

CEO Speech for Service Yard Groundbreaking on June 14, 2018

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Today is a very special day for all of us at BPUB. It's a day that has been a long time coming. Today, we take steps toward the future.

I've been working here a long time, more than 30 years. I've seen a lot of changes at the company, and I've seen a lot of growth, both within the city and at BPUB. Each groundbreaking and ribbon cutting, every expansion – and there have been a lot of them – has meant something for the city, for our infrastructure. But this one feels a little bit different. While this expansion will benefit the city and our infrastructure, this is something that we're really doing to benefit the company and the people who work here. I must thank our board members for approving this expansion. One of their main priorities is providing all of us who work at BPUB the tools we need to perform our jobs at the highest level.

This project will be the start of a lot of growth for our company. We've been using that back yard for many years. There are a lot of people who have spent their whole careers back there. I'd like to introduce Materials & Warehouse Manager Diane Solitaire. She has spent her career with us, more than 35 years, and will be representing the employees during the groundbreaking ceremony. In that time as the company built up all around us, I've heard many requests from Diane about the back yard. She has had her wish list and has always pushed for the very best for her employees and her company. This project has been a dream of hers for a number of years. I think it's something that at times she thought was never going to happen or would only happen after she retired. Well, Diane, make sure to pinch your arm because this is really happening. We really are getting a new service yard, and we trust that this assures us at least another few years with us. After all, you have to be here long enough to properly benefit from this!

But the new service yard represents a lot more than any one person. It represents years of growth and development throughout Brownsville. It represents years of BPUB striving to be better, to do more, to be every bit the utility as those in larger communities. As I said before, this groundbreaking will kick off a lot more growth throughout the company. In a few years, we may not completely look the same, but I am confident that we will hang on to that drive to be the best. We will retain that hunger to serve our community, and we will always be striving for more.

Again, I would like to thank our board and the mayor for all of the support, and I encourage all of you to thank those board members yourself to make sure they know how much we appreciate what this project will do for our company. Without their support, we wouldn't be where we are today. I would also like to recognize some of our tenured employees who will be representing their departments today.

1	TIJERINA, JO ANNA	1440 Health & Safety	HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER
2	DE ANDA, RAUL	2120 Substations and Relaying	SUBSTATION SUPERVISOR
3	TOLEDO, ANGEL CLAUDIO	2130 Elec Transmission & Distribution New Construction	ELECTRIC FOREMAN (CERTIFIED)
4	TOVAR, NOE	2140 Elec Transmission & Distribution Maintenance	ELECTRIC FOREMAN (CERTIFIED)
5	RODRIGUEZ, ARNOLD	2310 Electric Meter Shop	ELECTRIC METER SHOP SUPERVISOR
6	GAMEZ, ENCARNACION	3145 Water/Wastewater Plant Maintenance	FOREMAN
7	GARCIA, ARMANDO	3150 Water/Wastewater Operations & Construction	W/WW OPERATIONS MANAGER
8	GALVAN, JESUS	3230 Wastewater Lift Stations	LEAD MECHANIC
9	GRANADO, ERINEO	7150 Fleet Management	AUTO/HEAVY DUTY EQUIPMENT TECH

10	SOLITAIRE, DIANE M	5130 Purchasing	MATERIALS & WAREHOUSE MANAGER
11	PEREZ, JULIO C	7170 Warehouse	WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

So as we take our first steps into this new future, look around you. Look at all the people here and look at how much things have changed at BPUB and throughout the city. Take the time to appreciate what we have accomplished to get here. It has taken a lot of work and a lot of sacrifice from a number of people, some who aren't even at the company any longer. And now let's all imagine the bright future that is still to come. Here's to more years of growth, development, safety and success.