OUDPC Abandoned Lines Subcommittee Meeting

01/13/2026

1:00PM

Attendees: Kevin Campbell, Jason Broyles, Frank Riegler, Seamus Mulligan, Michael Lambdin, Don Huck, Greg First, Dave Coniglio, Melvin Henson, Michael Letson, Chris Russ, Matt Hines, Mary Logan So, Brian Holden, Blake Ross, James Mandera, Leslie Schell, Rod Troxwell, Pat Ginnetti, Kurt Leib, Brian Hickman, Justin Freudeman, Stephanie Kromer, Brent St. Clair, Kyle Mangione, Scott Mergler, Alex Coorey, Jim McClelland, Jim Collins, Casey Fritz, Christina Polesovky, Greg Vergamini,

Mary Logan So called meeting to order at 1:02pm

Review of last meeting minutes for approval from the group.

Motion made by Mary Logan So, seconded by Seamus Mulligan

Minutes approved unanimously

Seamus Mulligan- Showed the group proposed language for abandoned lines and reviewed for the group. Essentially, once lines are taken off of the active layer, the inactive line information would be sent to the OHIO811 center. Upon transfer, the utility is no longer liable for marking the line. If the line hasn't been transferred, the utility would still be responsible for locating that. Knows there is going to need to be discussion on this language

James Mandera- For those who have their lines in a database at OHIO811, it wouldn't be hard to do. For those who utilize grids, it wouldn't be real feasible for them. Even using polygons wouldn't be good enough for this as well. Need to know what data that needs collected and transferred.

Seamus Mulligan - the premise of what we are trying to accomplish you don't have an issue correct? Just how the information gets passed along.

James Mandera- Yeah, just what information needs passed along to OHIO811 and how. Can't visualize how I would get that information to OHIO811

Seamus Mulligan - If we have the information, we will pass it along to OHIO811, we need to agree as a whole the minimum information that needs relayed. Size, material type, and

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some approximate location of the facility. What else would anyone else want included? Approximate year? It could help determine what type of facility, or color of plastic pipe they should expect.

James Mandera- Not sure the year would mean anything to anyone except gas companies.

Mary Logan So- Agree with Seamus, need to be more detailed on what information we are looking for, understanding that not all utilities have all the same information. If we lose the specifics on what we are looking for, it won't help us as much. Like that we are thinking about the specifics. When we talk about the liability, I think that will have to come out, and I think the LSC will take it out anyway. I don't think it is necessary. One of the things the contractors have asked for to be considered, wanted the lines wherever feasible, removed from the public right of way. Understand that it can't' always happen, but where possible. I don't see any of that language in this proposed language. I don't see any effort to at least entertain this concept. If we don't put it in here, there will be no action to remove anything

Seamus Mulligan - when we put a new line in, both lines must remain active in the right of way, so after you have dug it up, you would have to go back and dig the old line up again to remove the pipeline. Removal on the gas side will be a hard sell. But agree that when the opportunity presents itself, we would definitely remove what we can.

Jason Broyles- Appreciate the conversation, want to open it up to ODOT, this was a big portion of HB 54 for ODOT, and want to see what input they have.

Greg Vergamini- This was a big issue in HB54, more related to ODOT project, delays and relocating the lines during ODOT projects. Very interested in this language for active and abandoned lines going forward.

Rod Troxwell- (Showed group what their maps look like) This is one of our busier areas of underground. We show abandoned lines, active lines to be located. Want to give people an idea of what we have, and how do we give this to the OHIO811 center, and how would they understand this map. Just something to think about. Not against this language by any means, but there are some hoops to jump through to make it work.

Seamus Mulligan - can see us coming up to a starting point and readjust depending on how things are working. Not sure how the OHIO811 repository would decipher that information. On the ODOT delays in projects, just to be aware, removing abandoned lines in road right of ways would definitely cause delays. That's more work the utility has to do that could delay a project.

