OUDPC Misuse of OHIO811 Subcommittee Meeting

02/16/2026

11:00AM

Attendees: Kevin Campbell, Jason Broyles, Alex McCann, Bryon Bedel, Chris Glass, Davy Myers, James Finucan, Jake Wright, Jim McClelland, Justin Freudeman, Deron Large, Kyle Mangione, Mitch Croy, Jim Collins, Blake Ross, Chris Russ, Brent St. Clair, Jim Wooten, Greg First, Deborah Harris, Julius McDay, Griffin Weasel, Dave Coniglio, Casey Fritz, Jennifer Reams, Daniel Petrozziello, Dominick Besler, Alex Coorey, Michael Evans, Deanna DeWitt, Don Huck, David Koren, Michelle Holdgreve, Leslie Schell, James Mandera, Alex Du De Voire, Collin Crigger, Bret Thomas, Michael Loonsfoot, Jimmy Stewart

Meeting opened at 11:00am, group introduced themselves and who they work for.

Jason Broyles reviewed the rules of engagement for the subcommittee.

Alex McCann asked if you are going to speak please turn your camera on and let us know who is talking.

Chris Russ reviewed how this subcommittee came together, and what the mission of this group is. Chris had Jason Broyles display some laws from different states for the group to review. When we say misuse, most think of the amount of tickets called in, jobs that get updated for months and months, false emergencies, calling tickets in when they don't have permits yet, and calling in tickets when they haven't been awarded the work.

Mississippi, in 2024 added language, location of proposed excavation, should only call in what can reasonably be completed in 20 days.

North Carolina, 2025 law change, the proposed excavation should be limited to an area that can reasonably be completed in 28 days.

New Mexico gives specific jurisdiction to the PRC. Limit area to what can reasonably be done in 15 days.

New Hampshire, same excavator calling in more than 15 notifications on the same day.

Chicago, depending on the number of tickets called in for a certain area, the time to locate that ticket can change based on volume.

Excavators want good locates and on time. But when locates are called in and work is not ready to start, it is bogging things down. Calling in good tickets is something we want to focus on. Want to get away from calling in entire projects that will take months, and then keep updating the entire project over and over which take a lot of resources to locate.

Alex McCann- personally not on board with what New Hampshire is doing, don't want to limit how many excavations are called in. Do think there are places we can start putting language together. Want to see what everyone has seen as far as misuse of the system and start from there. Also want to get in touch with the center and see what they are seeing and dealing with so we can incorporate that.

Jennifer Reams- Sent Jason Broyles Louisiana's law which is more blunt on the issue. With the BEAD money coming through, multiple companies are calling in for an area to be marked hoping that they will get the bid. Jennifer will send the specific language to the group later today when she is able. Wants to reach out to LA811 to see how that is working.

Alex McCann- so after calling in twice they must pay for the locate?

Jennifer Reams- Unless it is something weather related or something like that, then yes, they have to pay for the locates going forward after 2 call ins.

Dave Coniglio- To what Alex was saying, the place to start is trying to define exactly what we are trying to do. Do we have a main issue that we want to focus on? Highway contractors calling in large areas is normal and call every few weeks to update the locates for safety reasons.

Jennifer Reams- The issue from a utility and locator perspective, a lot of locates are being called in repeatedly in case they want to do the work. This creates issues with locators having to mark jobs every 10 days. Particularly now with the BEAD money, it is going to contribute to the issues, 7-10 different contractors working for a company, and all calling in the locates because whoever gets there first is the one who gets the job. It's a strain on the system when it doesn't have to be. Resources are being taken from people who are actually out excavating. Hundreds of hours are being wasted on things like this.

Dave Coniglio- Thanks for the information. Would be interested in looking at the data and seeing what's out there. Just cause a job is called in every 10 days doesn't necessarily mean they are doing something wrong. Need to see some data to see what the misuse is that is happening.

Chris Russ- I think we can get with OHIO811 and get some data. Work that could take place within 1 day or less and see how often the ticket was updated. I.E. replacing a service to a

home and having that ticket called in multiple times. Has examples of excavators filing complaints because a utility didn't respond to one of the multiple updates.

Kyle Mangione- The calling in every 10 days, don't know if it's a big problem. With the big fiber jobs coming through, having multiple contractors calling jobs in, and it's a strain, and having staffing issues as it is. Breaking things up for an area that you can actually get work done in a certain amount of time.

Jennifer Reams- From a utility rep perspective, have been working on this for years. Several people trying to cite violations for not working within 10 days. Because the way the language is written, not starting the work within 10 days is not enforceable. Smaller, one day projects that keep getting called in repeatedly are really the big thing to look at. Was working with Jack Bennett since 2013 when some big pipelines were coming through.

