OUDPC Utility Coordination Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes

6/19/2023

Call to Order

Roll Call: Greg Bennett, Jason Ward, Yancy Deering, Jason Broyles, Zach Thayer, Chuck Muller, Clayton Heitz, Jim Collins, Jonathan Culbreath (Jon Ross), Dave Coniglio, Debbie Harris, Greg First, Deanna DeWitt, Johnny Henson, Mary Logan So, Kyle McLeod, Scott Mergler, Issac Moore, Blake Ross, Steve Schafer, Sean Stringer, Kenny Walker, Jim Wooten, Jim Mandera, Scott Tustin, Les Schell

Utility Coordination Subcommittee

Started meeting with a review of the language that was put out for 45-day review and the comments that were received throughout the review process.

Ticket Life: 30-Day Ticket Expiration:

The conversation was started by Dave Coniglio who reiterated the opposition from the Ohio Contractors Association to this language. Stated that they would like to see data to support the need for Ohio to adopt life of a ticket. Understanding that other states do have a ticket life, however, does not feel it will help in Ohio based on the current Revised Code mandating excavators to update their ticket if the marks on the ground become faded or get destroyed (there is already a process in place and language stating life of a ticket is based on the marks on the ground). Stated that the association would be open to further consideration on this if good supporting data is provided. Mary Logan So agreed with the remarks made by the OCA and added that putting a set number of days to the life of a ticket does not necessarily increase to creating a safer experience and that this would fall under a maintenance issue applying extra work to the contractors who are currently managing their locates effectively now with good practices built in at an organizational level.

Conversation advocating for the 30-day ticket life included comments by Jim Wooten, Scott Tustin, Chuck Muller, Jim Mandera and Steve Schafer. These comments included statements around the average amount of time locate marks stay on the ground, being cited as approximately 26 days. It was also stated that in other states that have a set life of a ticket, it is assisting in bringing down damage rates when viewed at a per thousand equation. Jim Wooten and Jim Collins both offered to pull some data from other states that they operate in to support this.

Steve Shafer stated that from a purely safety perspective, this would not be much of a change. Facility owners and excavators need to find a common area on the abuse of calling in for remarks every 10 days even when the marks are still clearly visible and valid. Thus, putting an

unnecessary burden on the utility locators and putting other new job sites on hold so they can respond. Possibly look at clarifying the language found in ORC 3781.28(A) to assist in combatting the thought process that all tickets need updated after 10-days.

It was also brought up that this topic might be better to be tabled for now and the subcommittee focus on other issues that would enhance safety both for the worker and the public in a greater manner than this would. There were not any specific topics brought up.

A vote was taken of the group. It was decided on an 8 yay – 5 nay vote to present the language to the full coalition.

Ticket Life: 16-Day Commencement of Excavation Requirements:

The language that was sent out for 45-day review was read. It was recommended by Chuck Muller that the language surrounding the title (3781.28 Excavator notifying protection service or pipeline) be changed to state excavator notifying protection service. This being recommended since all notifications go through OHIO811 with the closing of OGPUPS in 2019. Unanimous to send language to full coalition.

3781.28 Excavator notifying protection service ~~or pipeline~~

Remove Limited Basis Participant (LBP) Language from O.R.C.

The current language found in the O.R.C. dealing with LBP's was reviewed. Unanimous to move forward to full coalition for removal.

The subcommittee agrees to continue meeting on the Size/Scope of a Ticket, White lining, and Project Coordination. It was also recommended to clean up the definition of "Protection Service" as outlined in O.R.C. 3781.25(A). In addition, consideration into New Business included conversation about what a reasonable amount of time would be when referring to newly installed utilities and the time frame from installation until getting them registered with the notification center. Currently, issues surrounding this topic affecting the industry due to the rapid installation of the builds and overbuilds going on across the state.

Meeting Adjourned