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Sharing Perspective - How Bid Items Effect the Cost and Construction for a Pipe Bursting Project

ABSTRACT

Trenchless technology projects vary significantly in many ways from traditional open cut construction projects, the least of which is the mechanism as to which to solicit competitive bids for the work to be constructed. Pipe bursting projects use an existing conduit to put back a new facility while minimizing above ground restoration. There have been a wide variety of approaches by owners and design engineers to provide bid items for contractors to competitively bid in a balanced fashion. There have been an even wider variety of ways that contractors and construction inspectors have interpreted these bid items when actually constructing the project. This paper will provide evidence of bid items and their effects on the cost and construction projects utilizing pipe bursting methodology for pipeline rehabilitation projects from the perspective of actual owner's representatives, design engineers, contractors and construction inspectors. Varying methods on quantifying and costing pit excavation, pipeline installation, lateral connections, sag repairs, restoration, utility conflicts and field failures will be examined among many other items. Multiple executed contracts in North America will be used as example case studies from the people involved in designing, executing, inspecting and paying for the projects.