

Author's Note

I feel like the *2024 Post-Seminars Edition* of my *AGTEK Seminar Handbooks* is the capstone to a **nearly 50-year career** with civil site construction. I got my start in the industry as a grading and paving estimator way back in 1977 but the last 20+ years of my pre-retirement work was devoted to producing and conducting training seminars for AGTEK's site earthwork modeling and takeoff software. The corresponding seminar handbooks served as textbooks for my seminar classes and I worked to improve the handbooks via continuous revisions, through **multiple handbook editions**, until my seminars retirement in September of 2023. Then AGTEK's subsequent releases of **Gradework 4D v1.10** (November 2023) and **v1.11** (August 2024) added numerous interesting earthwork modeling and takeoff features (see AGTEK's *Gradework New Features* videos for **v1.10** at www.agtek.com/video.html?id=583 and **v1.11** at www.agtek.com/video.html?id=654). These new features compelled me to edit and update all three of my seminar handbooks, and the result of that **10-month project** includes this *Post-Seminars Edition* of the *Day 1 Handbook* (if you're not holding a physical copy of this revised handbook, it can be ordered at <https://bit.ly/3So5Ps6>).

I'm confident that this extensively revised *Day 1 Handbook* edition will be a valuable go-to technical reference for AGTEK users at any level of experience. But I'd like to suggest a couple of ways that this handbook might also be used as a teaching tool for new and less-experienced AGTEK users ...

Self-Paced Individual Hands-On Training

Individual users can download this *Day 1 Handbook's* corresponding **training files** and work through the *Earthwork Modeling Step-by-Step* exercise at their own pace (see *Note to Self-Paced Users* on page *i* for details).

Group Training Class (Hands-Off Seminar Format)

A larger organization with multiple AGTEK users can provide a *Day 1 Handbook* to each user and conduct their own *Earthwork Modeling Step-by-Step* hands-off, seminar-style class for a group of users (ideally, with a more-experienced AGTEK user willing and available to conduct the seminar). This is exactly how I used the *Day 1 Handbook* when I was conducting the *Day 1 Seminar* class. See pages 21-22 of this *Day 1 Handbook* for a recommended outline of seminar topics (the outline's topics are drawn from the handbook's step-by-step content on pages 54-230, which would be referenced by the instructor and seminar attendees). For an overview of the entire three-day seminar with resource links, see <https://bit.ly/4cZOHuE>.

I'm lucky to have had a long, interesting and rewarding career with civil site construction, especially with my early introduction to AGTEK software in 1984. Producing and conducting AGTEK training seminars for the last two decades of my career was truly a pleasure. I hope that my final *2024 Post-Seminars Handbooks* serve as a worthy capstone to my career experience and work producing technical documentation for the use of AGTEK's site earthwork software.

From retirement, I send my best wishes for professional success to all AGTEK earthwork software users!

Michael Cope
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