

OUDPC Utility Coordination Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes

9/17/2024

Call to Order/Opening Statements: Clayton Heitz, Jim Wooten

Roll Call: Clayton Heitz, Scott Mergler, Dominick Belser, Casey Fritz, Jim Collins, Dave Coniglio, Debbie Harris, Liz Pyles, Jim Mandera, Jon Honeck, Deron Large, Larney Lashley, Chris Russ, Les Schell, Seamus Mulligan, Lori Wade, Mike Wilson, Alex McCann, Jaime Gillen, Don Huck, Jason Broyles, Mara White, Blake Ross

Review/Approval of Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. No suggested changes. Motion to accept made by Jim Wooten, seconded by Les Schell, and accepted with no opposition.

Meeting: Jim Wooten reviewed draft language being worked by all three focus groups under this subcommittee.

Dave Coniglio started the conversation by stating that making a large/complex project process mandatory based on size/scope does not help to fix anything if legislation is not in place mandating utilities to participate in the meeting. Jim Wooten responded that there would have to be language to get this to happen and follows up with a comment to the group that some of this would be circumstantial based off of the geographic location of the site. Dave agrees with Jim's statement, however, cannot support the language if not mandatory participation by utilities. Jim Mandera stated that breaking down locate requests does not solve the problem. Clayton Heitz comments that there is still a lot of work and conversation to be had.

Jim Mandera asks if there is any thoughts to making it so contractors can only call in a certain number of requests at one time. Dave Coniglio stated that he does not see any path that would get the contractors on board with any type of language referencing a max number of requests. Jim Mandera stated that this is not to slow down or prohibit contractors work, but states that the industry does have to draw a line in the sand and asks where that line is? Clayton Heitz poses the question as to whether it would be possible to have iDig process request that

contractors break down a long locate request as the CSR's do? Jason Broyles states that it might be possible but he would have to speak with IT and iDig quality assurance team before he could give a solid answer.

Clayton Heitz presented out draft language on ticket expiration. Dave Coniglio stated that the OCA Safety Committee spent a lot of time discussing this particular piece. Although the contractors understand the intent behind this language, however, cannot support due to utilities not doing a good job mapping out their lines in a timely fashion (too many "New" lines that are currently being missed by contract locators due to incomplete and untimely mapping processes by the utility owner). Could get behind language if it includes parameters around time frame of mapping newly installed utilities, understanding that each utility type and individual companies have different policies/procedures on this at this time. The safety committee also discussed why this change would be necessary citing the utility comments from past meetings about the need for this due to newly installed utilities not getting located if they are installed on an active jobsite and no new request submitted for locates. Alex McCann asks if this language would prohibit contractors from being able to repeat/update locate requests more frequently than required by legislation? Jim Wooten responded by "I would hope not" which was followed by a statement from Clayton Heitz that this language is as a maximum life and should not affect.

Jim Mandera asks if other utilities are commonly back flagging newly installed utilities? Jim Wooten stated that for gas distribution it is mandatory. Scott Mergler stated that AT&T will sometimes do this and that it is situational. Debbie Harris is going to speak with AEP to find out if this is something they would be willing to do. Stated that it makes sense to have a policy on this. Lori Wade stated that she does not feel that this will all be able to be 100% covered by legislative language.

Dave Coniglio invited utilities to participate in OCA Safety Committee meeting to allow for open conversation between them and the members of OCA in hopes of all participants getting a better understanding.

Next Steps: Continue working draft language and discussing to find common ground.

Adjournment: Motion made, seconded, and carried with no opposition.

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