

# Commonwealth Edison Company

## Tool Evaluation

### TOOL

Soil Pick

Provided by MBW Inc. / Andy Multerer @ 262-644-5234 X-161

### TOOL DESCRIPTION

160 CFM air powered digging lance -

This tool connects to an air compressor in the same manner as our current jackhammer. The intended use is to break up soil by aiming the tool into the excavation. Once the tool pulverizes the soil, removal can be accomplished by shoveling. This tool is capable of breaking up soil without damage to buried facilities such as electric & phone cables.

### DEMO SPONSOR

Timothy Ayers – Experience Assessment

### REASON FOR DEMO

This was an effort to determine potential use of this tool in relation to the dig-in reduction self-assessment.

### REPORT DATE:

September 8, 2003

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This was an effort to determine potential use of this tool in relation to the dig-in reduction self-assessment. The tool was demonstrated at a job site in Dundee by MBW Inc. The demo included a description of safe operation and safety PPE that is expected while using the tool. Four trained crews left with a tool to use and pass on to co-workers. It was explained that a safety-centered demonstration was expected when passing the tool on. A survey was provided to those that came in contact with the tool in an effort to gain an understanding of the tool potential. When asked, the overall response was that one of these tools should be provided in each location that has compressors available. It was apparent that the Soil Pick offered an increased level of safety while excavating around buried cables because it does not damage these facilities when encountered.

### PROCESS USED TO DEMO TOOL

The tool was demonstrated at a job site in Dundee by MBW Inc. The demo included a description of safe operation and safety PPE that is expected while using the tool. Four “Soil Pick” tools were loaned to ComEd for approximately a two-month period. The focus was to provide NRCG and the High Performance Fault teams with the opportunity to demo the tool. Methods, Damage Prevention, area specific Supervisors and Union were invited to the demonstration. Four trained crews left with a tool to use and pass on to co-workers. It was explained that a safety-centered demonstration was expected

when passing the tool on. A survey was provided to those that came in contact with the tool in an effort to gain an understanding of the tool potential.

### **POTENTIAL USES**

1. While excavating cable faults
2. Tunneling under transformer pads & around pedestals
3. When excessive tree roots & rocks hamper excavation
4. When numerous cables are in excavation site

### **RECOMMENDATION**

When asked, the overall response was that one of these tools should be provided in each location that has compressors available. It was apparent that the Soil Pick offered an increased level of safety while excavating around buried cables because it does not damage these facilities when encountered.

### **EXPENSE**

Existing tool is 160 CFM (rating)  
Length of shaft is 42" plus 6" handle  
21" & 42" extensions are available (screw on)