2024 Shallow Utility Temporary Civil Construction Capacity Adjustment

Background

Our industry is no stranger to seasonal fluctuations. This is partly due to the timing of the installation of the deep underground infrastructure and surface improvements that can usually only be performed in frost free conditions (usually between April and December). In the past, the shallow utility contractors have had a large construction queue during Q1 and Q2 resulting from the deep underground and surface projects completions in Q4 of the previous year.

Due to the 60% increase in shallow utility civil contractor capacity from 12 crews in 2023, to 19 crews in 2024, any historical back-log in work has been completed, resulting in a slower period for shallow installations in Q2 and Q3 of 2024. Currently, there are no projects in the construction queue.

Developer and Consultant Call to Action

Developers and their consultants are urged to:

1. Contact their ENMAX project manager immediately to provide any details on their scheduled deep underground installation plans and to identify any projects that are currently ready and waiting on shallow utility installation.
2. Investigate their ability to fast track the installation of deep underground infrastructure, to make available more work for the shallow civil contractor crews.

The ability for the shallows civil contractors to continue work, will greatly assist with completing the high volume of anticipated work in 2024.

PLEASE NOTE: If the efforts above do not yield more work in the short term, crews will be released back into the market to pursue other opportunities. The current forecasting that is done with available information indicate a potential 65% reduction in number of crews.

Please rest assured that no contracts will be closed and all crews will be called back when work volume increases. However, the Shallow Utilities Consortium will have very limited control over the ability to bring crews back into Calgary for this work, once released.

Next Steps

ENMAX URD Project Management Services continues to have detailed forecasting conversations with Developers, to gain an understanding of their scheduled plans for deep underground and surface infrastructure installation.

Active conversations are taking place with the existing shallow utility civil construction contractors to find ways to mitigate the impact on them.

If more context around this situation is required, please reach out to me directly. My contact details can be found below.

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