

**Utility Coordination Subcommittee
Proposed Draft Language
2/25/2021**

UTILITY COORDINATION PROJECT

Proposed Draft language added to an enforceable section of the law:

Excavation(s) that exhibit one or more of the components of a Utility Coordination Project (UCP) may be designated as such by a commercial excavator when a ticket is created or by a utility within one full working day of receiving a ticket(s) from a commercial excavator or utility. A utility, as defined in ORC 3781.25(C), whom designates an excavation as a UCP shall make this designation utilizing the positive response system and the protection service shall notify the commercial excavator that the designation has been made.

Upon designation as a UCP, the excavator and utility shall communicate to each other Project Related Information and agree to a marking schedule that coordinates utility markings with actual excavation activities and/or follow the UCP Best Practices on file with the Protection Service. The marking schedule shall be agreed to and documented by each party prior to the commencement of any excavation activity. The protection service may serve as repository for this information.

The excavator or utility, as defined in ORC 3781.25(C), may request a modification to the agreed upon marking schedule. Any modification to the marking schedule shall be agreed upon and documented by each party prior to it becoming effective.

Representatives of Commercial Excavators and Utilities, serving on Ohio Damage Prevention Councils, and at least one representative from the protection service shall review, and modify if needed, the UCP Best Practices every 2 years.

SCOPE OF TICKET- CLARIFICATION AROUND WHITELINING

Likely added to 3781.25 (J) "Excavation site means the area within which excavation will be performed...

If an excavator indicates the excavation site has been pre-marked, they shall also be asked to indicate the number of pre-marked excavation locations and to specify any additional footages needed from each pre-marked location. When this information is provided, and included on the notice of proposed excavation that utilities receive, the excavation site/scope shall be the pre-marked area, along with any additional footage specified. If pre-marking is not indicated by the excavator, the excavation site/scope shall be as described on the notice of proposed excavation.

SCOPE OF TICKET- GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATIONS TO SIZE OF A TICKET

A locate request submitted to the protection service shall not be more than ¼ mile (1320 feet) in length.

TICKET LIFE- 30 DAY TICKET EXPIRATION

A ticket will be valid for 30-calendar days from the date of notification to the Protection Service, provided markings are visible and continue to clearly identify the approximate location and direction of underground utility facilities. If the markings are not visible and/or clear, the ticket is no longer valid, even if it has been less than 30 days since notifying the Protection Service. If excavation activity is required to extend past 30 calendar days, the excavator shall notify the protection service as required in 3781.28(A).

TICKET LIFE- 16 DAY COMMENCEMENT OF EXCAVATION REQUIREMENT

3781.28(A) Excavator notifying protection service or pipeline (A) except as otherwise provided in divisions (C), (D), (E) and (F) of this section, at least forty-eight hours, not including weekends and holidays, but not more than 16 calendar days before commencing excavation, the excavator shall notify a protection service of the location of the excavation site and the date on which excavation is planned to commence. If the excavation is not started within 16 calendar days, the ticket will be considered no longer valid.