

The Construction **REVIEW**



JOHN DEERE

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It's go time in Chicago

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COVER STORY

Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, NPL is a nationally recognized leader in pipeline construction with over 40 years' experience building energy-distribution systems. The company installs over 10 million feet of pipe and wire each year. "As with everything we do, our Green Initiative is focused on the customer," says Travis. "No matter where we're working, we need to meet local standards as the local contractor. Deere, through its corporate office and local dealers, has helped us do that."

Emission compliance: Today and tomorrow

John Deere dealers help companies like NPL meet and exceed local emission requirements in a number of ways:

- 1 Fleet review:** Reviewing the company's emission-reduction program and performing a fleet assessment to develop the best emission-reduction strategy.
- 2 Equipment replacement:** Replacing older machines with new ones to significantly reduce fleet emissions.
- 3 Engine replacement:** Offering repower kits for select John Deere equipment.
- 4 Rental equipment:** Providing low-emission John Deere equipment.
- 5 Retrofitted after-treatment:** Retrofitting engines with an aftermarket emission-conversion kit or auxiliary filtration system.

Coming in 2012: JOHN DEERE IT4 BACKHOES

Deere extensively reviews the composition of NPL's fleet and machine utilization, then advises them to buy or sell equipment or reassign it to ensure compliance. For example, John Deere compacts — along with the 75D and 85D Excavators — with engines below 75 horsepower are already Interim Tier 4, certified, so Deere recommended that NPL move some larger equipment out of the city to areas without emission regulations and replace it with compact equipment.

NPL turns its equipment over every three years, so it doesn't retrofit. "We like to think of ourselves as being at the forefront, so we're always looking at the newest equipment out there," explains Travis. "That way we're assured of having the best control technology available to keep up with EPA standards through our J-Series Backhoes and K-Series Wheel Loaders."

"The best part about going green with John Deere is they're ahead of the curve," adds Dylan Hrdek, General Superintendent for NPL-Illinois. "They know the regulations and are committed to meeting them. By being on the cutting edge with John Deere products, we can step into greener machines without losing the productivity, ease of maintenance, and reliability we've come to expect."

Lean, mean, green machines

In Illinois, NPL has a huge arsenal of Deere equipment at its disposal, including excavators and front-end wheel loaders, as well as compact equipment like skid steers and compact excavators.

NPL runs a variety of different excavators to address different types of work.

"By using the right piece of equipment for the job, we're able to move a lot of cubic yards — and we're in the business of moving dirt," says Travis. "We own a 75D Excavator, a midsize machine that has a little more reach and lift capability than a compact excavator, so it's perfect for vault installations."

The company also runs a John Deere 444L Wheel Loader equipped with a side-boom attachment that can handle 24-inch steel pipe. "The side boom has become a big part of our pipeline and distribution work in Chicago," says Travis. "The machine is strong, stable, and maneuverable. It's a real plus to the fleet."

J-Series Backhoes are the workhorses of NPL's fleet, according to Travis: "Chicago is a tight place to work, and Deere backhoes help us get more done more profitably."

"John Deere backhoes are very versatile and user-friendly to run," adds Harold Rodgers, Superintendent, NPL. "They boast plenty of power and reach, and are extremely durable."

Rodgers has been with NPL for over 30 years: "We've been a John Deere customer for over a decade. The quality of their equipment is great, and their service and support are superb, which is huge. John Deere is number one in every respect." >>

NPL Construction Company is serviced by Westside Tractor, Naperville, Illinois.

 **CHECK OUT THE VIDEO AT:** JohnDeere.com/npl

Deere was first in the dirt with a construction machine over 75 horsepower to meet the U.S. EPA's Interim Tier 4 (IT4) emissions standard. Since then, IT4 machines across almost every equipment category have been rolling off the line at a steady clip.

And coming in 2012, John Deere backhoes that fully meet or exceed the IT4 emissions standard will begin shipping. Keep an eye on the progress of these cleaner-burning backhoes at Deere.com/emissions.



"John Deere backhoes are very versatile and user-friendly to run," NPL Superintendent Harold Rodgers tells us.



Ken Travis manages the day-to-day operations for NPL's two major customers in Illinois: Peoples Gas® and Nicor®. Of NPL's more than 2,500 employees, over 300 work in Illinois, with 40 crews installing everything from half-inch gas service in rural areas up to 42-inch steel main in urban areas. Eight crews cover downtown Chicago.

Two John Deere backhoes work in tandem to install pipe. The backhoe equipped with a carbide-tip rock wheel can open over 100 feet of trench per day, more than twice what a breaker attachment can do.