

SPECIAL FEATURE

Frey Engineering

Like most firms, Frey Engineering is “cautiously optimistic” that building and investment will pick up again in 2011 and 2012.



Nelson Luzzetti
Frey Engineering

In the meantime, though, recognizing that municipalities and private firms have tight budgets, Frey has been busy designing and implementing ways for these entities to save money and effort on their engineering costs.

Nelson Luzzetti and others at Frey Engineering call this “value engineering and consulting.” It includes redesigning and re-engineering waste water treatment systems for municipalities and manufacturers to reduce labor, energy and maintenance costs. The firm provides similar services focusing on reduction of landfill operation and maintenance costs.

“Towns are squeezed budget wise and a lot of our work is optimizing the operational efficiencies on landfill closures,” said Luzzetti, a principal and senior project manager for Frey Engineering, based in Lebanon, N.J. “For example, many towns need to monitor a number of wells, some as high as 60 or more. We’ve been able to reduce the cost of long-term monitoring through modeling, trend analyses, and agency negotiations.. Towns are feeling the pinch, and we’re providing them with smarter, less costly ways to deal with these issues”

Prior to 2008, much of Frey’s workload was for private firms, handling issues such as redevelopment planning and civil land-use permitting on older industrial properties that were being converted into alternative commercial uses.

One of the firm’s current projects is with a Meadowlands area-based food distributor looking to build a recently remediated site. The firm is relying on Frey Engineering for site assessment, evaluations of the environmental characteristics, and wetlands permitting work.

Frey Engineering is a full-service civil engineering and environmental consulting firm that provides value engineering and consulting to industrial/commercial com-

panies, property owners, and developers. Frey has extensive experience assisting clients with environmental site assessments, and identifying and investigating sources and extents of contamination in soil, ground water and sediments. The firm has successfully implemented remedial actions involving natural attenuation, active bioremediation, soil vapor extraction, soil venting, air/ozone-sparging, on and off-site thermal treatment, chemical injection, reactive barriers, pump and treat, capping, and excavation and removal

While Frey will continue providing public and private clients with cost-saving services, the firm believes private businesses are starting to move on bigger projects, according to Luzzetti.

“We’re seeing some of the development activity that has been on hold since 2007 starting to move forward again,” he said. “We’re now beginning to perform the prep work that needs to occur before new projects get fully underway.”

Guzzo + Guzzo Architects

As Guzzo & Guzzo Architect’s core markets—designing commercial and retail buildings—as slowed down, the firm has pursued and won additional work in the educational space and by expanding into new territories.

“We’re starting to see signs of commercial and retail work picking up throughout the region,” said Anthony Guzzo, president of Guzzo & Guzzo, whose Lyndhurst-based firm has been working on smaller commercial and retail projects, such as outfitting and redesigning office and retail space. “When the economy does come back fully, northern New Jersey should be one of the first to see it.”

One of Guzzo & Guzzo’s more significant local retail projects is the redesign of the Clifton Plaza, an outdoor shopping center on Route 46 in Clifton.

In the meantime, Guzzo & Guzzo has kept busy with retail work in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, via a client for whom they previously worked with only in the New

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Jersey area. Guzzo & Guzzo, which was founded more than 40 years ago as Glucksman-Guzzo Architects, has been more active in the education market, designing additions for several private schools who want to stay ahead of their public school counterparts.



Anthony Guzzo
Guzzo + Guzzo Architects, LLC

The firm won a plum assignment—lead architect for the new East Rutherford police and municipal building—in the midst of the downturn. The building, located off Route 17, has just begun construction and is scheduled for completion later this year or early 2012.

While the firm has remained active, it has been a true challenge. “We’re seeing a lot more bidders on every project we pursue,” said Guzzo. “We used to compete with one or two firms on each job; now there’s five or six firms bidding for the work. We’ve had to learn to become even more efficient and effective in the way we go after business.”

Matrix New World Engineering

Unlike most other firms throughout the region, Matrix New World, a East Hanover-based full-service engineering firm, has not been impacted by two years of economic downturn. In fact, Matrix has grown 50 percent over the last two years, according to executive vice president Dennis Petrocelli, as a result of some strategic planning.



Dennis Petrocelli
Matrix New World

Case in point: Matrix, which specializes in sustainability and providing environmentally sound engineering solutions, acquired “spill and response” capability about four weeks before the BP Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Since that spill, Matrix has had 45 staff in the Gulf Region, providing consulting and evaluation services on the spill’s impact on the region’s natural resources.

Closer to home, Matrix’ engineering survey division, based in the Meadowlands Region, and has performed a number of wetland studies throughout the state. For the last several years, Matrix has worked on the TransHudson Tunnel, providing studies assessing the environmental impact along this transportation corridor.

Matrix’s workload is approximately half public work and half private work, in areas such as pre-development consulting, on brownfield urban engineering projects. With companies still worried about the economy, Petrocelli believes the public work will grow at a faster pace than private work in 2011, reflecting the backlog of work that needs to be performed on transportation projects, including rail, roads and bridges.

As the economy has faltered over the last two years, many building and infrastructure projects were put on hold or scrapped altogether. Meadowlands Chamber members in these industries have had to work harder and smarter and, for many, diversify from their typical mix of clients.

Among the firm’s services are:

Geotechnical engineering services for public agencies, private corporations, architects, engineering firms, and commercial and residential developers. Services include: planning, soil, rock, and groundwater investigations, geotechnical engineering, design and construction support, and materials testing.

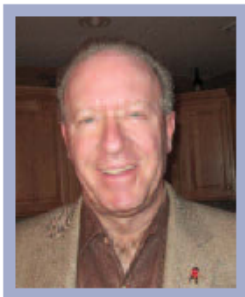
Civil engineering services to municipalities, government agencies, and private concerns ranging from site feasibility studies to site plan approvals.

Remediation services through a unique multi-disciplinary approach that involve the physical and natural environment. Projects

include restoration, remediation, beneficial re-use, land use permitting, environmental impact statements, site development feasibility and land use planning.

Hazardous material services ranging from environmental services from initial site assessment to remedial investigation and remedial designs, asbestos and lead-based paint surveys and project designs, underground storage tank management programs, construction support services and regulatory compliance issues.

Comfort Guard Contracting



Fred Hirsch
Comfort Guard Contracting LLC

In his 41 years as founder and owner of Lodi-based Comfort Guard Contracting, Fred Hirsch has seen the ups and downs of the construction industry in northern New Jersey, not to mention his share of economic cycles.

His assessment of the recent downturn and its affect on his business is typically straight forward: 2010 was one of the slowest since he started the business in 1969. Yet, Hirsch, whose firm was build upon quality service and the word-of-mouth marketing that accompanies this level of service, is optimistic. After all, you don’t last 41 years in contracting business if you can’t weather a recession or two.

“We’ve seen small increases of late as we’ve stepped up our marketing program,” said Hirsch. “We worked off our reputation for so long, we never needed to advertise or market before. I don’t think 2011 is going to be great, with very little in the way of new home builds, but we’ve been working on more remodeling projects, primarily in additions, kitchens and bath areas.”

Comfort Guard which specializes in residential and light commercial, handles all phases of remodeling, including additions, kitchens, bathrooms, windows & doors, siding & roofing, decks and masonry. Each project, says Hirsch, is “autographed with excellence.” Among the firm’s clients are homeowners, landlords and business owners.

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