

**Newport News Shipbuilding
Contractor Environmental, Health and Safety
Resource Manual**

Excavations

EXCAVATIONS

1. *Hazard*

There are many hazardous energy sources located under the ground at various locations at Newport News Shipbuilding. Examples of such energy sources include electricity, steam, radiological concerns, compressed air and other gases. Other materials and equipment are located under the ground, which if disturbed could cause significant expense, and down time for both the contractor and NNS. Because of the magnitude of NNS operations, the potential for such personal injury and/or plant damage is very great.

2. *Regulations and NNS References*

- a. OSHA requires an employer to ascertain by appropriate means the nature and location of any energized circuits in the area before excavation, etc. work is begun. See 29 CFR 1926.416(a). It is the intent of NNS to require that such information is provided to contractors. By OSHA policy, it is the responsibility of each contractor whose employees may be exposed to these type hazards to ensure that such information is obtained and maintained current and accurate for the duration of any of this type work.
- b. The requirements listed here are taken from NNS Procedure F-1004, *Intrusive Earthwork on Newport News Shipbuilding Property*, which is the primary NNS reference. These requirements will be updated as necessary when this primary reference is changed.

3. *Requirements*

- a. Any contractor who may be involved with any of the following activities shall not proceed until the nature of possible underground utilities, etc. is determined:
 - 1) Excavation,
 - 2) Digging,
 - 3) Auguring (such as soil boring and installing trailer storm anchors),
 - 4) Driving (such as installing electrical ground rods or foundation piling).
- b. Contractors whose personnel may be exposed to these type hazards shall take the following steps:

- 1) Contact the appropriate Contractor Coordinator to secure an excavation permit (see Appendix G, *Facilities Excavation Permit*).
 - 2) Mark or map the area to identify each location to be disturbed.
 - 3) Not start operations until the permit is secured and posted at the site.
 - 4) Cease or not start operations if, in the judgment of the contractor, the excavation permit is inadequate or incomplete.
 - 5) Ensure that the permit is reissued at least every 15 days for as long as the excavation operations continue.
 - 6) Stop work and contact the appropriate Contract Coordinator when during the excavation process, insulated underground piping or other unexpected material is encountered.
- c. In some areas of the shipyard, additional controls are required due to the potential presence of asbestos or other hazardous materials in the excavation area. In these cases your Contractor Coordinator will advise you on permissible and prohibited activities. Where necessary, a third party contractor will be utilized to ensure that environmental and industrial hygiene concerns are controlled and/or abated.
- d. Contractors shall follow all requirements of 29CFR 1926 Subpart P. – Excavations.