2020 PMAA Annual Conference
PA One Call Update

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Your Distinguished Panel

William Kiger
President & CEO
Pennsylvania 811

Eric Swartley
Sr. Manager Pipeline &
Public Safety
UGI Utilities Inc.

Terri Cooper-Smith
Chair of the Damage Prevention
Committee
Pennsylvania - PUC

Kasha Schreffler
Damage Prevention Supervisor
Pennsylvania - PUC

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Overview
of
Pennsylvania One Call
Damage Prevention Starts with One Call

Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.

Our purpose is to prevent damage to underground facilities.

To promote safety, we provide an efficient and effective communications network among project owners, designers, excavators, and facility owners.
History of Pa One Call

• Began in 1972

• Membership started with 6 utilities in one county

• Now comprised of over 3,660 underground facility owner/operators in all 67 counties

History of Pa One Call

• The organization incorporated 4/6/1978

• Use of the One Call service has increased from 389 work location requests the first year to reaching a record breaking 1,037,463 work location requests in 2019!
History of Pa One Call

• Members are from the following industries
  • Cable
  • Electric
  • Gas, Propane, and Pipeline
  • Propane
  • Marcellus shale
  • Sewer
  • Telecommunications
  • Government, including state, county, city, borough, townships of the 1st class, townships of the 2nd class, and municipal authorities.

• Members also include
  • Private master meter companies
  • Manufactured housing communities
  • Private entities
    • Schools
    • Hospitals
    • Manufacturing sites
    • Others owning underground facilities which cross public roads.
Mandatory Participation

Notification: Anyone using powered equipment or explosives in the movement of earth, rock, or other material by an excavator must call 811.

Who is Covered under the ACT?

Membership: A public utility or agency, political subdivision, municipality, authority, rural electric cooperative or other person or entity who or which owns or operates an underground line in Pennsylvania must be a member.
Facility Owner Responsibilities?

A facility owner must mark, stake, locate or otherwise provide the position of the facility owner’s underground lines at the site within 18-inches horizontally from the outside wall.

PA One Call - Online Applications

- Excavator and Designer Web Access
- Web Ticket Entry Basic Training Video
- Web Ticket Entry
- Web Single Address
- Coordinate PA – The Next Generation in Utility Coordination
- Alleged Violation Reporting Tool
PA One Call Staff

- 88 Full Time Employees
- 4 Departments
  - Operations (Call Center)
  - Technology
  - Member Services and Accounting
  - Education
- Open 24/7 365 Days a year

Who to Contact for Help?

www.paonecall.org
PA Utility Coordinating Committees

www.paonecall.org

PA One Call Board of Directors

• Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and registered as a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

• Governed by 35 member Board of Directors

Executive Board

OFFICERS
Chair - Ray Geesey
Vice Chair - Kevin Gennau
Secretary - Stephen Schafer
Asst. Secretary - Eric Swartley
Treasurer - Michael Kyle
Asst. Treasurer - Ryna Lumholtz
Immediate Past Chair - Jerry Mcnaw
General Counsel - William P. Boswell
Asst. General Counsel - Dwight A. Bowes
President/CEO - William G. Kiger

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania
Lehigh County Authority
FirstEnergy
UGI Utilities, Inc.
PA Municipal Authorities Association
Texas Eastern/Enbridge
Williams Gas Pipeline - Transco
William P. Boswell, LL.D., LLC
Reed Smith LLP
PA One Call System

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Questions?
Please Submit via the Q&A Chat Box?

Overview
of
Changes to the One Call Law
“PA Act 287, as amended”

- Act 287 of 1974, established the PA Underground Utility Line Protection Act, which gave birth to the PA One Call System. The Act sunsets periodically and is amended by the PA Legislature.

- The current amendment, PA Act 50 of 2017 was put forth by Senator Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne County) and was signed into law by Governor Wolf on October 30, 2017.

- The Act took effect on April 28, 2018 and sunsets on December 31, 2024.

