

OUDDPC 48 Hour Waiting Period Discussion Group

Conference Call 2/6/18

8:00am – 9:00am

Call Participants: Johnny Henson, Josh Motzer, Steve Schafer, Joe Igel, Jeff Kursman, and Alice Miller

Joe Igel opened the call, outlining his role and the purpose of the OUDPC discussion groups as opportunities to jumpstart dialogue in support of potential future legislative issues. He encouraged participants “not to hold anything back” and to engage and share their experiences in the field, their thoughts, and their positions in a constructive way.

Joe shared that while he personally supports a “true 48 hours,” the OCA Association is currently in opposition. “The sticky point is that from the viewpoint of the contractors’ group, it’s a non-starter.”

Johnny Henson expressed that a true 48 hours queue would be more timely and effective, not only providing more time to complete locates, but to allow for better scheduling of locators to meet deadlines. “This is after all about safety and a full 48 hour waiting period commencing at midnight after the ticket is processed would allow locators to enhance performance and deliver better service to contractors.”

The group discussed clarifying questions regarding the amount of time other state laws allot for the completion of locating requests. Steve Schafer referenced a PHMSA table that tracked comparative data for state laws, which Alice secured and distributed to the discussion group members. The group agreed that if there was a proposal, a 48 hour waiting period would sound much more palatable than 72 hours, but that to satisfy contractors, “they will want something in any new legislation to hold utilities and third-party locators accountable. Delays are a killer, even with the ability to check positive response, when contractors have a team ready to go onsite.”

Participants on the call committed to soliciting more participation and viewpoint sharing by the excavator community.

Johnny volunteered to be the discussion group’s representative to the OUDPC.

Next call: Thursday, February 21st at 8:00am.

Submitted By: Jeff Kursman 2/6/2019