Mary Logan So- agree, even when a contractor comes across an abandoned line that caused the job to shut down.

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Seamus Mulligan - I think that is a good direction to head.

Mary Logan So- I agree, and like everything that has been shown so far from the gas companies. I think as contractors, I am not sure how communication companies keep their records. Some limitations on the type of facility. The types of things we are looking for from each different utility. Different information based on utility and sophistication of the mapping.

Seamus Mulligan - Could see and ODOT project being delayed because of a fiber vault that was abandoned line place. I could see a 12-Inch bare steel gas line left that could be an issue. Can't see a 2, 4, 6-inch plastic line that is abandoned causing delays. That stuff, even live, gets worked around every day. Address what type of facility it is, I agree with ODOT that a vault should be removed, and large steel gas lines. But smaller plastic lines would be ne an issue.

Dave Coniglio- Seasmus, an example of a member we have, received this, to Mary point about delays. Not about uncovering something. But delays when utilities aren't relocated. Bridge project from 2022, 3-million-dollar project, because of two big delays on moving and relocating lines, was a completion date of October 2023, pushed back to completion of October 2024. Contractor was awarded $792,000 extra for downtime and equipment downtime. Agrees that the smaller lines aren't an issue, that can be worked through. But the other stuff is causing major delays and caused this project to be completed 2 years later than scheduled.

Seamus Mulligan - I can understand that Dave, to me, I'm thinking we are supposed to be looking at what to do with abandoned lines. That's not abandoned, that's a pre planning thing. So, I agree, but don't think it is in the scope of what we are trying to do here.

Dave Coniglio- Agree, just wanted to bring the point up. Even when it is abandoned it still creates delays. Can do more digging to see if any of it was abandoned.

Mary Logan So- That is what we have been talking about with municipalities. Someone is having to pay for these delays.

Seamus Mulligan- have a 2 and a 4-inch line, the 2 inch is dead, the 4 inch is next to it, and they hit the 4-inch thinking the 2 inch is live. I want to keep that from happening.

Mary Logan So- Also need folks to better understand that marking standards as well and recognize the markings on the ground.

Seamus Mulligan - I am an excavator too and have had instances where things get hit because of not having all the information on the lines that are in the ground. If it makes things safer, I am all in.

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Mary Logan So- I think we are all on the same page here, if we compare the current language to what the contractors put forth, we could probably compromise pretty quickly on a lot of this. If we talk about the heart of the intent there, facility owners must maintain information on their lines, and when they are abandoned, out of service, deactivated, etc.... we need to put it in the language where once that lines is abandoned, it gets turned over to OHIO811 so they have the information to give out on that line.

Don Huck- I think the part to recognize, not every company is going to have good information from the past. But looking at it as a point forward. Now if someone has information from the past, then they can. But that would be voluntary. Not everyone is going to have that information from the past.

Mary Logan So- Prefer not to stay voluntary, want to do an effective date. So, from that date forward you must have the information to pass on to the OHIO811 center.

Jason Broyles- Asking the group, the different terminology, that is something that as the conversation continues, need to be mindful and intentional, depending on the utility, the definitions can mean different things from one utility to another. It may be something where it may be looking at being used in the future. We need to be intentional on the wording. There will be lines in the ground that won't be active but are also not currently active. Will tie into another subcommittee about getting records updated in a timely manner.

Mary Logan So- Those extra terms do mean something to the different utilities. Gas has been very vocal on these calls. I want to make sure we are speaking to all the different types of utilities. Some discussion on doing just utilities that could harm someone in that past but want this to be all inclusive.

Brian Holden- Gas is one of the things we are concerned with. The wording, the last known owner of the PUCO, would exclude a lot of the other utilities. Not agreeable on the PUCO language. Removal also means the water, sewer etc. would also have to be removed. I want to make sure it is fair and equal across the board.

Mary Logan So- Good point with the PUCO, and the contractors want it to apply to all the facility owners, not just the gas companies. At the time, I felt like the PUCO was the correct place, but open to something else if it is more appropriate.