Four Significant Changes of Act 50

1. New Enforcement Agency (PA PUC) and Reporting Requirements
2. The Act establishes a Damage Prevention Committee
3. The Facility Owner’s role in regard to partnering in the Complex Project Meeting process.
4. The Direct Contact Rule (Section 5.20 re-notify)
New Enforcement in Act 50

- Designated a new Enforcement Agency that is jurisdictional to all excavation industries: PA Public Utility Commission, Bureau of Inspection & Enforcement, Damage Prevention Section.

- Established a Damage Prevention Committee (DPC)

- Damage to underground facilities and alleged violations of the Underground Utility Line Protection Act are to be reported through the One Call System (electronically).

Mandatory Reporting

- Stakeholders are required to report ALL damages and violations of Act 50 as follows:

- Within 30 Days:
  - Designers - report 100% of all known damages & violations
  - Facility Owners – report any damage in excess of $2,500 or all cases where an Excavator has damaged your facility more than twice in 6 months (Frequent Offenders).

- Within 10 Days:
  - Project Owners – report 100% of all damages including 1st & 2nd party damages, regardless of type.
  - Excavators – report 100% of damages, regardless of type
Clarifications related to Complex Projects

• Complex Projects are defined in Section 1 and further determined by the Board defining the limits of a single Routine Ticket. (1000’ or intersection to intersection)
• Complex Project Meeting notices are required.
• An Excavator who believes a CPM is not necessary must state so in their CPM notice and any individual Facility Owner can request a meeting and the Excavator is required to meet with them.
• A Facility Owner can state that a Project is “complex” specific to them, when the scope of work may not necessarily meet the definition.

Direct Contact Rule

• Upon initial arrival at the work site, if the Excavator discovers an apparent, unmarked or incorrectly marked facility, they should:
  • Call 8-1-1 immediately.

The excavator will be asked the following questions:
• Is this your initial arrival to the site? [YES]
• Is the site unmarked or incorrectly marked? [YES]
• Has the excavation started? [NO]
Response by the Facility Owner

The Facility Owner will receive a re-notify ticket, which is versioned not new, if these conditions are met:

- The crew is initially onsite.
- Excavation has not been started.
- The original ticket was a Routine.

The newly versioned ticket will contain this statement:

Direct contact with excavator required within two hours: [YES]

Direct contact means:

- meeting in person at the work site or, communicating by telephone, FaceTime or Skype, etc.

Questions?

Please Submit via the Q&A Chat Box?
Role of the PUC & The Structure of the Damage Prevention Committee

The Damage Prevention Committee

• What is the Damage Prevention Committee?

• Why was it established?

• How are individuals nominated to be considered as a DPC Member?
The Damage Prevention Committee

• Are the DPC decisions final and binding?

• Are the DPC hearings open to the public?

• Is it common for people to attend?

• Can they be viewed online?

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Violations and Penalties

• When should an Alleged Violation Report be completed?

• Who investigates Alleged Violations Reports (AVR)?

• How many investigators are there?
Violations and Penalties

• How are AVR’s submitted?

• Can I call in an AVR?

• Is there a schedule of penalties?

• How long do I have to pay my Penalty?

Violations and Penalties

• Who in the company is required to go to training if compliance training is required?

• What’s involved in the training?

• Is there a Fee?

• How long does a Penalty stay on a company’s record?

• What’s the maximum penalty amount?
Violations and Penalties

• What are the most effective forms of evidence I can provide to defend/prove my actions?

• How does the DPC gather cases from the PUC?

• Once the DPC votes or rules on a decision on an item (i.e. when is a design ticket required?) Where is the information on the decision stored?

• If an alleged violation is submitted against one of the companies that a Damage Prevention Committee (DPC) member is employed, are there any special measures that would be taken to make sure the decision is not biased?

Violations and Penalties

• How can I plead my case?

• What are some of the more common cases that you see?

• Do you ever change decisions based on additional information?
  • Can you give an example?

• Based on AVR’s filed, what is the most frequently damaged type of underground facility?
Violations and Penalties

- Have you seen a reduction of damages since the creation of the DPC? If so how do you plan on improving it even more?

- Consistent with Act 50, what changes in behavior must the DPC promote in order to achieve a reduction in underground damages in Pennsylvania?

