



# Lead Lines



Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter  
International Society of Explosives Engineers  
[www.easternpaisee.com](http://www.easternpaisee.com)

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Winter 2018

The Eastern PA ISEE welcomes requests for topics, and invites readers' letters and other contributions that relate to drilling, blasting, seismology and explosives engineering.

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## It's Membership Renewal Time!

Membership in the Eastern PA Chapter of the ISEE keeps you connected to news and events in the drilling, blasting and seismic fields. Members receive benefits such as quarterly newsletters, training opportunities, regulatory and safety updates as well as informational/social events.

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To become a member or renew your membership, please complete the form featured on page 18. You can also find the membership form online.

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## Clay Shoot & BBQ

Pages 3, 4 & 5

## 18th PA Drilling & Blasting Conference

Pages 10, 12 -16

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## Letter from The President

Dear Chapter,

I hope your 2018 is off to a great start! As a Chapter, we have some very exciting things planned for this year.

The Chapter's Board of Directors have been working with web professionals to re-design our Chapter website. The new website will allow you to view photos from past events, learn about upcoming meetings, and download past newsletters. As we continue to build the website, we need your help! We are looking for photos of quarries, plants, equipment, and people on the job – anything that captures our industry. You must own the rights of the photo and/or have the power to grant the Eastern PA Chapter the permission to use the photo. Please send any photos to Kristin Klemish at [kristink@vibratechinc.com](mailto:kristink@vibratechinc.com).

Applications for the 2018 SEE Education Foundation Scholarship are now available. If you know of an individual who would be interested in applying for a 2018 SEE Education Foundation Scholarship, please download the form and apply at [www.isee.org/students](http://www.isee.org/students). The Scholarship Review Committee will be awarding \$81,000, with a top award of up to \$7,500 for a very qualified undergraduate and graduate student. The application period closes on Friday, May 4, 2018.

Details about our upcoming meetings this year will be announced soon.

Best regards,

Scott



**Tony Sosnoskie, CEO**  
**Office: 570-246-5690**  
**Cell: 540-270-6243**  
**[tsosnoskie@blastingexchange.com](mailto:tsosnoskie@blastingexchange.com)**



## Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Clay Shoot & BBQ

On Friday, November 10th the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the ISEE hosted a Clay Shoot and BBQ. Twenty people participated in the event at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays course in Coplay, Pennsylvania.

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Rift Consulting, Sauls Seismic, Stemlock Inc., Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc., and  
Wampum Hardware Co.; the event was free for members and non-members paid  
\$30 for their 2018 membership.

The top shooters were awarded.

### Top Shooters

**1st Place:** Joshua Derrick of Reading Fracture Inc./  
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**2nd Place:** Eric Gibbs of Saul's Seismic

**3rd Place:** Ken Steinmetz of Brubacher

Thank you to all of our sponsors and participants!

**Continued on page 4 & 5**

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# 2017 Clay Shoot & BBQ



# 2017 Clay Shoot & BBQ



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## Final Rulemaking: Handling and Use of Explosives

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has completed its preparation of the Handling and Use of Explosives final rulemaking. The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) plans to meet and act on this regulation at a public meeting scheduled for 10am on Thursday, April 19, 2018.

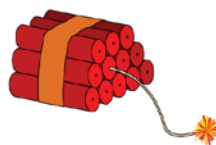
A copy of the NEW Final Rulemaking on "Handling and Use of Explosives" was emailed to Chapter members on Friday, April 6, 2018. If you or your company is interested in submitting comments, you will need to submit those to the IRRC Board prior to the 48-hour blackout period, which begins at 10am on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. You are also invited to send your comments to the Chapter. To do so, please contact Scott Mueller at [smueller@bluestonedrilling.com](mailto:smueller@bluestonedrilling.com) or John Benedict at [jbenedict@maurer-scott.com](mailto:jbenedict@maurer-scott.com) by 10am on Monday, April 16, 2018.

