

SAFETY · QUALITY · PERFORMANCE · SINCE 1908

A Century of Experience

Vacuum & Keyhole Excavation Perspectives

March 21 2019 GTI



- Founded in 1908
- One of the top 20 largest, privately held electrical, utility and pipeline contractors in the country
- Divisions: Utility, Industrial, Commercial, Pipeline, and Infrastructure
- Self performance capabilities in all project aspects electrical, natural gas, civil, mechanical and underground installations.
- Complete electrical and communication engineering and design coordination
- Excellent safety performance
- National presence: we operate wherever our customers need us

Infrastructure:

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Industrial:

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Utilities:

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Commercial:

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Engineering:

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- MEADE began its vacuum excavation program due to a customer requirement(s) in work methodology in Electrical Stations and Substations
- Dry Vacuum (air only) truck mounted along with a portable wheel barrow hopper (approximately 1980)
- MEADE presently has 24 Large WET/DRY Vacuum Trucks and 2 medium sized units (2019). Most work performed in wet mode. Additionally MEADE rents additional equipment as required or hires subcontractors to perform limited scope of work



Scope of Vacuum Excavation & Keyhole Work

- Potholing or locating of utilities
- Anode, Test Wires/Stations
- Pipeline Integrity Checks
- Bbox Maintenance
- Anaerobic Cast Iron Joint Repair
- Encapsulation of Cast Iron Bell Joints & Mechanical Joints
- Station Work (Refineries, Regulator Stations)
- Excavating around Control lines



Vac & Keyhole Strengths

- Pavement & Restoration Costs Reduced
- Immediate Restoration (No Need to Maintain Openings until a permanent repair can be made)
- Open Cut Excavation for same tasks would in most cases require more earth movement, sheeting- labor intensive
- Tasks can usually be performed in a shorter time period



Vac Equipment











KEYHOLE Coring & Reinstatement













- Hard Hat
- Safety Glasses with Side Shields (ANSI Z87)
- Face Shields
- Long Pants & Shirts
- Ear Plugs / Hearing Protection
- Impact Resistant Safety Gloves
- Steel / Composite Toe Safety Boots
- ANSI Class III Retro-reflective Safety Vest



Operator Qualification

Workers need to be qualified for vacuum excavation and keyhole reinstatement – Should be identified as a covered task in OQ Program

Operators – ALWAYS ACCOUNTABLE

Veriforce, B31Q, NCCER, CCT, Operator Specific Task

Contractors, Subcontractors, Operators



- Qualified Personnel at a minimum
 - Comprehensive training program containing manufacturer's operating procedures
 - Set up a safety perimeter protect those in immediate area
 - Use of splash guard when starting a hole
 - Know what action and precautions to take when hoses it clogged
 - Know how to read flows and pressures
 - Know how to shut unit down in emergency
 - Proper use of tips and nozzles





Not everyone is qualified to do gas work.