

# 💧 Career Spotlight

## Project Manager– Contractor



**William Kunesh**

**L.D. Docsa Associates, Inc.**

William's first experience with water came as a Nuclear Mechanic aboard the USS Pasadena. He had attended MTU right after high school and quickly found that he was interested in taking a different route into a career. So William joined the Navy, traveled to numerous states, and was stationed in Pearl Harbor. William remembers, *"College seemed like the place to go until I got there."*

Aboard the USS Pasadena, William spent a lot of time performing water quality checks on secondary and primary cooling water. He also was able to read and review specifications and procedures, which started to fuel his interest in Water.

After his time in the Navy, and the experience he gained, William was able to utilize the GI Bill to go back to college with a true focus, this time on Civil Engineering.

*"It was more of searching for things [that] I didn't want to do which led me this way,"* William remembers when describing how he decided to consider a career in Water. He was not as interested in design or drafting work and learned that he was not passionate about work in roads or transportation either. However, with his past experience, as well as his interactions with instructors and classmates in his program helped to inspire him into seeking a career in the water and wastewater field.

Through an instructor, William learned of a temporary position working on government and water/wastewater projects at LD Docsa Associates. L.D. Docsa Associates is a Kalamazoo based general contractor that specializes in water and wastewater construction projects. As a contractor, they serve facilities directly but also provide proposals and bids on larger scale facility upgrades and new construction. The company was a great fit for William and he was able to turn the temporary position into a permanent one.

### Education/Experience

- **BS in Civil Engineering , Western Michigan University**
- **Nuclear Mechanic, US Navy, SSN 752 Pasadena**
- **LD Docsa Associates, Civil Engineer/Project Manager**



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**“Try to stay flexible in what you’re doing and learn about technology that is there to help you.”**

Within his current position, William estimates the cost of construction projects for bids, writes proposals for private and municipal sector projects, manages projects after award including maintaining project schedules and costs, as well as providing value engineering options to Owners.

*“There’s nothing like hearing your name as low after a lot of hard work.”* William often works on his own bids and takes them personally to the opening. The thrill of winning is a great rush for William on projects of any size and is one of William’s favorite aspects of his job.

William also cannot speak more highly of the company he works for, *“the team at Docsa, from the office throughout the field, are all fantastic people to work with”*. His mentors and colleagues have helped him gain great experience and many learning opportunities.

William’s advice for people considering a career in his field is flexibility and being adaptive. *“Something that was working last year or two years ago might not work this year. You just never know what to expect, so don’t try to keep pushing the same model”*.

For more information about William and other excellent Water Environment Professionals in Michigan, please check out [www.h20mich.org](http://www.h20mich.org).



*“Chains of habit are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken.” – Warren Buffet*