(Contractor language put up for the group the read)

Mary Logan So- Believe as a group (contractors) it would be for all.

James Mandera- The PUCO is just over gas, and doesn't know the owner of water, and communications lines. If we wanted to go that route, we would need to discuss it with the

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PUCO. If you hit something that isn't marked, then do you call the PUCO to see who owns it?

Mary Logan So- No, if something got hit, we would call OHIO811.

James Mandera- Thinks Seamus is on the right track, if you abandon something, you notify OHIO811 provided the new system can handle that data the way we need it to. Not sure what the end game to all of that is. The transfer of ownership, the day a gas line is abandoned they transfer ownership

Jim Collins- Could potentially provide buffer zones like they do with active lines to the OHIO811 center. It would be a smaller buffer zone than the active lines.

Mary Logan So- Can we see the language from Don Huck and the Contractor language? Jim, I see where you are going with that. If we are going to use the one call as the repository, then we could eliminate the PUCO language.

James Mandera- Don't want anything in the law that if a line gets hit that is abandoned, and is now being used for fiber, I don't want a gas company to be responsible for that.

Mary Logan So- Agree.

James Mandera- Regarding the buffers, I assume you mean the polygons for notifications? How big is the buffer.

Jim Collins- Mains and services, about a 100'. It would be smaller on the abandoned lines. Something like 25'.

James Mandera- Goes back to what information would add value to the excavator. Is an *' steel line on the east side of the road good enough?

Mary Logan So- From a point forward perspective, we can say we can expect certain data to be kept on new installations. Size, type etc… But still have to say, (or) based on what you have. Can't provide what doesn't exist. Even for your example, that is better than what we have now.

Seamus Mulligan - Question for utilities, any issue after abandonment, if it was all sent to a database that was viewable by other people? Envisioning, transferring the abandoned layer over to OHIO811, if they combine that with other ESRI layers from other utilities, and then a contractor who is a member of OHIO811, could go look at that map to see what abandoned layers are out there? Anyone have an objection to that?

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James Mandera- Could go in that direction. Not sure everyone has ESRI, would have to work through that. As long as the name of the company is not listed with the abandoned stuff, then not against it.

Seamus Mulligan - it would be an easy process for us, so to take the layers from all the utilities and put it on one map, it can be available to contractors on the jobsite. Imagine there are some utilities that won't be able to provide that electronically. Would need to all agree on a format. This would be better than OHIO811 giving out the information when someone calls.

Deron Large- 3 things, first, the PUCO governs copper facilities in Ohio, but a lot of the fiber is not. Speaking for OTA, some of the lines we would need to check with the members of OTA to see who would have a problem with the mapping idea. Can't turn over some information due to some military restrictions, lines going to WPAFB. Overall, from Alta Fiber perspective, want to keep people safe and don't have a big issue with that. Finally, we are 138 years old, we have paper maps too, and don't know where all the lines are. Alta Fiber will work to try to help and get information from a point forward basis.

Pat Ginnetti- That information would be beneficial to the design engineer prior to construction. This would help minimize delays as well if that information is provided in that phase.

Scott Mergler- Following up with Deron, willing to do what we can to help. One of my scares is how to identify what is abandoned. Not everyone would necessarily know the difference between a copper line and a fiber line. If you can't tell, you need to treat them all as live. Speaking for electric, it's all going to look identical, which will also make it more difficult to tell what is live.

Seamus Mulligan - 80% of the electric lines we operate is aerial. Only a small amount of buried electric. You are 100% right Scott, will dictate a call back to the utility once something is uncovered, and get some help from that utility. Hopefully they will help the contractor.

Scott Mergler- Food for thought, do have abandoned ducts that appear to not be in use, but then we lease those out. But those should be located. But do appear abandoned.

Don Huck- Facilities with some age will be something that has to be dealt with. On the design end, think there is value in that as well if that information in available.

