Abandoned Lines Subcommittee

4/8/2025

Attendees: Jon Dorsey, Jason Broyles, Paul Briggs, Brian Mamere, David Blatnik, Jon Culbreath, Seamus Mulligan, Johnny Henson, Debbie Harris, Mary Logan So, Elliot Baum, Jason Harvey, Travis Bullock, Casey Fritz, Jim Wooten, Greg First, Alex McCann, Krista Vickline, Don Huck, Drew Williams, Josh Bowman, Frank Riegler, Thomas Wetmore, Mike Burroughs, Pat Murphy, Rod Troxall, Greg Vergamini, Richard Thompson, Stephanie Kromer, Lori Wade, Wendi Snyder, Mike Wilson, Brook Ebersole

Jason Broyles opened the meeting at 1:03pm.

Mary Logan So had group review meeting minutes from the January 14th meeting.

Mary Logan So made a motion to approve the minutes, minutes passed unanimously.

Mary Logan So- Seems to be alignment on the safety issues, and keeping info available. Would be from a "point forward and best effort" basis on anything we put in place. Wants to avoid the "its not possible" mindset. Wants to be mindful and not overreach on requirements. Understanding it will be easier from some utility owners than others who would be starting from ground zero. Has been some concern over liability, overall just want better data than what we have now. Would like facility owners to create some language they are comfortable with.

Seamus Mulligan- Most larger utilities use ESRI based mapping. This would allow for abandoned facilities to be kept on the mapping as a layer that can be toggled on and off, this was info is kept. Possibly provide a copy of the abandoned facilities in that layer once a month, sent to repository, which would probably be the call center. When something is called in for that area, they would be notified of the presence of abandoned facilities in that area, and possibly a map as well from the center. Could also give them size and material type of that abandoned facility, though is some concern that it could give excavators a false sense of security.

Mary Logan So- Would like some feedback and direction from project managers as well. Not many if any project managers on this call. This would be step by step legislation, seeing what works and what doesn't, and continue the conversations on what can be altered after we get something set in place. Baby steps forward.

Seamus Mulligan- Need a starting point, see what works and continue to adjust as needed. Question to ask yourself is, does this make the excavation industry safer? Believe it does yes.

Mary Logan So- Would like to hear from utility owners who are not gas pipelines as well.

Krista- with Verizon, has concerns on timeline of correcting issues, new to the process and still learning.

Lori Wade- To Krista, would it be important for designers to be made aware of abandoned facilities as well? This info is not sent currently.

Krista- Not comfortable speaking to that at this point.

Mary logan So- What would you all like to see that are excavators?

Elliot- Size, material type, access to abandoned line data. Had a project in North Carolina where 8-10 abandoned lines we uncovered.

Mary Logan So- Getting this info during the design phase could help in getting the discussion started earlier.

Jason Broyles- Lots of representatives from ODOT on the call as well, would like to get some feedback from them before the end of the meeting.

Joshua Bowman- Deputy Director of construction, want to get the conversations started. Still getting head around discussions before commenting further, not many comments at this time.

Richard Tompson- New to the industry and conversation, excited to be a part of the discussion moving forward.

Debbie Harris- we do not provide mapping to OHIO811, just the service area where we need notified. How would info be sent to the excavator? Historical data is iffy with some utility owners. Going forward, how does this play out? How do we get the info to the excavator quick enough in order to move forward?

Mary Logan So- Doesn't anticipate locators being involved at this point. Material and size of line to help determine what is abandoned or live, and who it belongs to. Spoke with Norfield about CenterLogix, attachments will be possible with the new program, maybe we could use that to give utility owners the ability to send info back to the excavator on abandoned facilities. Would need a person to physically attach the info after the ticket is called in.

Debbie Harris- If there is just a response on each ticket that abandoned lines are present, it would make it generic and doesn't help.

Mary Logan So- Just having a response “abandoned lines in the area” is meaningless.

Debbie Harris- Not sure how AEP would go about doing it, agree with the point of getting the info out during design phase. Sending the info makes her nervous, what would the guidelines be?

Mary Logan So- Want it to be realistic, and being careful not to overreach. Makes steps forward, and evolve from there. See’s potential issues getting relevant information from communication facilities. What ways to know which communication line belongs to what facility owner?

Seamus Mulligan- Abandoned facilities layer on ESRI is at no cost. Debbie’s situation is different, costs associated with a person sending files, at least until they get their feet under them and get an automated system set up.

Mary Logan So- “Best efforts” will still need some language that keeps people accountable. Deadlines dates of when facility owners would be required to start getting the info out. Could incrementally step the deadlines out depending on facility owner’s budgets, IT capabilities, etc.…

Don Huck- Must be from a “point forward” basis. Possibly voluntary? Liability is a huge issue. Repository with OHIO811 of abandoned lines. As lines get retired, the information on that line gets moved to an abandoned lines database.

Rod- Does not make their facility information public and wont. With Norfield, can get with excavator directly. But none of it is public record. Doesn’t want excavators to think a line is dead or start guessing.

Seamus Mulligan- Municipalities providing duct bank information for future use, common duct banks that are installed during road reconstruction.

Mary Logan So- Gas companies communicate a lot in these meetings, wants to be able to get more information from all other types of utilities and see what would work for them. Need to know what the potential impacts would be. Also having contractors come up with a list of things they would like to see as well. Feedback from different facility types will help everyone know what is realistic moving forward.

Jason Broyles- Will reach out to Tom at the center, except for gas companies, not many members give the center actual maps of their facilities. Just notification polygons.

Mary Logan So- Part of the worry is the human impact to her people. Could stage the rollout/implementation. If a telecom facility is struggling the most, giving them some more time to get systems in order. Targeted implementation, engaging other facility owner types,

using the portal through Norfield. Options are already in the works that would not present a significant cost monetarily.

Jason Broyles- Will try to get Chris and Tom on the next call we have, hopefully they will be able to answer questions specifically about the programs being used.

Mary Logan So- Will not be a sales pitch, will just be for the system at the call center that everyone will be using. Getting help from Jason to acquire information from other utility owners who aren't gas companies to see what will work, and how to make it work. Wont cost money, but will cost time.

Jason Broyles- List of electric, water, etc. Mass email getting policy and procedures on how they can disseminate the information and give them a chance to respond.

Mary Logan So- That's a step forward, think about what would be possible and feasible moving forward.

Seamus Mulligan- There will be costs associated with OHIO811, some discussion on cost and how it will be paid for. Taking the utility hat off, and putting on the excavator hat, does it make things safer? Also, increasing the tolerance zone would make it safer as well. Possibly going from 18" to 30".

Mary Logan So- Does tolerance zone discussion belong here or in another subcommittee? Need a direction on where it should be heard.

Lori Wade- Believes the tolerance zone discussion should be its own subcommittee.

Jason Broyles- On the agenda for the meeting on the 25th, will figure out how the OUDPC wants to move forward with the tolerance zone discussion.

Mary Logan So- Looking for a path forward on this topic.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58pm