

OUDPC- Size/Scope of a Locate Request Focus Group

Minutes

7/11/2024

Call to Order/Opening Statements: Jason Broyles

Roll Call: Jason Broyles, Johnny Henson, Dave Coniglio, Jim Collins, Lori Wade, Greg First, Chris Russ, Jaime Gillen, Jessica Burlett, Mike Wilson

Review/Approval of Minutes: No minutes to approve.

Size/Scope of Locate Request: Jason Broyles opened the meeting by reviewing some of the past information discussed surrounding this topic. Then commented on intent of the group and keeping focused on what would be beneficial for all involved industry groups. Jessica Burlett asks if it would be possible to determine the size based off of the number of utilities being notified in the work area? Chris Russ commented that utilizing rural vs urban as one method of determining size/scope of a project. This could allow for eliminating needless updates. Also stated that companies should not be able to request locates on a larger area than what they can complete in a day. Jim Collins states that the use of project tickets should be mandated if the requested locate area exceeds 1 mile. Chris Russ comments that Georgia uses 1 mile. Also states that we need to find a solution to help all industry groups involved.

Lori Wade comments that with limited size/scope, it would allow for locates to be more timely, would involve less turn backs and that on time completion would be improved. Mike Wilson questions why this is needed? Understanding that by setting a ¼ mile max ticket length would increase the number of locate requests received by the utilities. Jason Broyles stated that looking at current requests, there is a small percentage that would be affected due to many contractors already breaking their requests down as a direct result of training and education being conducted by OHIO811 team members and the contractors understanding the adverse effects of large requests on the utilities and themselves.

Dave Coniglio stated that there is already language in the ORC surrounding a project ticket and questions if this can be made mandatory. Jason Broyles replies that the language is there, however one issue with the process is that many utilities do not participate in the preconstruction meetings in order to outline the locate schedule. This makes it to where the process is not beneficial and there is nothing in the ORC mandating utility participation in the meetings.

Lori Wade asks how much highway contractors run into utilities while they are excavating? Dave Coniglio responded that it varies greatly depending on if they are working interstates vs rural highways.

The conversation is then brought back to whether the group can live with ¼ mile language? Jessica Burlett brings back up the urban vs rural classification as well as questions if there is anything through iDig that would be able to help determine the number of affected utilities and that would be used to determine size/scope. Dave Coniglio stated that the OCA will not support language with ¼ mile max and that it would not work. Stated that the contractors have been asking for data supporting this conversation and the need and has not been provided that data. Johnny Henson states that all of these items would help the locate companies and would also allow contractors to more efficiently manage their tickets. It was then questioned whether this would be just in utility right of ways or if it would be a blanket requirement? Johnny Henson responded that it would need to be a blanket requirement to eliminate any confusion on where the right of way is.

There was then some conversation around using what is already in place for project tickets more and see if we can get the industry behind it.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.

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