

OUDPC Utility Coordination Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes

11/2/2023

Call to Order/Opening Statements: Jim Wooten

Roll Call: Zach Thayer, Jason Broyles, Jaime Gillen, Joel Johnson, Lori Wade, Scott Mergler, Tim Plurien, Jim Wooten, Deron Large, Clayton Heitz, Les Schell, Scott Tustin, Dominick Belser, Brent St. Clair, Greg First, Drew Williams, Bill Hocevar, James Mandera, Heidi Fought, Blake Ross, Adam Lofton, Jim Collins

Review/Approval of Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. No suggested changes. Jim Wooten motions and Lori Wade seconded the acceptance of minutes. No opposition.

Size/Scope of Locate Request: Jim Wooten and Clayton Heitz give a high-level overview of past conversations around this topic. Jason Broyles to compile all meeting minutes into a more user-friendly document to send to participants with meeting minutes.

Jim Wooten started the conversation by identifying that in the past the size/scope was tied in with the conversation on white lining and that the two should be separate conversations. Jim Mandera agreed. It was decided that at this time, the conversation will focus on the size/scope in regard to length and the conversation around white lining would be discussed in the future.

Scott Tustin brought up past conversation where data was provided by OHIO811 that showed roughly 80% of the locate requests would not be affected by putting a max length on a request due to them being single address or short requested footage. Jason Broyles will go through historical documents from past OUDPC meetings in an attempt to find the data.

Lori Wade questions if putting a max distance on a locate request in Ohio would nullify the ticket descriptions as described in the Excavator Manual (specifically referenced intersection to intersection).

Bill Hocevar commented that calling in multiple locate requests in place of just one might not be a fix. Stated that from what he is seeing in his part of the industry, regardless of how many requests it would get broken into, the locators still have to locate the same total area and are unable to meet the need. Stated that he does not see coordination between the locators and his organization.

Clayton Heitz commented that discussion would need to be had surrounding where this limitation would be observed (everywhere? Utility right of way? Utility Easement?).

Scott Tustin and Jim Wooten discuss how having the requests broken down would allow locators/utility organizations better manage the workload. As well as the benefit to the excavator due to the locators being able to post positive response as they go instead of having 95% of the locate request completed but not being able to post a positive response since the whole area is not completed. This would allow contractors to determine if there is enough located that they could begin work while the rest of the area is being completed on locates.

Deron Large discussed the internal policy at Alta Fiber of requesting locates in areas not to exceed 250 feet. He discussed the financial aspects as well which fall to the utility members.

Lori Wade remarks that although ticket volume in Ohio is elevated, it does not paint an appropriate picture of how much more pipe is being located currently. Putting size limitations on locate requests would benefit this situation. She also stated that Mary Logan So could offer some good insight to this topic as George J Igel has been breaking their tickets down and coordinating with the locators for a few years and it has been going well for all involved parties.

Conversation was had as to whether idig users would have to enter multiple requests or if the system could automatically break areas into the decided-on length of request. This would alleviate some of the additional administrative burden that could fall on those requesting the locates. Scott Tustin commented that the current programming at OHIO811 would be able to be set up to do that. Further concern was around how contractors would manage the additional requests when looking at updates. Jim Wooten and Jason Broyles to discuss with Center to get information to report back to subcommittee on this.

Deron Large started conversation around how this would benefit the industry overall outside of locators being able to more effectively manage their workload. Jason Broyles responded by stating that if the change can either improve communications or increase safety, then it is a change worth considering. Deron Large agreed with statement

Lori Wade added to conversation by stating that locators manage their workloads based on ticket count and not by size. This change would benefit them in that the size per request would not be as important since there would be a set size requirement thus allowing for better locate management when areas are assigned to the individual locator(s).

Scott Mergler discusses how much time is wasted on unnecessary locates in the situation where it is a large ticket. When the project has areas that are completed and whole area gets an update request due to it not being broken down. This change would effectively cut back on a lot of unnecessary locates currently being completed in the field.

Scott Tustin added that we need to define what a ticket is (size/scope) in Ohio to assist in making the industry and residents safer.

Joel Johnson added that this would foster more communication across the industry and would allow for better services being provided through the locating part of the industry.

Jason Broyles commented that we are at a crossroads of how to proceed due to some of the conversation turning back to coordination/project tickets. We will get there but need to get the first steps (such as this one) completed otherwise it could all fall in if we dig too deep too fast.

OHIO811 Board members on call stated that some of the questions asked about the centers capabilities could possibly be answered at their upcoming meeting on November 16th and that they would report any information gathered to the group.

Conversation was had around when to hold next meeting. It was decided that due to the amount of scheduling conflicts currently happening, the subcommittee would meet on November 20, 2023 for a final meeting leading up to the full coalition meeting on December 14th. Jason Broyles to send out Doodle Poll to determine what time would best fit the majority on the selected date of November 20.

