

EMPIRE GROUP

Celebrating 70 Years

Empire Group started 70 years ago, beginning with its first subsidiary, Empire Wrecking Co. of Reading, PA (dba Empire Services). Founded by Harry "Whitey" O'Neill, Jr., in 1955 as a demolition company, the company was under his leadership until his death in 1972. At that time, his son Harry O'Neill III took on the responsibility of the company. He was joined by his brother Todd after several years, and together the two brothers grew Empire Group to include not only Empire Services, but also Berks Transfer, Delaware Valley Contractors, Delaware Valley Utility Contractors, and Elk Environmental Services.



"As Empire Group evolved over the past 70 years, I was fortunate to have my brother Todd by my side. Together we grew the company to several subsidiaries. After 50 years of leading Empire, I am confident that Empire Group will continue to prosper under Todd's leadership along with the talent and knowledge of our employees."
 — Harry J. O'Neill III, Corporate Officer

A significant part of the company's history is its employees, who have shaped its success. Raymond Geiger, Empire Wrecking's first full-time truck driver, reflects on his decades of work with the company.

"I was fortunate to work alongside Harry O'Neill, Jr., and his two sons, Harry III and Todd. Over the years, I had the opportunity to work on many memorable projects, such as the demolition of the Strand Theater and the original Boscov's, as well as the cleanup after the 1972 flood. I retired from Empire Wrecking as General Manager in 2005. There were many ups and downs throughout my career, but I would not trade those experiences for anything."
 — Raymond Geiger, Retired GM of Empire

TODAY'S EMPIRE GROUP: A POWERFUL FORCE IN THE INDUSTRY

Today Empire Group is a staple in the community, and its five subsidiaries are powered by more than 200 employees and 400 pieces of equipment. The company has been involved with numerous notable demolition projects over the years encompassing entire city blocks to make way for new endeavors in Reading.

"It is difficult to pinpoint my favorite project over the 24 years I've been with Empire Services. Memories are not necessarily tilted towards the largest projects, but more towards some of the unique and challenging ones. International Wax was interesting due to the process of removing structures and other features damaged during the explosion which happened over a decade ago. There were also some emergency demolition projects due to fires like the Lattice Handbags building, where we assisted in the fire fight and demolished it afterwards. Also, there was the CHOP project where we removed 14 floors of concrete slabs, wall panels and other features, making room for a new addition. Empire Group has grown over these 70 years due to the ability to read an evolving marketplace, streamlining processes to improve efficiency, and offering new services to clients."
 — Allen Dejewski, VP Empire Services





Elk Environmental Services (Elk) was founded in 1988 to provide a needed environmental service. This company provides environmental remediation, emergency response, and waste management services to the mid-Atlantic region. Elk has become known for their expertise and quality of service with locations in Reading and Wysox, Pennsylvania.

"In 2009, I was hired by Elk and given the task of building the Field Services division. I was aware that Elk was known for transportation and disposal services, and I looked forward to being a part of its expansion. Since that time, Elk has worked very hard building a team in waste handling and field service work. The O'Neill brothers have invested in new trucks, specialty equipment, and manpower to make us one of the leaders in the environmental industry. I want to thank all team members and the owners for their trust and vision to grow the company to where we are today. It has been an eventful 15 years, and the future of Empire Group will continue with a vision to succeed." – **Russ Mountjoy**, VP Elk

Originally, Delaware Valley Contractors (DVC) was established in 1990 to supply trucks as support to Empire Services. This changed over the years as DVC became a successful subsidiary on its own merits. Today, DVC is a full-service trucking company, providing transportation of bulk commodities and equipment for contractors and developers. DVC also provides transportation for earth moving operations throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.



"Delaware Valley Contractors continues to supply excellent service to our customers. Over the past 33 years, I am proud of our commitment to all our customers and the support given to our sister companies. As part of Empire Group, DVC has proven that when working as a team with all the subsidiaries, we all benefit." – **Russ Oswalt**, VP DVC

Berks Transfer was established in 2002 to provide companies and individuals with hauling and waste disposal services. This unique waste processing facility was built to accept over 1,000 tons of waste daily and attracts customers from Eastern Pennsylvania as well as New Jersey and New York. Berks Transfer has proven to be a company that provides excellent service to all their customers, large and small.



Delaware Valley Utility Contractors (DVUC) is the most recent addition to Empire Group subsidiaries. This division was formed in 2011 to provide directional drilling, which causes minimal disruption during underground installation of gas, electric, water and telecommunication lines. Highly trained staff members provide utility installation, emergency utility repairs, vacuum excavation, and certified pipe fusion. DVUC is a fast growing company committed to superior workmanship and outstanding customer service with locations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Empire Group has changed a great deal since its beginning 70 years ago. "Empire Wrecking was started by my father Harry J. O'Neill, Jr., as a demolition company. Over the years, I have worked alongside my brother Harry III expanding from one company to include several other divisions resulting in Empire Group. I am proud of the current management team, who bring knowledge and talent to our companies. As President, I strive to continue the tradition of providing the best service with the best people." – **Todd O'Neill**, President



Empire Group is headquartered at 1440 Carbon Street, Reading, PA 19601.
For additional information, please call 610-372-6511 or visit www.empiregroupreading.com.