HYDROEXCAVATION: THE MODERN DIGGING ALTERNATIVE

	TRADITIONAL DIGGING	HYDROEXCAVATION
Utility strike	High risk of utility damage and service interruption if pipe/line is not precisely located	Virtually no-risk; work up to and around pipes and lines without interruption
Worker injury	Strikes create high risk of worker injury; required hand digging within 18” of pipes also exposes workers to cave-in risk down in the trench	Minimal risk. Most work can take place outside of the trench. Cave-in risk to workers also low
Schedule delays	Manual digging speed varies depending on soil type and pipe location. Frozen ground due to cold weather can dramatically slow digging	Hydroexcavators keep digging in all conditions. Available heated water cuts through even stubborn frozen soils
Labor Costs	Extra manpower (which may or may not be available) required to hand dig around pipes in a timely manner	Hydroexcavator requires only a single operator, process labor needs are predictable and consistent.
Local disruption	Mechanical excavators either produce large spoil piles, or require expanded site size to accommodate dump truck access	Hydroexcavators vacuum up all spoil, keeping the site compact and clean

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