

## **MichCon White Paper**

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MichCon has served Detroit and out state areas of Michigan for over 150 years. We are part of the DTE Energy Companies. We serve approximately 1.3 million customers. We are both a LDC and pipeline and storage company.

In 1983 MichCon started looking at vacuum excavation as a means of improving productivity and reducing cost. We looked at various vacuum processes and settled on a dry vac system as opposed to a wet system due to environmental concerns.

With the selection of a dry system it was necessary to utilize an air knife of some type to facilitate excavating. We have tried many different types and brands of tools over the years and found many limitations. In 2003 we began testing the MBW Soil Pick. This product proved to be superior to the other types we were using. The tool worked in all types of soil conditions even those where the other tools failed. It works equally well in hard-pack clay as in sand. We also found that the tool facilitates the removal of some types of coating to complete repairs. The tool has proven to be a vital part of our keyhole operations. Working with MBW we identified the need to have directional nozzles that when utilized allow for excavating 360 degrees around the main or service. MBW designed and provided these nozzles and they have exceeded our expectations.