

Second Edition

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# Horizontal Auger Boring Projects

Horizontal Auger Boring Task Force

Edited by

Alan Atalah, Ph.D., P.E.

Lameck Onsarigo, Ph.D.



UTILITY ENGINEERING  
& SURVEYING  
INSTITUTE

ASCE

# Horizontal Auger Boring Projects

**Second Edition**

Prepared by the  
Horizontal Auger Boring Task Force of the  
Trenchless Installation of Pipelines Committee of the  
Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute of the  
American Society of Civil Engineers

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## PREFACE

There are several different trenchless technologies. Horizontal auger boring (HAB) is one of these and is the focus of this manual of practice (MOP). The first ASCE MOP for auger boring projects was developed in 2004 by the Auger Boring Task Force of the ASCE Committee on Trenchless Installation of Pipelines (TIPS). This MOP was the first in a series of MOPs that have promoted best practices and developed a knowledge base for auger boring projects. Since then, there have been advancements in HAB technology. Therefore, the Auger Boring Task Force established by TIPS has issued this updated and comprehensive edition.

This MOP will assist engineers, contractors, and owners involved in new pipe installation projects that use the HAB method to design and carry out projects effectively and safely, in conformance with project requirements and site conditions. The objective of this manual is to present a clear understanding of the method, its capabilities, and limitations; outline important design and construction considerations; and identify potential problems along with prevention and mitigation measures. The task committee understands that various trenchless technologies may be combined to form hybrid trenchless methods. However, this MOP will focus on the mechanics of the basic HAB means and methods with currently available equipment. These guidelines are based on information compiled from manufacturers' literature, field experience, technical papers, and other related information, and from comments and reviews made by the Blue Ribbon Committee.

The task committee would like to thank all the task committee members and reviewers for their support, time, and effort.

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Prepared by: The Horizontal Auger Boring Task Force

Under the Direction of: The Trenchless Installation of Pipelines (TIPS) Committee of the Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers

Task Committee Chair/Editor: Alan Atalah  
Bowling Green State University,  
Bowling Green, Ohio

Task Committee Secretary: Lameck Onsarigo  
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

Task Committee Members: Craig Camp  
Hatch Mott MacDonald, San Diego,  
California  
Tom Fuerst  
The Robins Company, Solon, Ohio  
Robert Martin  
CH2M Hill, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Babs Marquis  
McMillen Jacobs Associates,  
Burlington, Massachusetts  
David Scarpato  
Scarptec, Inc., Monument Beach,  
Massachusetts  
Nick Strater  
Brierley Associates, Bedford,  
New Hampshire

**REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Leader: Tom Iseley, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE  
 CETF Professor, Civil Engineering  
 Director, Trenchless Technology Center  
 Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana

Committee Members: Mohammad Najafi, Ph.D., P.E.  
 University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington,  
 Texas  
 Brian Dorwart, P.E., P.G.  
 Brierley Associates, Bedford, New Hampshire  
 Daniel L. Liotti, P.E.  
 Midwest Mole, Inc., Greenfield, Indiana

**CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT (2004)**

Task Committee Chairman/Editor: Mohammad Najafi  
 University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington,  
 Texas (formerly with Michigan State  
 University)

Task Committee Secretary: Ossama Salem  
 University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Authors and Sponsors: Jim Barbera  
 Barbco, Inc., Canton, Ohio  
 Leo Barbera  
 Horizontal Holes International, Inc.  
 Southern Pines, North Carolina  
 Guru Kulandaivel  
 Center for Underground Infrastructure  
 Research and Education, Michigan State  
 University, East Lansing, Michigan  
 Dan Liotti  
 Midwest Mole, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana  
 Michael J. Moore  
 McLaughlin Boring Systems, Greenville,  
 South Carolina  
 Carl Neagoy  
 Akkerman Inc., Brownsdale, Minnesota  
 Gaylord Richey  
 Astec Underground/American Augers,  
 Loudon, Tennessee  
 Raj Tanwani  
 Ratnala-Bahl Engineers, Houston, Texas

**ASCE COMMITTEE ON TRENCHLESS INSTALLATION OF  
PIPELINES (TIPS)**

Chair: Tennyson Muindi, P.E.  
Staff: Donna Dickert  
Acquisitions Editor  
Tenzing Barshee  
Program Coordinator, Technical Activities  
Technical Editor: Julie McCullough  
McMillen Jacobs Associates, San Francisco,  
California

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## ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, AND INITIALISMS

A/O TV	acoustic/optical televiewer
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BMTA	boring machine tunnel attachment
BVR	boulder volume ratio
CBS	controlled boring system
CCFRPP	centrifugally cast fiberglass reinforced plastic pipe
CVR	cobble volume ratio
DOT	Department of Transportation
DSC	differing site condition
DTH	down-the-hole
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GBM	guided boring method
GBR	geotechnical baseline report
GDM	geotechnical design memorandum
GDR	geotechnical data report
GIR	geotechnical interpretive report
GPR	ground-penetrating radar
GWT	groundwater table
HAB	horizontal auger boring
HEB	horizontal earth boring
HDD	horizontal directional drilling



HDPE	high-density polyethylene
HSA	hollow stem auger
ISRM	International Society of Rock Mechanics
ISTT	International Society for Trenchless Technology
LDBA	large-diameter boring attachment
LED	light-emitting diode
MIG	metal inert gas
MOP	manual of practice
MT	microtunneling
MTBM	microtunneling boring machine
NASTT	North American Society for Trenchless Technology
NDT	nondestructive testing
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PI	plasticity index
PJ	pipe jacking
PTM	pilot tube method
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
QL	quality level
RPMs	revolutions per minute
RQD	rock-quality designation
SBU	small boring unit
SBU-A	SBU-auger
SBU-M	motorized SBU
SBU-RH	SBU rock head
SPT	standard penetration test
SUE	subsurface utility engineering
TBM	tunnel boring machine
TIPS	trenchless installation of pipelines
UCS	unconfined compressive strength
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UT	utility tunneling
UTRC	Underground Technology Research Council

# CHAPTER 1

## GENERAL

There is a significant demand for underground infrastructure to transport our drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, natural gas, oil, and power. Once every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) provides a comprehensive assessment of the nation's major infrastructure categories in the *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*. Using a simple A to F school report card format, the *Report Card* provides a comprehensive assessment of current infrastructure conditions and needs, assigns grades, and makes recommendations for how to raise the grades (ASCE 2013).

According to the 2013 *Report Card*, the grade for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems improved slightly from a D- to a D from 2009 to 2013. Many of our drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems are nearing the end of their useful life. There are an estimated 240,000 water main breaks per year in the United States. If every pipe needed to be replaced, the cost over the coming decades could reach more than \$1 trillion. Capital investment needs for the nation's wastewater and stormwater systems alone are estimated to total \$298 billion over the next 20 years. Pipes represent the largest capital need and comprise three-quarters of the total infrastructure needs. Rehabilitating to extend life spans and upgrading and expanding the network with new pipes will address many of the sanitary sewer overflows, combined sewer overflows, and other pipe-related issues (ASCE 2013).

The grade for energy remains a D+; America relies on aging pipeline transmission and distribution systems, some of which originated in the 1880s. The increased demand for natural gas and oil will become a greater challenge after 2020 as the population increases (ASCE 2013). Even with