

# OUDPC Meeting

Abandoned Lines Subcommittee

7/8/2025

Meeting opened at 1:01PM by Mary Logan So

Roll call taken by Jason Broyles

Mary Logan So reviewed the previous meeting minutes, one grammatical error corrected on Mary Logan So's name, made a motion to accept, seconded by Dave Coniglio. Minutes approved unanimously.

Jason Broyles reviewed the CGA Best Practices on abandoned lines. Have been meeting a few years about this topic, and not much progress has been made. Most of the language is coming from Texas 811. Trying to come up with something that would work on a national level. Doesn't know how much it will help, but wanted to give the information to the group.

Mary Logan So- Contractor expectations, encourage size dimension, material type, GPS coordinates, former tie in, last known owner, information from potential replacement. If there is an abandonment in close proximity to a live line. These items would be listed in the law, with the caveat of if available. Are there other contractors on the line that have any input on this?

No comments made, moving on to the utility ability.

Mary Logan So- was concern from utilities, mostly gas, that certain things wouldn't be available. Want to go utility group by utility group to see what their capabilities would be.

a.) Communications.

- a. Justin Freudeman- anything direct bury from the late 80's-early 90's, a lot was direct bury, could have been grade changes. Wouldn't have been anything fiber related until early to mid 90's. A lot of that was documented on old grid system maps. Anything currently we wouldn't mark anything abandoned, or would have abandoned on the mapping system. Will most likely be right with the live line if they could get it in the right of way. Anything in the last 15 or so years was put in conduit, if those lines get replaced, the line gets removed from the conduit, then get the new one put in the conduit. As for drops, there are a lot of them, and don't have much to provide with

those. Anything critical, or backbone, would have information available, but reiterated that anything in conduit gets removed a replaced. Could work with melissa if that they are sending that information to the center.

- b. Scott Mergler- Just had a team meeting, hot topic in multiple states. Are trying to reclaim anything that is in conduit and replacing. The other stuff, they aren't referring as abandoned, they term it as not in use, and still try to mark it if they are able to. This is an ongoing topic at AT&T.

Mary Logan So- This sounds really good from the communications standpoint, good to know that if they come across conduit that it is most likely going to be live.

Justin Fruedman- Usually use orange conduit, agrees with Scott, don't term anything abandoned at this time, just not in use. "Dark Fiber" no light on it, not running any traffic (not in use), then also there is Dark Fiber that is built in a ring that is used as a point to point that runs other peoples traffic on it, and is all documented in their mapping system. So even if they built it for someone else, it is documented and sent to the center. Charter marks this, and not by the one who is leasing the line.

Dave Coniglio- Scott, said something about not in use, but not abandoned. But you are locating them correct?

Scott Mergler- Correct, if we knew we had something there that was dead, looking at putting something potentially showing that there is an inactive line in that area. If it is inactive, they do try to mark it.

Dave Coniglio- That's good, for this conversation on abandoned lines, it makes it easier because that line is getting marked.

Mary Logan So- Any other communication companies that are on the call that has any input?

Chuck Muller- Ours is all fairly new and don't have any abandoned lines.

Deron Large- Lots of questions on their end, the biggest issue they have at the moment is that there is stuff on the ground that is really old and that was acquired from previous organizations. What kind of target date are we looking at for a point forward requirement.

Mary Logan So- Haven't gotten that far with the date yet, wanted to get the information from each utility group first and see if it can be a hard date for all, or if will be a staged roll out. Still have at least a year at best before this could be rolled out. But nothing has been firmed up yet.

Deron Large- Discussion on what best effort means internally. Needs to discuss as an organization on what the technical stuff would look like. Does have some legal issues on some stuff that they cannot provide information on, but willing to work on finding a way to get the information out.

Mary Logan So- Someone on the call last time on what would be public knowledge, what can be provided to the center, and excavator.

Jason Broyles- Believes it was Debbie Harris with AEP.

Debbie Harris- Yes it was me.

b.) Electric

- a. Debbie Harris- Did find a few things out, as far as providing the information, can provide some information, but not all of the information. From point going forward, meaning what's in the ground now, one of the concerns is what point does the excavator know what they are getting. If they put a ticker in today, and get no response on abandoned lines, should they feel secure in that there is nothing abandoned there. Need to excavator to know that it is from a point forward. Excavator needs to know the process. Also, how do we get the information out to the excavator, will it be the facility owner, or OHIO811? There is information that AEP will not give out to just anyone who requests it. How do we give them the information without telling them exactly where it is. If information is not provided on every single ticket, there will be times when information is provided on one ticket, and not provided on another ticket.
- b. Mary Logan So- Talked about the center be the one who would send the information to the excavator, (what the facility owner has provided to the center) With the new software, the facility owner can attach additional information if they wanted to once the center is using CenterLogix. As for the other question, rather do a point forward so that way the longer we do this, the better the information will get. Knows there will be stuff that is missed because it is a point forward initiative. Doesn't help as much today, but in 15-20 years it will be very beneficial. Have to draw a line in the sand at some point so that data is captured moving forward. When existing lines that are abandoned, some excavators may be willing to share that information to the facility owner to help build the database.
- c. Debbie Harris- Understands, just has some concerns with the excavator knowing that it is a point forward initiative, and that it will be hit and miss in the beginning.

