

Complex/Large Project Subcommittee

10/02/2026

1:00pm

Attendance: Kevin Campbell, Jason Broyles, Jim Wooten, Bradley Shoemaker, Bruce Jones, Scott Mergler, Justin Freudeman, Dillon Sweet, Kyle Cross, Melvin Henson, Kyle McLeod, Stephan Kristan, Kris Klaus, Frank Riegler, Jaime Gillen, Michael Lambdin, Blake Ross, Mike Lawson, Chris Russ, Nicholas Murdock, Aaron Breen, Jim Collins, Anothony Riccelli, Lawrence Hampton, Mike Watrko, Don Huck, Davy Myers, Dave Coniglio, Brian Hickman, Matt Hines, Christina Polesovsky, Deron Large, Sean Travis, Garry Lee, Drew Williams, James Mander, Stephanie Kromer, Stephan Thomas, Al Tonetti, Trint Hatt, Dominick Belsar, Mike Muzychenko, Bryon Bedel, Collin Crigger, Micheal Evans, Greg First, James Finucan, Jospeh Dragovich, Patrick Ginnetti, Deanna DeWitt, Jennifer Reams, Alex Coorey, Michael Brinkman, Quinn Millsop, Elizabeth Pyles, Collins Cranmer, Stephen Nielson, Casey Fritz, Kara Arnold, Kyle Mangione, Richard Thompson, Andrea Ashley

Opening remarks made by Melvin Henson. Minutes were reviewed by subcommittee. Motion to accept minutes made by Brad Shoemaker and seconded by Jim Wooten. No opposition, minutes passed unanimously.

Subcommittee reviewed comments received by Jim Mander, Mike Wartko, Dave Coniglio and Patrick Murphy. A lot of conversation was centered around clarifying exactly how the process will get triggered and what the steps of the process would be. One outstanding question remaining of “what happens if one or more parties refuses to adhere to the mutually agreed upon locate schedule?”. Also remains a strong stance that the excavator, having the most knowledge of the construction plans, should have the ability to either start or stop the complex project process.

Conversation were had referencing specifically calling out Broadband in the definition of “complex project”. Point was made that although today’s focus is on the Broadband builds, as an industry, we need not lose sight of the fact that tomorrow it could be any other utility type. As aging infrastructure and the need for growth and expansion continue across the state, other utility types have a high probability of creating the same types of issue in the future and need to focus on now and the future and not just now. Counterpoint was made that if the fiber builds are what is causing the need for this, then we need to address

it directly for now while the OUDPC continues working on the finer details through this subcommittee for the overall language.

The conversation then turned to whether defining “complex projects” would accomplish anything? The group was reminded of the ask from the legislatures for assistance from the Coalition due to the outcry from Ohioans in Northeast Ohio following the damages tied to fiber builds earlier in 2026. The group was reminded that if we cannot see our way as an industry to assist legislatures, we could possibly be stuck with whatever they come up with. It was mentioned that this may be a topic that could be handled by rulemaking in place of legislation. Jason Broyles to research and report back to subcommittee on “rulemaking”.

Contractor basis continues to have concerns that the process could hinder, and delay start of jobs leading to fines/penalties and scheduling issues. Comments made that with a definition, they should be able to know in advance of notifying OHIO811, if their project would or would not classify as a complex project. Even with that, still concerns about projects that would be classified as complex that would not need to follow the process and the possible delays that could be a result.

Closing statements made including reminding the group of the pressure that we, as an industry, are currently under and asking everyone to stay the course. Thanks stated for the contributions to the conversation, but looking for solutions, not just discussions. Moving forward, if anyone has any suggestions, please send directly to Melvin Henson or Jason Broyles and attempt to avoid using “reply all” as this leads to confusion with having such an extensive email directory involved. All suggestions, comments, questions, etc., will be combined in one document and sent out prior to the next meeting so attendees will have time to view prior to the meeting.