OUDPC Utility Coordination Subcommittee Meeting

October 19, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order

Roll Call: Zachery Thayer, Jason Broyles, Blake Ross, Tim Plurien, Scott Mergler, Chuck Muller, Adam Lofton, Joel Johnson, James Mandera, Deron Large, Bill Hocevar, Chris Russ, Jim Collins, Mitch Croy, Scott Tustin, Jim Wooten, Deborah Harris, Lawerence Hampton, Jaime Gillen, Chuck Green, Les Schell, Marcia Lindamood, Brent St. Clair, Matthew Wood

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jim Wooten opened the meeting by reviewing the prior meeting minutes. Scott Tustin and Les Schell requested modifications to the meeting as proposed. The changes were made to the minutes. Jim Wooten made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Jim Mandera. The meeting minutes were accepted with the approved changes.

30-Day Life of a Ticket

Jim Wooten provided research that he had completed looking at other states laws as it relates to the expiration of locate requests. Jim reported that out of the states, Ohio and Missouri were the only states to his knowledge that did not have a set expiration date. Jim did point out that during his research, he found information stating that Ohio currently has a 30-day expiration so participants should confirm the information because there is misinformation out there.

Mitch Croy and Chris Russ both referenced documents that their organizations utilize that outlines the expiration date of locate requests in the states that they operate. These documents are attached to the meeting minutes. Both individuals stated that the documents may not be 100% and for participants to verify the information before using.

Deborah Harris commented concerns that by putting a 30-day life on a ticket, we may be setting small excavators up for a dangerous situation due to a set ticket life possibly overpowering the judgement on whether locates marks are good or not.

Scott Tustin responded that if an excavator leaves a job site they should call in a new ticket before beginning work on that site again.

Jason Broyles clarified the current revised code does allow for excavators to leave a jobsite and come back and continue working on the same locate request as long as the marks were still clearly visible. Jason added that it is a best practice and a safety focus to recall the locates before resuming work on a prior job site.

Scott Tustin remarked that almost every other state has a life of a ticket and adds that we should probably follow suit.

Deron Large stated that currently, the only real opposition is coming from the Ohio Contractors Association.

Jason Broyles relays remarks on behalf of Dave Coniglio, OCA, covering some of their concerns around additional administrative burdens and that the OCA is willing to discuss and attempt to come up with middle ground.

Jim Wooten remarks that OHIO811 makes ticket entry proficient and easy enough that he does not feel it would create additional burdens on the excavators.

Chuck Muller stated that it would be easier because you would know exactly when you need to update the locate request.

Jason Broyles reiterates that he is just relaying information but will not make arguments or answers outside of the exact messaging and they would need to have conversations with OCA.

Chuck Muller mentions that there may be steps that OHIO811 Operations could send out an email reminder to the excavators to assist them in tracking when to send the additional notice.

Deron Large agrees this is a good idea and might ease some of the contractors concerns around additional burdens.

Jim Mandera mentions studies that show that typically, locate paint lasts approximately 26 days.

Scott Tustin added that there is a small percentage of projects that last longer than 30 days. Scott Tustin continued by stating that some municipalities require chalk based paint or whiskers rather than paint and chalk marks do not last.

Jim Mandera states that we are just spinning our wheels without OCA representation present.

Scott Tustin remarks in agreement and states that the group needs to know what specifically OCA would be willing to accept.

A meeting will be set up with the co-chairs, the OCA and a few select guests in order to have the conversation in attempt to find the middle ground.

Blake Ross remarks that the current revised code is sufficient and understands and agrees with the OCA position at this time with not having a set number of days as a life of a locate request.

The group continues conversation making sure that we are focused on safety.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am after Jim Wooten made a motion and was seconded by Scott Tustin. All agreed.