



Agenda
 Abandoned Lines Subcommittee, virtual
 8/7/2023

Committee Members of Record		7/13/2023
Chan, Tony	Duke Energy Gas	Present
Chelius, Lauren	Kokosing Construction	Present
Collins, Jim	Duke Energy Gas	Present
Coniglio, Dave	Ohio Contractors Association	Present
Harvey, Jason	PRUS Construction	Present
Henson, Johnny	Davey Resource Group	Absent
Hocevar, Bill	Great Lakes Construction	Present
Johnson, Joel	City of Columbus	Present
Large, Deron	Altafiber	Present
Logan So, Mary	George J. Igel & Co., Inc.	Absent
Mandera, Jim	Dominion Energy	Present
Moore, Isaac	Centerpoint Energy	Present
Plurien, Tim	RLA Utilities	Absent
Pyles, Elizabeth	Franklin County Engineer	Present
Ross, Blake	Marathon Pipeline	Absent
Schafer, Steve	First Energy Corp.	Present
Schell, Les	Kinder Morgan	Present
St. Chair, Brent	Kinder Morgan	Present
Tustin, Scott	Columbia Gas	Present
Wade, Lori	Columbus Gas	Present
Williams, Drew	Great Lakes Construction	Absent
Wooten, Jim	Centerpoint Energy	Present
Troxell, Rod	Cuyahoga Falls	Present
Harris, Deborah	AEP	Present
Baxter, Kevin	V3 Companies	Present
OHIO811 Staff		
Broyles, Jason	OHIO811	Present

Dearing, Yancy	OHIO811	Absent
Thayer, Zach	OHIO811	Absent
Industry Guests		
Mitchell, Nancy	USIC, Governmental Affairs	Absent
Russ, Chris	USIC	Absent
First, Greg	Connie Construction	Present
Muller, Chuck	Metronet	Present
Losinski, Dave	AEP	Present

I. Welcome/Opening Statements

S. Tustin called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. He began with an overview of what was going to be discussed today during the subcommittee and acknowledged appreciation for all participants.

II. Roll Call

S. Tustin took roll call of those present.

III. Roundtable Discussion

C. Muller started off the conversation with a quick update on what was discussed at the in-person CGA Abandoned Lines Committee meeting in Gulf Shores in July. Conversation strongly based around steps being taken in Texas with report that their process seems to be working well at this point. Chris Stovall, TX811 and Linescape, will attend our September 12 meeting to present to the group on their process and answer questions.

L. Wade asked if it would cause more confusion for contractors in the field if both the abandoned line and the active line were marked in the field if they both proved to be same size/type/material? Responses around this question indicated that having the information would prove to be more beneficial than not even under the questioned circumstances.

S. Schafer stated that in 2018, Pennsylvania added a requirement to their legislation that utilities are required to mark in the field abandoned facilities using special symbols, when the information is known.

B. Hocevar responded that even if information is on the ground, it is still imperative that utility identify and verify which line is active and which line is abandoned.

L. Chelius questioned what could/is done if the gas company cannot identify the abandoned line? How do contractors deal with that situation?

J. Wooten commented that Centerpoint Energy will tap the suspected abandoned line if necessary to verify. However, it is always preferred and safer if the contractor can work around both lines without having to tap or remove the abandoned.

S. Tustin reminded everyone that different utility companies have different procedures so to keep in mind that not all will respond the same. Stated that often Columbia Gas will use mapping and back tracking of service lines to the main to differentiate the abandoned from the active.

S. Tustin posed question to group to find out if the group wanted to focus on all abandoned utilities or to focus on specific utility types for the time being.

Conversation at this point is heavily based around gas/oil utilities. The group focused comments on the importance of information sharing across the board for all utility types.

R. Troxell discussed a situation in Cuyahoga Falls with a road widening project. Fiber company had to abandon a line and when they bored in the new line, it was in the wrong place so a third line was put in. Cuyahoga Falls is now dealing with a situation where there are two abandoned fiber lines and an active with one abandoned and the active being new lines.

L. Wade asked if other states are requiring utilities to use pipe splitters or other methods to identify abandoned lines in the field as they are getting abandoned so contractors would be able to identify it as an abandoned line when they uncover it?

J. Broyles reported that he does not know of any but will do additional research to find out. Also reminded everyone that the document outlining the states specific legislation surrounding abandoned lines is available on the OHIO811 website for their use.

S. Tustin remarked that when Columbia Gas was investigating the possibility of putting an action of this type in place, they found many issues with the practice. Also pointed out that it would only be advantageous if the contractor uncovered the line in the same spot it was "marked" during abandonment. It would not be feasible to mark the line in every spot to identify it.

G. First stated that he is thrilled with the conversations taking place surrounding this topic. Connie Construction get into abandoned lines in Columbus and it does create a lot of downtime for the crews. Referenced an incident where it took 6 hours to get a return phone call for verification. Asked if there is a way we can put together a refined contact list for all utilities with a direct line instead of having to go through all the automated systems. This type of networking could greatly reduce the amount of downtime contractors are dealing with in the field.

S. Tustin spoke to the importance of utilities utilizing Damage Prevention Specialists in the field and being that point of contact.

S. Schafer stated that in Pennsylvania, if a contractor finds something that isn't right, the contractor calls in a Renotification Ticket and the utilities are required to respond within a two-hour time frame. Keeping in mind, that response may be a phone call stating that it will take them possibly a few hours for the locator to be physically at the site, but the contact has at least been made.

S. Tustin then asked if any contractors wanted to speak or share processes they are currently using in the field to identify/work around abandoned lines. There were no comments/responses made.

IV: Action Items

Group has requested a Doodle Poll be sent out to capture questions for C. Stovall as well as to get feedback on what is currently being done to deal with abandoned lines from both a utility and a contractor perspective. I will work with S. Tustin, M. Logan So and Y. Deering to get the Doodle Poll created and sent out with a soft goal timeline of August 25, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.