

In the photos series above, two of the twelve John Deere 310G loader/backhoes are shown in various work locations in the Donner Lake/Truckee area. Working together with the public utility district in the area, both gas distribution lines and water lines, where needed, will end up in the same trench. With the joint cooperation between NPL Construction Co. and the district, excavation disruption of the streets and roads are kept to a minimum.

# NPL CONSTRUCTION CO.

We had an opportunity in September of this year to visit, by phone, with Todd Davisson, Senior Manager of Purchasing and Assets, for NPL Construction Co. The company was founded in 1967 in Minnesota with an original focus on natural gas farm taps.

“Since that time,” Todd told us, “a lot has changed! The company is now headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, employs more than 2,000 people nationwide and maintains operations in more than 20 area locations from coast-to-coast. NPL Construction Co. is one of the largest contractors for underground energy distribution systems in the United States today,” Todd said.

Later in that week we had a chance to visit with Troy Ware who is a supervisor for NPL Construction Co. They have been involved in a series of major projects in the Truckee-Donner Lake area for several years and Troy took some time to fill us in on the project and gave us a little information on the equipment they use.

“NPL first worked in this area in 1996,” Troy told us. “At that time we were involved in bringing in a major natural gas distribution line from the Lake Tahoe area.

“In 1998, we came back into this area on a second contract that is scheduled to last 5 years. That contract is for NPL Construction Co. to install what are called “build out” lines. This is where we take the individual lines to the residential areas from the main gas distribution line.

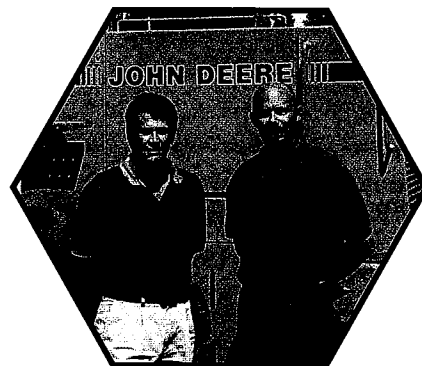
“In conjunction with this project we are working on a joint effort with the Truckee public utilities district to install water lines in the same trenches where the gas lines are installed. The public utilities district is in the process of replacing many

water lines in this area. It made a lot of sense to combine the projects since we were already there with the trenches, there would be only one excavation process for both the projects. In a sense, we are killing two birds with one stone. The district is doing a lot of work on their water systems and doing these projects simultaneously is going to be a big help.

“We also work closely with the utility district if there is a need to run underground power and telephone conduit systems. When we are running a gas line up to a residence and they wish to take the power and phone underground, it is real easy and cost effective to install the conduits in the same trench,” Troy said.

NPL Construction Co. recently took delivery of 12 new John Deere 310G loader/backhoes from Nortrax West. They also have John Deere wheel loaders and excavators in their fleet.

“We are real pleased with the support that we have received from Nortrax West,” Troy said. The company has worked closely with us on the machines and product support. They have been doing preventive maintenance work for us and Nortrax had no problem with moving the PM work schedule to Saturdays to accommodate our needs,” Troy concluded.



Pictured here are (right) Troy Ware, Superintendent for NPL Construction Co. and (left) Mike Pilat, Major Accounts Manager for Nortrax West.