Seamus Mulligan - Can't take care of every issue, but even solving 25-30 percent is more than what we have taken care of now. Any information we can share is going to be beneficial.

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Mary Logan So- Agree, must walk before we run. I think at this point, reflect in the minutes both sets of language. One thing we haven't addressed is the types of things we are looking for. Utilities need to know what they need to produce. Knowing some may only be able to provide certain things. It seems like we are getting close. Would like to get some feedback on the verbiage as well and see how important it is going to be. i.e. is "abandoned lines" good with everyone or do we need different verbiage.

Seamus Mulligan - Our maps in ESRI cover main lines, not service lines. If we are talking about service line information, that is going to be a bigger issue to deal with. Thinking we are mostly talking about mains anyway.

Mary Logan So- We have 5 minutes left, want to wrap it up, anything else someone wants to add? Deron, if you can talk to OTA, if there is language that you want to see, we would love to see it.

Deron Large- I will reach out to Ted Heckman, chair of OTA, and check with the membership after the meeting minutes are sent out.

Mary Logan So- It would be great to have that information from the communications end. It looks like a lot of people will be joining us Thursday at the full coalition meeting. Special exemptions subcommittee meeting is possible Thursday morning if we need to have a call if language is presented.

Seamus Mulligan- When is our next abandoned lines meeting? And do we need to RSVP for the Thursday meeting?

Jason Broyles- No you do not. Our next meeting is going to be in April, the Tuesday before the next full coalition meeting. April 14th. We have not sent the invites out for this year's subcommittee meeting, will be ironing that out on Thursday as well. As for the special meeting on Thursday, if you need to participate in person, you can be there at 9 and can be on the call at the OCA building.

Mary Logan So- That should wrap it up. We will look forward to seeing a lot of you on Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm

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Contractor Proposed:

Proposed language:
Facility owners must maintain maps, drawings, diagrams, BIM information, or other records regarding the location of any underground facilities that have been abandoned, out-of-service, inactive, deactivated, disconnected or otherwise as of ~~XX/XX/202X.~~ (date of signed legislation)

Facility owners have a one-year period following the signed legislation to develop a format to transmit the aforementioned information to the One Call Center for transmission to the excavator.

All facilities, abandoned, out-of-service, not-in-use, inactive, deactivated, disconnected, or otherwise, are deemed the responsibility of the facility owner unless transfer or ownership is completed, submitted and approved by the PUCO. This information shall also be transferred, with accompanying map data, to the One Call Center for maintenance as a database of such lines. Excavators shall be furnished records of such potential conflicts during the submittal of a utility locate request.

Wherever feasible, abandoned, out-of-service, inactive, deactivated, disconnected, or otherwise should be removed from public right-of-way under the direction of the last known owner reported to the PUCO. ~~All removal costs are ultimately the cost of the facility owner.~~ Resulting damage from excavating activities around unmarked facilities is presumed to be the responsibility of the facility owner.

Other Proposed:

The Ohio811 Center is the database for active utility infrastructure data. Effective _____ the Ohio811 Center will establish a database for abandoned utility infrastructure data. After the effective date, any utility abandoning a line/facility per the definition of Abandoned Line/Facility will notify the Ohio811 Center and transfer the affected facility/line from the active utility infrastructure database to the abandoned utility infrastructure database. Upon proper transfer of a line/facility to the abandoned utility infrastructure database, the utility is no longer responsible for locating the line/facility under the one call system requirements nor is the utility liable for excavation activity near the abandoned line/facility. Any line/facility not properly transferred to the abandoned utility infrastructure database repository will be subject to current one call system requirements.

After the effective date, any utility may voluntarily submit additional abandoned utility infrastructure data to the abandoned utility infrastructure database subject to the provisions in the paragraph above.

After the effective date, any entity may access the database for abandoned utility infrastructure data to acquire data to use in the design and execution of an excavation project.

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