



OUDDPC Utility Coordination Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes

3/19/2024

Call to Order/Opening Statements: Clayton Heitz, Jim Wooten

Roll Call: Kevin Baxter, Mitch Croy, Eric Sears, Jim Wooten, Clayton Heitz, Kenny Walker, Johnny Henson, Bill Whitaker, Mary Logan So, Drew Williams, Tyler Shelton, Stephanie Kromer, Nick Ciolli, Debbie Harris, Jason Harvey, Jason Broyles, Michael Evans, Emmy Elkins, Frank Ward, Katie Woodhall, Don Huck, Greg First, Matt DePolo, Scott Tustin, Bill Hocevar

Review/Approval of Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. No suggested changes. Motion to accept made, seconded, and accepted with no opposition.

Size/Scope of Locate Request: Majority of conversation was around this topic. Mr. Wooten started the conversation by discussing how the large scopes/areas being requested is contributing to the delay in locate requests being completed. Mrs. So stated that she feels that it is not as much the size of the locate request, but the scope of the request. She has had conversations with contract locators in her area that sometimes the scope is too small and sometimes too large all being based off of the number of utility conflicts there are.

Mr. Tustin stated that the overall goal is to achieve better coordination overall and by legislatively outlining size/scope of a locate request will assist in achieving this. He added that this has proven to work in other states and would assist the locators in obtaining a greater number of on time locates due to the areas being broken down thus alleviating unnecessary locating.

The conversation turned to large/complex project requests. Mr. Tustin stated that OHIO811 already has this type of request however it is not being utilized due to the vagueness on what defines a large/complex project. Reminded the group that if it becomes a legal requirement it would have a huge impact for locators to be able to service the entire industry. Mrs. So added that this could be a possibility pending there being 1. Definition for what a project is and 2. That

there be language forcing a “reasonable” response time from the affected utilities. Mr. Hocevar shared that could push back work and questioned as to whether this should be done through legislation or if it would be better for the notification center (OHIO811) to determine and break down the requests when necessary.

Next Steps: Mr. Large to discuss with OHIO811 Operations Committee to see how much of this could be dictated through the notification process versus legislative language.

Research other states laws as well as CGA Best Practices regarding this specific topic.

Research and report back on what a future project coordination process in Ohio could look like.

Adjournment: Motion made, seconded, and carried with no opposition.