Alex McCann- sounds like one of the bigger issues we have is contractors calling in when they know they will not be getting to that work in the 10 day window. Will be other things to tackle too but will be a good place to start. Also dealing with emergency tickets, what they are, and the center not having to send an emergency out if it doesn't meet the definition.

Deron Large- Just want to make sure that we are capturing the notes in detail. Wants to send this back to OTA since we are discussing the BEAD money and having multiple contractors calling in tickets. This is not the first time I have heard that and want to figure out this problem with his people.

Alex McCann- Saying that the contractors calling in these tickets are not actually working on that job?

Chris Russ- 4-5 contractors call in the tickets, but only 1-2 actually are going to be working. Especially on bid work, if they get it, then they are ready to go, and also to see what all is there to put their bid in.

Deron Large- If that is out there, then we want to look at that. Thinks there are specific contractors mentioned and want that mentioned in the notes.

Jennfier Reams- I did mention AT&T before but that was just for an example, not something specific to them.

Mitch Croy- See a lot of tickets that are over notified. Looking at the data will tell us a lot. Add, what is actually needed on a ticket. If an excavator is doing a 4000 ft stretch, calling in both sides of the road when the design work is already done. They do this in case they have to make a crossing. Ultimately, that's a big strain on the resources out in the field, there's a lot of markings being put on the ground "just in case". Call in what you need, not more than what you need.

Alex McCann- I agree, from our perspective we are trying to work hard with the locator, break projects up into sections, and ask to have a couple sections marked so they can keep working. Try to help keep the locators just marking what is needed. Utilizing the large project ticket would be beneficial. Just calling in 8000 ft in case you can't work in a certain area.

Mitch Croy- Absolutely and calling in both sides of the road when all you really need is one side.

Jason Broyles- See a lot of contractors on here, glad to hear from the utility and locator perspective. The contractors here at the table are generally not the ones doing the wrong things but would like to hear from the contractors on the call to see what they are dealing with and what they are seeing in the field to help bring some light to things that we aren't seeing. We are talking about how the misuse is effecting utility owners and locators and scratched the surface of how it has impacted contractors.

Chris Glass- I haven't really thought about it from this perspective, haven't seen it as something like, our locates being late because of these issues. It's a good perspective to see it coming from the locators. Putting in requests to get marks just so they can bid a job, I see the why, but that is definitely an abuse of the system. The Louisiana side of things, its punitive, doing the wrong things will incur a cost. I would be behind something like that.

Akex McCann- I agree

Jim Wooten- Everyone has hit on some really good points. Jason was asking what the contractors have to say. We have a lot of projects too, and sometimes we are late, do see locators having to mark jobs repeatedly. Contractors probably aren't seeing it the way the locators are.

Jennifer Reams- Has been on both ends, as a contractor and a utility. It is hard as a contractor to be able to see these problems. Encouraged contractors to ride around with locators to see what they deal with. Large projects especially, multiple contractors calling in tickets for the same area in the event that they can get there to do the work. Its not the single company calling in large projects that are the problem, it's the bid work. What I ask, maybe Dave and Michelle, go ride along with the locators or go to the center and look at these tickets. The center has plenty of data. Locators are trying to get this work done and are having a lot of time wasted. A ticket that gets called in 7 times, and they are on time 6 times, and then get reported for a violation on the 7th time when they are late.

Jim Mandera- Wanted to bring up going to the center, getting data. Some issues I see is contractors calling in their tickets every Monday whether we need it or not. Those companies have said that their legal department or insurance company requires them to

do it this way to cover themselves. How would we get the data from the center and understand it correctly. Think it will be a little more complicated than just seeing tickets that have been called in.

Jennifer Reams- With the locating companies, those that use 3rd party locating companies. Could get with who they have locating for them, the locators are going to know better than anyone who is doing this type of thing. Can anyone who is a 3rd party locator attest to what we would need to do to get this information from you all.

Chris Russ- We can work on that, would need to discuss with their customer.

Brent St. Clair- I locate for Kinder Morgan myself, there are resources for contractors who are doing bid work, they can use the design process. A lot of what I run into in the field is large areas to be marked, and the accuracy of a ticket. Instead of entire property, just calling in the specific area that the work is being done at. Think education can help as well for these contractors.

Chris Glass- Brought this up in other meetings too, thinking of the people who are using OHIO811 system for bid items, thinks this is something that they should be able to do, but it shouldn't be a 48-hour ticket. OHIO811 is in the process of trying to limit the scopes of tickets. We should have different types of ticket, type a, homeowner, type b commercial, type c roadway, then maybe a type d bid ticket. Maybe the people who are trying to get that aren't trying to cheat the system, but what are their options. Say working downtown and there are 30 utilities in the way. Different types of ticket classifications based on the area or type of work being done.

Alex McCann- Thanks Chris, we can take a look at that. This has been a great kickoff meeting, next meeting is May 18th. We will work to get some things together to discuss at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm