED and others in the transportation industry are concerned if there is enough revenue to fund a long-term highway bill.

Although powerful senators, including Senate Finance Chairman Orin Hatch (R-Utah) and Senate EPW Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R- Okla.), announced skepticism about using repatriation to fund the next highway bill, the idea has gained traction across the political spectrum on both sides of Capitol Hill. Hatch said, "I think we can do it

without that, and secondly, that's not what we should do with repatriation. Repatriation may be necessary for true tax reform. We'll just have to see."

Bipartisan Letter to House Leadership Urging Long-Term Highway Bill Action

Another important highway-related development this month: On Feb. 24, well over a majority of House lawmakers joined a letter urging the chamber's leadership to make passing a long-term, fully-funded surface transportation bill an immediate priority.

The effort, led by Reps. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.), Reed Ribble (R-Wis.), Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.), and Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.), garnered the support of 130 Republicans and 155 Democrats, demonstrating the broad, bipartisan backing for an immediate, multiyear solution to the country's highway funding crisis.

A Bridge to Somewhere – Deal Reached on Detroit-Windsor Crossing

Officials from the United States and Canada announced this month that had reached an agreement to finance a key piece of the new Detroit-Windsor Bridge.

The [New International Trade Crossing \(NITC\)](#) had been held up over the cost of construction and operations of a customs and toll facility on the U.S. side of the Detroit River. After months of negotiation, the U.S. inspection plaza will be developed as part of a public-private partnership (P3) that will design, finance, construct, operate and maintain the facility.

The bridge has strong support from national business, construction, and manufacturing groups on both sides of the border. In addition to being a major construction project in its own right, the bridge has significant implications for the trade relationship between the U.S. and Canada and for manufacturing and distribution sector logistics across the continent. In March 2014, 40 organizations sent a [letter](#) to the president in support of the proposed new bridge. "By adding vital new capacity," the letter said, "the NITC will reduce border congestion, enhance efficiencies for businesses on both sides of the border, create jobs, benefit the environment and strengthen the North American economy."

Pressure Pipe Post

ACPPA's Monthly Source for Industry News

February 2015

To keep members aware of the activities of government and standards organizations, we regularly sweep public databases and publications for the industry-specific terms indicated below. We then provide our members with links to documents identified in the search. Please note that in some cases the URLs may link to subscription-only databases. The purpose of this service is to identify emerging threats and trends as well as opportunities for collective action by ACPPA.

Search Terms:

Pressure Pipe
Concrete Pressure Pipe

Cement
Fly Ash

Silica Fume

NEWS RESULTS

Cement

[How Horizontal Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing Helps USA Economy](#)

Horizontal Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing, represent technology developed in the 1980's, are responsible for extracting Shale Gas and Shale Oil [Unconventional Liquid Hydrocarbons] from previously non-productive shale formations about one mile below the surface.

[Cold Temps Make Working on Water Mains Difficult](#)

There was no rest for the weary during the long weekend. A water main break on Cheyenne Road near Mt. Algonquin Road was discovered early Sunday morning after someone called dispatch about water in the road.

[Review: ND Oil and Gas Division Ignores EPA Guidelines for Saltwater Disposal Wells](#)

The North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources' Division of Oil and Gas has allowed saltwater-disposal wells to continue injecting fluid underground even as mechanical integrity tests – meant to detect weaknesses in the well's construction – have indicated leaks in parts of the wells' multiple layers of casing.

[Precisely What to do When the Sewer Line Breaks?](#)

A break in the sewer line can be an irritating issue for the owner of a home because this can trigger sewer to arrive back up into your home. Aside from this, it's very difficult to locate the place where the sewer is broken. This makes it very hard to fix.

[Scrape on Aged Waterline Causes Northridge Area to go Without Water Thursday](#)

A scrape on the outside of a cement-encased metal water pipe caused a waterline to begin leaking Wednesday night, city officials said.

[Coalition Forms to Push Back Drillers From Oil and Gas-Loving Denver](#)

It was just a matter of time. A new front has opened up in the war over oil and gas drilling in Colorado just outside the city line on the northeastern rim of Denver, the state's capital city and main population center.

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[Different Types of Metal Expansion Joints offers by Flexpert Bellows](#)

Flexpert Bellows produces a wide variety of metal bellows expansion joints that are used by the major industries in various sectors like cement, sugar, aerospace, steel, power generation, chemical, shipping, rubber, heat recovery, paper, petrochemicals and nuclear power.

[One Water Leak Repaired, Another to be Investigated](#)

It turns out the water leak in front of Brown's Root Beer in downtown South Lyon wasn't one of the newly-replaced water lines in the city.

[Iowa Pumper Serves Farm Community Customers](#)

Working in rural northeast Iowa, Robb Harter started his liquid-waste-hauling business based on serving the diverse needs of his many farmer neighbors. As long as the work involved conveying sludge or wastewater, he would be ready to perform.

[Inlet Protection During Construction—and After](#)

Water—a simple molecule of one oxygen and two hydrogens, with such a simple design. It's the very structure of water that makes it strong enough to force boulders loose on a hillside.

Fly Ash

[Concrete Solutions to Aging Bridges](#)

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), this state leads the nation in the number of bridges classified as "structurally deficient."

[Fly-Ash Mismanagement Cause of Pollution in Odisha](#)

Coal-rich Odisha may have drawn huge investments in the electricity sector to emerge as a powerhouse of India but the state has been unsuccessful in utilising the fly ash produced in thermal power plants which has led to massive air and water pollution.

[A Phoenix from the Ashes](#)

As the supply of fresh fly ash gradually dries up, suppliers and consumers are exploring ways of exploiting historic stockpiles. David Taylor reports

[The Coal Ash Rule: How the EPA's Recent Ruling Will Affect the Way Plants Manage CCRs](#)

Last December, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its final ruling for the regulation of coal combustion residuals (CCRs). Commonly referred to as the "coal ash rule", the new policies have largely been met with acceptance, even relief, with many industry representatives calling the ruling a fair compromise. The final CCR ruling follows six years of debate about how best to handle a potentially perilous situation.

[Carolinas Look at Ways to Benefit from Using Coal Ash](#)

South Carolina's largest power producer is being commended for moving swiftly to deal with its industrial waste, but such is not the case for North Carolina, as it grapples with its coal ash problem in committees and through lawsuits against the nation's largest utility, Duke Energy.

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[Coal Ash Upside? State, Duke Seek Beneficial Uses](#)

Advocates of coal ash recycling say a recent federal ruling that determined the waste is not hazardous has paved the way for continued use of coal ash in concrete and other industries.

[29 Jobs Lost as Caledonia Company that Converted Coal Byproducts Finds Another Home](#)

CalStar Products Inc. said Monday that it is relocating some production of its brick products made in Caledonia with fly ash from We Energies' Oak Creek Power Plant to a factory in Columbus, Miss., resulting in the loss of 29 Racine County jobs.

[Coal Ash More Toxic than Lawmakers Let On](#)

Coal ash is hardly a subject to fire the imagination. No doubt there are lawmakers in Raleigh who wish the public would forget it completely.

[Coal Ash Association Welcomes EPA Final Rule](#)

The American Coal Ash Association (ACAA) welcomed the publication on Dec. 19 of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Final Rule regulating coal ash disposal as a “non-hazardous” material.

[Understanding Coal Power Plant Heat Rate and Efficiency](#)

The scene: Twenty years ago, a young engineer stands in front of a group of plaques and awards in the lobby of a large coal-fired power plant. She notes with interest that several of them refer to “best heat rate” awards, and she also notes that the last award is more than three years old. A grizzled station engineer, looking like a coal-dusted Sam Elliott, joins her in front of the display.

[NIST Study Uses Supercomputer Modeling To Design Better Concrete Mixes](#)

In an effort to better understand the behaviors of concrete made with unusual admixtures, the National Institute of Standards and Technology recently released the results of supercomputer modeling of the physical properties of wet concrete.

[Concrete industry wants NC coal ash recycled, not dumped](#)

Exactly one year ago Monday -- on Feb 2, 2014 -- North Carolina faced one of the biggest environmental disasters in the state's history when a storm water pipe below one of Duke Energy's coal ash pond's collapsed, spilling nearly 40,000 tons of coal ash into the Dan River.

[MEC Applauds Coal Ash Decision](#)

Power companies — and electric consumers — are catching a break from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, which after nearly six years of debate and investigation, has ruled that coal ash should be designated as non-hazardous.