Jim Mandera stated that due to company policy, he is not permitted to respond to Doodle Polls but will communicate through other means in order to respond. Stated that afternoon would work best for him but could possibly make morning work.

Meeting Adjourned. Jim Wooten motioned for adjournment at 11:06 am and was seconded by Jim Mandera. All in favor.

PAST MEETING MINUTES THAT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH CURRENT CONVERSATION: As a reminder; all meeting minutes can be found online by going to OHIO811.org and clicking on the “Law” tab under “Resources”

LOUDPC | MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

1:00 – 3:00

GEORGE J. IGEL COMPANY

Scope of a Ticket: The Subcommittee is discussing what limits should determine the scope of a ticket. Options include: a ticket within incorporated area of 500 ft. and unincorporated area of 1500 ft. Kevin noted that the scope will fall somewhere between ¼ - ½ mile.

Utility Coordination Project Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

January 23, 2020 10:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

George J. Igel Company

Size/Scope:

The Subcommittee agreed to eliminate different measurements for urban/incorporated vs. rural/unincorporated in favor of promoting a single quarter mile/1,320 foot standard.

Utility Coordination Project (UCP) Process SC Meeting
February 26, 2020
George J. Igel Company

Scope of ticket: A quarter mile: It was suggested that “**within the right-of-way**” be added to the language.

OUDDPC
Utility Coordination Project Subcommittee
Hybrid Meeting: Hosted at Igel and via GoToMeeting
February 10, 2021

SCOPE OF TICKET- GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATIONS TO SIZE OF A TICKET

While there are benefits to utilities/locators in establishing a standardized maximum ticket size, there was discussion around the value of establishing any geographic limitations on notifications. It was acknowledged that establishing such parameters could result in additional ticket volume and expense to utilities.

- Subcommittee members ultimately agreed to recommend a standardized maximum geographic limit of ¼ mile (1320 feet), but didn’t want to exclusively establish this limit within right-of-way excavations.
- Assigning a ¼ mile limitation to both length and depth would create efficiencies in location requests along highways or in rural excavation area with a limited number of underground utilities.

OHIO UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION COALITION
Full Coalition Meeting
February 25, 2021

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.

Benefits

- A step towards standardizing tickets o Statistical Comparisons
- Provide legal backing for Protection Service to enforce such practices
- Provide relief for rural/cross-country type locating efforts

Challenges

- Does not address sequencing of tickets... what’s better 1 2 mile ticket or 8 ¼ mile tickets
- Likely positive change for rural settings but may not translate well to urban settings.
- Likely result in increased ticket volume

OHIO UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION COALITION
Utility Coordination Subcommittee Meetings
October 19, 2022

SCOPE OF TICKET- GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATIONS TO SIZE OF A TICKET

A locate request submitted to the protection service shall not exceed (vs "be") more than ¼ mile (1320

feet) in linear footage within the easement or public right-of-way.

Discussion:

- This limitation would not apply to design tickets.
- Noted the potential for increasing the number of locate requests.
- Proposed adding “in the easement, or public right of way.”
- OHIO811 is seeking language that would allow for restricting size vs. recommending smaller locate requests. OHIO811 currently has no authority to say “Sorry, we can’t submit a ticket of this size.”
- Ticket language needs to be limited

OHIO UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION COALITION
November 1, 2022

Scope of Ticket:

In terms of the geographic size of a locate request, the subcommittee changed language to “shall not exceed ¼ mile.”

Al Tonetti voiced concerns that archeologists, because they often will dig in multiple locations on the same day, could be negatively affected by the ¼-mile rule. It was pointed out that the language limits this to the public right of way, thus it would not affect most of the archeological work.

OUDPC Quarterly Meeting
3/23/2023
Minutes

Scope of a Ticket: Geographic Limitations to the Size of the Ticket: Jim explained that this language came from the need to break large tickets into smaller tickets so that there is a better chance of markings happening in a timely manner. He noted that smaller contractors are worried this would add to their workload. Further, there was discussion that this may not fix the issue.

Those in favor of limiting the geographic size pointed out that more tickets allows for several tickets to be completed and excavation could begin, even if the entire project cannot be marked in the 48 hour limit.

Jim reported that the subcommittee’s vote was deadlocked and it cannot forward this proposal to the full coalition. The vote was 7-in favor, 7-opposed and 4-abstained.

The Coalition discussed this issue as a group. It was suggested that the subcommittee

continue to work on this issue. There was some agreement that the subcommittee consider language that would differentiate geographic limitations for urban and rural excavation. It was also suggested that the subcommittee survey other members of the Coalition and industry.

- In urban settings with higher concentrations of underground utilities and more frequent cross streets, it is likely that excavators would continue to utilize city blocks, intersections or similar designations to create workable scopes