- d. Mary Logan So- Had a communication line damage at one point, and tried multiple times to find out who the owner was. No one claimed it initially.  
After 2 years

Deron Large- Technical execution of getting it done, have we found out if the center is able to be the repository?

Mary Logan So- Yes they are capable, will need to get more into it, it may cost more money for the storage of that information.

Deon Large- Is there something in CenterLogix that could be demo'd as far as what could be included in that attachment so we can know what it would look like. Is it functional and feasible for it to happen, plus to know what it is going to cost?

Mary Logan So- CenterLogix is slated to start being used at OHIO811 in the spring of 2026. Could ask Chris Leblanc to do something, but may want to wait until OHIO811 starts using it to see what can be done.

A week ago we were looking for an abandoned line, thought they uncovered it, ended up finding the new one, and thought it was the abandoned line. Ended up damaging the new line. Need a better way to distinguish between the two lines (abandoned and live lines) do feel like them knowing that there were abandoned lines in the area was beneficial. Especially when getting into gas pipelines the information is important to know.

c.) Gas Distribution/Pipeline

- a. Seamus Mulligan- "Shared a map in the meeting showing what can be provided" This is the active gas layer, all they do when they abandon a line, they take it off of active and move it to abandoned. All the information on that line is still documented. The one thing lacking is depth/elevation. Its not tracked that well. (Went through examples on the map showing what the abandoned facilities look like, group discussion about it)
- b. Mary Logan So- As the excavator uncovers these lines, they can verify back to the facility owner to ensure that is the abandoned line they are looking for.
- c. Jim Wooten- My gas prints look a little different, but its pretty much the same. With abandoned, they take the size off of it, but can pull the work order to get the size.
- d. Mary Logan So- Would you be able to provide this information to the center?
- e. Jim Wooten- That would be a question for Mike Wilson.
- f. Jim Mandera- In the same boat as CenterPoint, don't want to get in the business of sending maps and things to individual excavators. If it is shown it is beneficial, it needs to be housed at the center. Don't have the staff to do a

thousand of these a day. Needs to be automated. Questions about liability, a line installed in 1922, with a centerline measurement isn't going to be accurate. Or if someone came and used that empty line for something else, could cause confusion if a line has been repurposed.

- g. Don Huck- Echo a lot of what Jim says, coming from the producer side, a lot of it is in rural areas. Different colors of pipe because lines have been in since the 1800's. With that being said, a lot of time spent trying to get folks to sign up to be a member of OHIO811. Point forward, I'm with Jim, the center needs to be the repository. Information provided that has to be taken in context.
  - h. Dave Coniglio- To Don and Jim's point, has been conversation on liability and understands that concern. From the excavator side of it, cant expect the utility company to be liable for something that was abandoned 50 years ago. Could seemingly easily write some language that provides protection on liability for the facility owners. You can only provide what you can provide.
  - i. Less Schell- agrees with the point forward language, and agrees that the center needs to be that repository.
  - j. Seamus Mulligan- Need to be careful how we refer to these lines, abandoned, not in use, etc... If a line is not in use for so long, the homeowner would acquire that easement back.
  - k. Mary Logan So- Have asked since 2016 to get the definitions on the books where all facility owners agree on the terminology.
  - l. Seamus Mulligan- Need to go back in the meeting notes and see what was talked about previously.
- d.) Water
- a. No one on the call from a water utility.

Jim Mandera- Need to get some input from these utilities, this will have a big impact on them as well.

Mary Logan So- Everyone seems to agree that the center needs to be the repository, and that most seem interested in being able to send additional attachments. Needs to reach some consensus on the definitions needed that will have to go in the law. Trying too to put some language on "information available" "best efforts". Also more discussion on the timeline aspect. Not hearing the concern that was heard in April about different utilities need it to be rolled out in stages. Also how much time/notice is needed for folks to get prepared with the information and get it sent to the center. Also give the center time to get ready for the transition. Assuming it would be a year timeline where they can do their preparations and adjustments to get things ready before it takes effect. There are some who expressed concern about if this helps us move forward and can discuss that forward.

Seamus Mulligan- We may be a utility, or facility owner, excavator, but at the end of the day, we are all excavators. As excavators, it will help us all.

Jason Broyles- Another bullet to be discussed, has come up in past meetings. Discussion on tolerance zone. Should that be discussed in this group, or does it need to be in a different subcommittee

Seamus Mulligan- Approached the other gas companies, take off the utility hat, and put on the excavator hat. Those I talked to could live with a lot of this, but wanted to talk about increasing the tolerance zone to make them feel more comfortable.

Mary Logan So- Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm