



OHIO UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION COALITION

**Minutes**  
 Abandoned Lines Subcommittee  
 4/9/2024

<b>Committee Members of Record</b>		<b>4/9/2024</b>
Chan, Tony	Duke Energy Gas	Absent
Chelius, Lauren	Kokosing Construction	Present
Collins, Jim	Duke Energy Gas	Present
Coniglio, Dave	Ohio Contractors Association	Present
Harvey, Jason	PRUS Construction	Absent
Henson, Johnny	Davey Resource Group	Absent
Hocevar, Bill	Great Lakes Construction	Absent
Johnson, Joel	City of Columbus	Present
Large, Deron	Alta fiber	Present
Logan So, Mary	George J. Igel & Co., Inc.	Present
Mandera, Jim	Enbridge	Present
Moore, Isaac	Centerpoint Energy	Absent
Plurien, Tim	RLA Utilities	Absent
Pyles, Elizabeth	Franklin County Engineer	Present
Ross, Blake	Marathon Pipeline	Present
Schafer, Steve	First Energy Corp.	Absent
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	Absent
<b>OHIO811 Staff</b>		
Broyles, Jason	OHIO811	Present
Gillen, Jamie	OHIO811	Absent
Green, Chuck	OHIO811	Absent
Kacsandi, Caitlin	OHIO811	Present

Riegler, Frank	OHIO811	Present
Thayer, Zack	OHIO811	Present
<b>Industry Guests</b>		
Belser, Dominick	Duke Energy	Present
Brundrett, Rob	Ohio Oil and Gas	Present
Buskirk, Steve	Franklin Coumty Engineer	Present
Chace, Pete	PUCO	Present
Culbreath, Jonathan	Kinder Morgan	Present
Finucan, James	Columbia Gas	Present
First, Greg	Conie Construction Co.	Present
Fritz, Casey	Artex Oil	Present
Harris, Debbie	AEP	Present
Heinz, Clayton	Kokosing Construction Co.	Present
Holmes, Sandra	Arizona 811	Present
Mamere, Brian	Lake Eric Construction	Present
McLeod, Kyle	Columbia Gas	Absent
Muller, Chuck	Metro Net, Inc.	Present
Mulligan, Seamus	The Energy Cooperative	Present
Stewart, Jimmy	Ohio Gas Association	Present
Stringer, Sean	ATT	Present
Troxell, Rod	Cuyahoga Falls Electric Dept.	Present
Ward, Frank	DTS	Present
Ward, Jason	Above Grade Excavation	Present
Wood, Matthew	Enbridge	Present

I. Welcome/Opening Statements

Ms. Logan So called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Logan So took roll call of those present.

III. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Logan So made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/1/2023. Mr. Tustin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

IV. Arizona 811

Ms. Sandra Holmes (Arizona 811) gave a presentation about the state's Unknown Line process. Summary notes included in presentation. The law defines an abandoned facility and specifically requires

that it no longer be in service as well as be physically disconnected. The state also requires that all facilities installed after 12/31/1988 be retained as information and not removed from mapping.

May facility owners note the facilities using a voluntary A with a circle around it with the color code for the appropriate facility.

The law in Arizona also required that the Center establish a method to provide information regarding an Unknown Line. This law came about in 2005. Basically, it states that unknown lines must be called in by excavators as found. First, there must be confirmation that all facility owners have responded to the ticket. Using the information from the caller, the goal is to narrow down the type of facility to only call out the potential facility owners.

The Center sends out the physical person from the facility owners to the site within 2 hours of notification. In the event they strike out and no one take ownership, every facility owner from the ticket is called out to visually inspect the area. If no one claims, then a meet is required of all investigators. It is very rare for a facility to have to be windowed for inspection.

Once the line is inspected, the goal is to verify if the line is active/abandoned. Then the facility owner can tell the excavator what can happen to the facility because of potential conflict with new work.

Of the 2023 unknown lines called in, it amounted to approximately 3000 tickets/year (10 tickets/day).

- 87% of those tickets were able to be identified within 2 hours
- 10% of those tickets were elevated to Step 2
- Only 3% of those tickets were elevated to Step 3

Of the unknown lines, the breakdown of facilities types was a follows:

- 52% telecom
- 12% electric
- 12% all other utilities
- 5% gas
- 19% were unclaimed and ultimately worked around

Ms. Holmes noted that two full-time people at the Center are dedicated to the Unknown Line Process in Arizona. She also made specific note that an inactive line is **not** considered an abandoned line.

One question asked by participants was whether or not there was a “cost” for the onsite personnel who were responsible from facility owners to visually inspect the line. Ms. Holmes noted that the law states that there can be no cost to the excavator, but the Center has the ability to bill for services as a result of discovery of the line.

Additional questions:

1. Is the facility owner mandated to respond?
  - a. Yes, by law.
  - b. Non-responders are hunted down by Center
  - c. Excavators must keep the area safe and open for inspection.
  - d. If the Center does not assist this process, penalties can be enforced by the regulatory body in the State of Arizona.

2. Does the facility owner provide ideas for how to remove it?
  - a. Yes, typically they are telling them how to remove it/work around it.
3. Is it mandatory to report unknown lines in Arizona?
  - a. Yes.
  - b. Damages to facilities are mandated to be reported to the facility owner directly.
  - c. Gas damages have to be reported by the facility owner to the regulatory body.

Ms. Holmes mentioned that it is easier in Arizona because three or four of their members receive 14% or more of their tickets.

Several questions were asked regarding the onsite visit.

1. Who typically comes onsite?
  - a. Locate supervisor in many cases
2. Does the contractor get the contacts or who is it that makes the notification of the unknown line?
  - a. This is handled by two people who work for the one-call. The facility owner tells the Center who is coming. Sometimes they have to internally elevate the issue because some owners want to clear it from their office, but Ms. Holmes noted that often times those owners are the ones who end up owning the line. If it gets elevated in the office, the Center makes sure that someone comes out to do a visual inspection.
3. With a response time of two hours, what are the business hours in Arizona or with the Center?
  - a. Summer is 4 a.m. to 3 p.m. because of the weather Monday through Friday
  - b. Regular hours are 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday as working hours in Arizona
  - c. A normal locate request is two business days.
  - d. Ms. Holmes noted that even during weekends they make attempts to get information back to the excavators in the field.

#### V. Open Discussion/Next Steps

Mr. Broyles mentioned that he is still working to get a speaker for the July meeting. Monte Zimmerman (Lenexa) chairs the CGA Abandoned Lines committee for CGA. The goal is for Mr. Zimmerman to speak at the July 9 meeting of this Committee. Mr. Broyles said he would attempt to secure him during CGA next week.

#### VI. Adjournment

Mr. Tustin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Logan So seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.