

Utility Coordination Project Subcommittee

Previously titled: Large/Complex Project / Scope of Ticket / Life of Ticket SC

Meeting Notes

October 23, 2019

10:00 – 2:00

Participants: Mary So, Kevin Schimming, Bryan Bedel, Mark Niehe, Seamus Milligan, Jim Mander, Jeff Kursman, Alice Miller

The Subcommittee reviewed the OUDPC/legislative timeline and set benchmarks for its work. Future meeting dates were scheduled: December 11, January 7, January 23, and February 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at George J. Igel Company, 3500 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus. Some of the meetings may be switched to conference calls. If so, Alice will notify the members.

White Lining: The benefits and problem associated with white lining were discussed. Members identified situations where white lining would be appropriate/helpful such as “pin-point sites, individual poles, etc. Members agreed that the language previously proposed is acceptable and should be shared with the entire OUDPC:

If the caller indicates the area has been white lined, they shall indicate the number of white lined locations and specify additional footage needed from each location. When this information is provided, the scope of the ticket shall be the white lined area and any additional footage specified. If white lining is not indicated by the caller, the scope of the ticket shall be as described on the ticket.

Members also recommended that education among excavators about using tools to enhance communications, such as providing maps and GPS coordinates, were also discussed.

Life of a Ticket:

Jim Mander shared with the group information regarding the AGA creating a white paper that calls for remarks after 30 days.

AGA’s Proposal:

– Section 60114 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (g): “(h) Regulations Requiring Positive Response.— The Secretary of Transportation shall require that each one-call notification system operating pursuant to 49 USC 60114 shall incorporate an electronic positive response system, as defined within Section 3.27 of the Common Ground Alliance Best Practices (March 2019). Existing markings of facilities for new excavation in an area of continual work shall only be valid for 30 days. Following 30 days, a person planning to carry out demolition, excavation, tunneling, or construction shall re-submit notification through the State one-call notification system.”

Seamus Milligan asked if requiring excavation start within 15 days, rather than ten, after the call to OHIO811 would help extend the life of a ticket. Members decided to craft language to address the life of a ticket in order to share it with the OUDPC for its input.

Projects Requiring Heightened Utility Coordination:

The importance of defining this type of situation clearly is as important as clear communication among stakeholders while working through these types of projects. One important question to be addressed by the Subcommittee is: What situation / mechanism will *require* stakeholders to participate in the Utility Coordination Project (UCP) scenario.

The discussion resulted in many ideas being shared and reviewed for their merit: One idea was to have “flags” established within the OHIO811 computer system, and when a certain threshold is met, the system would prompt additional questions such as: field representative’s name and field representative’s phone number. The same principle could work for i-Dig and e-Dig. Positive Response could be used to push this process forward. What triggers should be created in order to build the threshold? Even with triggers and thresholds, all UCP may not be caught during its initial stage.

A review of the codes may be warranted to help with communication among stakeholders. For example, if a 004 code is submitted – a field representative’s name and phone number would be required. These ideas and others would need to be vetted by the call center for feasibility.

Mary So described how Igel Company, among others, plan, schedule, and communicate often, while working through a project that involves multiple utilities and/or multiple facilities of one utility. One tool is the “look ahead” email which provides updates to all parties on a regular basis.

Mary suggested that the OHIO811 liaisons help with educating stakeholders about changes created by new legislation. She also suggested sharing the way in which Igel Company and others have facilitated the “complex” projects with others so that they may use the procedures as a roadmap.

The discussion will continue during the next scheduled meeting on December 11th.

Alice asked if the Subcommittee name could be changed in order to clarify its purpose and simply the name. All members present agreed and the new name is: Utility Coordination Project (UCP) Subcommittee.

Ajm 10/28/2019