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Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 4:59 PM
To: Preedy, Matt; White, John; Greco, Theresa; Everett, Susan; 'Abbott@pbworld.com'; Paananen, Ron
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Subject: Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference Opportunity

The Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference (aka RETC), organized by the underground construction contractor community, has been held every other year in North America since the late 1970s and attracts over 1400 participants, 150 exhibitors. An extensive program lasting four days includes short courses, field trips, key note speakers, and the latest information and lessons learned from tunneling projects around the globe. The topics cover contracting practices, methods of construction, case histories from urban tunneling, rural tunneling, submarine tunneling, and mountainous terrain; hard rock, soft ground and mixed face, difficult ground conditions, ground conditioners, pressure face machine performance and metrics, planning, estimating, scheduling and all other relevant topics.

The timing of this year's conference is particularly fortuitous and is early opportunity to have the world's tunnel contractor community available to learn who and what makes the project either attractive to bid or not. The update on the project would provide the extra time to the various firms looking to team, to recognize the potential partners needed to pursue the AWV tunnel job. Given the compressed schedule and rush to publish an RFQ late this summer, I strongly recommend that representatives of the project attend and have both a learning opportunity, and the networking, project promotional opportunity as well as present the procurement philosophy and process and to promote the Alaskan Way deep bore tunnel.

The website for the full program can be found on www.RETC.ORG

This year the conference is scheduled for June 14-18 in Las Vegas. The venue is Cesaer's Palace but less expensive accommodations are available on the internet and flights are reasonable these days.

If there is anything we can do to help, please let me know.

Brenda M. Bohlke
Chair of the Underground Construction Association
UCA of SME
(SME is the sponsoring parent organization for RETC)