

August 2016



Pro/Angle bunker sand manufacturing plant, Thompson, OH.



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**FEATURED EMPLOYEE**

**R.W. Sidley, Inc. Newsletter**



2016 John Deere Classic, TPC Deere Run, Silvis, IL.



**Steve Connor**

Steve Connor is the new Mine Manager at R.W. Sidley, Inc. in Thompson, OH. He joins our team after spending 17 years with Best Sand. Steve's career has progressed from his start as bag plant hand stacking bags, then moved to the automated side of bagging product. He later moved into heavy equipment and plant operations. Learning crushing, wet mill screening and dry screening, before becoming the afternoon Shift Supervisor. For a time he was moved to their Pennsylvania operation as the Plant Manager. Later when



TPC Deere Run, a long time Pro/Angle customer, hosted the annual John Deere Classic on August 11th-14th. The tournament located in the Quad Cities area, where John Deere is headquartered in Moline, IL.

Golf Course Superintendent, Alex Stuedemann put a call out on Twitter seeking maintenance volunteers to assist in the preparation of the course before and after play each day of the event.

In addition to the regular maintenance staff, it takes dozens of volunteers to prepare the course each day for the tournament play. The activities include mowing fairways, greens and tees, plus the filling of divots and hand raking the Pro/Angle bunkers.

Volunteers stepped up to help from many courses, both local and some from several states away. Each day, the staff and volunteers start at 4:30AM, preparing the course for play. After each day of play, the staff and volunteers started again at 4:30PM. Alex and his Assistant, Tony Gustafson executed a well organized plan to keep the course in top condition for tournament play.

Our Pro/Angle salesman, Eric Ludewig joined the maintenance staff for a few days filling fairway divots in the evenings and raking bunkers by the light of the John Deere Gator maintenance vehicles in the early morning.

It was a rewarding experience to learn how much work it takes to maintain a course for a tournament and how important volunteers are to the the staff in preparing and maintaining a golf course for a major tournament event.



Eric Ludewig, Pro/Angle and Alex Stuedemann, Golf Course Superintendent at TPC Deere Run.



Eric Ludewig, Silica Product Sales Manager  
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that operation was sold off, he came back to Ohio and ran the scale house and dispatch before moving on to the position as Mine Manager, and finally Production Superintendent before he left. He brings to Sidley a wealth of knowledge in all areas of mining, processing and bagging. Steve says his decision to join R.W Sidley, was for a chance of personal and professional growth, since Sidley is growing, he felt it was a good opportunity. Steve has a Mine Foreman Certificate with ODNR. Steve and his wife Elizabeth have two pugs Thaddeus McThugster III (Thug) and Gretchen Louise IV (Gretta), who are adorable by the way. His hobbies include wood working, specifically pen turning and enjoys motorcycles and traveling. We all welcome Steve to the Sidley Team!



Quality Control testing in the plant, at the lab and QC product labels.

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## Quality Control & Quality Assurance

Our customers count on us to make quality products; whether it's filter media, industrial minerals, sports aggregates, proppants or construction aggregates. We are one of the most consistent producers of quality silica products. When I say quality products, I am describing consistency as well as making products that no one else in the region will make. Many customers conform to ASTM, AASTO, State DOT and AWWA specifications/standards. Having a variety

of products gives us the flexibility to create specialty products for our customers.

Our initial gravel operations are set up with a jaw crusher, one 3-deck screener, and a 2-deck screener. Our dry operation has a rotatory dryer with one 4-deck screener and four 5-deck screeners. Our filter gravels are made on a wet 2-deck screener using charge material from or initial gravel operation, meaning all filter gravel is washed a minimum of 2 times.

We have an ODOT approved lab where many of the tests are done. Other testing occurs at our plants during the production process. We have many variables in our operations, multiple tests are required in order to minimize the variations and assure consistency. Our tests, also allow us to know what is happening with our operations. From a slight change in consistency, to having a product be too coarse or too fine, we can assure our customers they are getting a consistent product load after load.

Independent lab tests are necessary for many applications of our products. We coordinate with the labs in order to either deliver samples, or they will come retrieve samples based on the customers' needs. Independent labs are utilized for chemical and physical property analysis, and we accommodate customers by using their preferred lab.

Our filter sands are tested for size a minimum of 3 times a day. Dry industrial products are tested for size daily. Filter gravels are tested on a load by load basis sometimes, the same load multiple times. This allows us to verify that the material meets the specifications before it is bagged. Dry product production testing is done by trained operators and me. This allows us to give our customers gradations for their bulk loads when requested. I test bagged products by either load or lot based on the customer specifications. The way we test depends on what specification our customer is following, whether it's State DOT, ASTM or AWWA. Most of the testing specification reference each other but they all have their individual requirements that we must conform to.

All production and delivery tests are recorded and kept, along with any tests received from an independent lab. We compare our test results with any outside lab results. Tests are conducted from the initial packaging of the material, all the way to when the material is put in place.

At R.W. Sidley, we assure that our customer's exact specifications are met. We spend hours each day testing and retesting our sands and gravels. As the Quality Control Manager, I take a lot of responsibility in the testing. As an engineer, I do not play around with specs. Our marketing department and I make sure that what is on our website is what we can deliver. We cannot take all the credit though, from our vendors providing us with their quality products and our operators that have the experience and know how to do the job right. I can't thank them enough for everything they do for our company and customers.



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## Employment Opportunities

R.W. Sidley, Inc. is currently hiring for 15+ positions, at virtually all our locations across Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. We offer competitive wages and benefit packages, including healthcare and retirement benefits. [Click here for more details.](#)



[www.rwsidley.com](http://www.rwsidley.com) | 800.536.9343

## Sidley Builders Center Locations

**Alliance** 2000 Beeson Street, Alliance, OH 44601 (330) 823-1130  
**Ashtabula** 508 Front Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004 (440) 964-7000  
**Grand River** 1 Coast Guard Road, Grand River, OH 44045 (440) 352-1642  
**Newbury** 10688 Kinsman Road, Newbury, OH 44065 (440) 564-2221  
**North Canton** 7545 Pittsburg Avenue NW, North Canton, OH 44720 (330) 499-5616  
**North Kingsville** 3026 East Center Street, North Kingsville, OH 44068 (440) 224-2664  
**Painesville** 436 Casement Avenue, Painesville, OH 44077 (440) 352-3100  
**Slippery Rock** 715 New Castle Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 (724) 794-4451  
**Thompson** 7123 Madison Road, Thompson, OH 44086 (440) 298-3852  
**West Middlesex** 3401 New Castle Road, West Middlesex, PA 16159 (724) 528-9903  
**Youngstown** 3424 Oregon Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509 (330) 793-7374

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