- What Law does the DPC apply when approving, rejecting or modifying an Investigator’s recommendation for a penalty related to an AVR?

- What are some tips you can share to help a stakeholder avoid a run with the DPC/PUC?
Pennsylvania Cross Bores

“Call Before You Clear”

Eric Swartley - UGI Utilities, Inc.

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Cross Bore Prevention

What is a cross-bore? What makes it dangerous? In this presentation you will learn the history of underground cross-bores; how to prevent creating a cross-bore by using the Horizontal Directional Drilling Good Practices and CGA Best Practices; and what facility owners, excavators, plumbers, or any other underground stakeholder should do if they have a cross-bore situation.

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Cross Bore 101 and definitions:

- **A Cross Bore** is defined as the intersection of an existing underground utility or structure by a second facility, installed using trenchless excavation. This results in an intersection of the facilities, compromising the integrity of either or both facilities.

- **Trenchless Excavation** methods such as HDD, gophers/missiles and rod pushers are responsible for creating legacy cross bores.

- **Legacy Cross Bores** - those that currently exist and pose a potential safety risk.

- **Prevention** – is following the guidance in the One Call statute in Section 5.11.2 that incorporates the HDD “Good Practices” by reference.

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PA Cross Bore Journey

- **2013** – the Cross Bore issue arrives in PA and One Call forms a Cross Bore Task Force.

- **Cross Bore Task Force (CBTF)** is tasked with making recommendations and defined Cross Bores as a two-tiered issue; Legacy & Prevention

- **PA Gas Utilities assess risk** & gain a better understanding of Cross Bores.

- **2019 Common Ground Alliance adopts a Cross Bore Best Practice Adopted & PA Brochure**
Possible Scenario?

Who's responsible for marking?

What could happen?

New service Line

Property line

City street

Sewer Main

Lateral to mains connection

House

New Gas Main

Septic System

Cross Bore Danger

Septic Systems too
Trenchless Technology:
It’s about Accuracy & Accountability

• PA One Call Law: Underground Utility Line Protection Law – 2006 added Section 5.11.2
• Adopted NASTT’s - HDD Good Practices Guidelines for Trenchless Excavation.
• Requires positive confirmation (S.U.E. Quality Level A) of all facility crossings when using trenchless technology.
• Past construction methods and installation practices dictate your Cross Bore potential
Today we will focus on Sewer Cross Bores

- Cross Bores may have occurred years prior and pose no immediate risk but that all can change when action is taken to address a sewer clog or blockage.
- Cross Bores can be considered “ticking time bombs” due to the associated element of surprise.
- Contractors, Drain clearers and plumbers while attempting to clear a clogged sewer have augured through energized gas lines with tragic results.
- Plumber’s have shared that contacting a plastic gas line with auguring equipment feels like hitting a tree root so may seem like normal business.
- Cross Bores have been related to a number of incidents across the United States the past several years.
Status in PA Today

- Acquired approval from Minnesota to use their “Call Before You Clear” tagline
- Approval from People’s Gas to use the “Blue Boar” logo
- “Call B4 You Clear” emergency ticket type, went live 7/27/16
- Enhanced Public Awareness outreach
- Making the Call is about Safety

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2019 PA Cross Bore Brochure – Collaborative Effort

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Use the PA 811 “Call Before You Clear” Ticket

• While the odds of a cross bore are minimal, it’s all about the SAFETY of the person clearing the clog and the public. To stay safe follow the guidelines below:
  
  • In some cases where you need to consider an aggressive clearing method to eliminate a blockage
  
  • Stop and determine, is the blockage inside or outside?
  
  • If outside determine if there are buried utilities at the site?
  
  • If YES, call 811 and tell them you have a potential cross bore, they will process an Emergency Ticket and notify the owners of underground facilities in the area.

Remember any mechanized excavation work over the sewer or septic line outside the property currently requires a POC.
Questions?
Please Submit via the Q&A Chat Box?

Your Questions from the Q&A Chat Box?
Thanks for Participating!
Please Be Safe!!!!!

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