If you have questions regarding the regulatory review process or to download the final-form regulation, please visit the IRRC website at [www.irrc.state.pa.us](http://www.irrc.state.pa.us). If you have any further questions about the final rulemaking, please call (717) 783-8727.

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## Rock Work Inc. Awarded by Pulte Homes

Rock Work Inc. Drilling and Blasting has been named the 2017 Land Development Trade Partner of the Year by Pulte Group, the third largest homebuilder in the United States. Rock Work Inc. was awarded this achievement for its involvement with a very large master planned community consisting of nearly 300 new home lots located in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The initial geotechnical report for the project was very limited in scope, so during the course of the project, additional rock areas were discovered. Rock Work Inc.'s multiple crews worked with and kept ahead of several pipe, dirt, and retaining wall crews installing the required site infrastructure to support the single phased new community. Significant rock cuts were encountered in all of the storm water management basins, dozens of basements, miles of utility trenches, and three wet well excavations. Rock Work Inc. was able to maintain the project's aggressive schedule, even with all of the additional rock encountered, allowing the project paving to happen in the Fall and open for new home sales. The project has been experiencing record sales, with very strong demand for the new homes even through the typically slow winter months. Rock Work Inc. is thankful for its hard working employees and suppliers that made this achievement possible.



Rock Work Inc. is a 4th generation, family owned regional drilling and blasting company with roots dating back to 1925. Rock Work Inc. specializes in construction drilling and blasting in some of the most densely populated areas in the Eastern United States. Rock Work Inc.'s service area includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Delaware.



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## Chapter Awarded at ISEE Conference

At this year's 44th Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique in San Antonio, TX, the Eastern PA Chapter was recognized with the Chapter Newsletter Award. We were also awarded the Chapter Service Award for the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference in conjunction with Mid Atlantic Chapter.



*Pictured left to right is Kristin Klemish, Chapter Newsletter Editor; Rusty Taft, Chapter Vice President; and Scott Mueller, Chapter President.*



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# Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference

At the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference, held November 16 & 17, 2017 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, approximately 450 people attended the bi-annual conference. The conference featured 59 exhibit booths and 4 outdoor displays. Industry experts gave presentations on new products and practices for cost savings, improved fragmentation, vibration control, improved safety, and regulatory compliance for underground and surface blasters, engineers, suppliers, and other professionals associated with drilling, blasting, and explosives. Attendees could earn up to 10 hours of classroom instruction towards their Pennsylvania blaster's license renewal continuing education requirements.

The conference was supported by Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS) and its Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering (EME). Conference sponsors included Sauls Seismic, Independent Explosives, Maine Drilling & Blasting, Nomis Seismographs, Nobel Insurance Services, REICHdrill, Deep Earth Logic, and Wampum Hardware Co.



*Rick Lamkie, from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection received a recognition plaque for his service to the conference, upon his retirement from the planning committee.*

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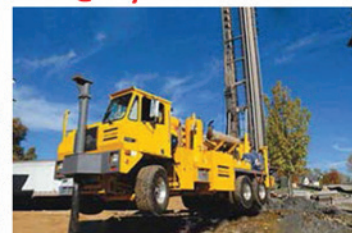


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# Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference



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# Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference



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## **MSHA's Final Rule on Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines**

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will publish a final rule on Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines that amends a final rule published on January 23, 2017.

The amendments to the final rule require that an examination of the working place be conducted before work begins or as miners begin working in that place, and that the examination record include a description of each condition found that may adversely affect the safety or health of miners and is not corrected promptly, and the date of the corrective action for the condition.

MSHA will publish a separate notice announcing stakeholder meetings across the country to provide outreach and compliance assistance materials on the Final Rule. A notice announcing additional meetings to be held in Seattle, Washington and locations by way of video teleconferencing will be published at a later date.

The documents were published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2018. Additional information on the final rule is found on MSHA's website.





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