



## MNCGA Best Practices Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 6, 2015

CenterPoint Energy – 501 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN

### Members Present:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Jodi Corrow       | MN Power                                       |
| 2. Claude Anderson   | MNOPS  |
| 3. Jason Ponciano    | Vannguard                                      |
| 4. Sam Richert       | Xcel Energy                                    |
| 5. Emir Ahmedic      | Xcel Energy                                    |
| 6. Stephanie Menning | MUCA   |
| 7. Walt Kelly        | Consultant                                     |
| 8. Pat Donovan       | MNOPS  |
| 9. Mike Mendiola     | MNOPS  |
| 10. Keith Novy       | CenterPoint Energy                             |
| 11. Thomas Coffman   | MNOPS  |
| 12. Michael Manore   | Vispective LLC                                 |
| 13. Steve Olinger    | CenterPoint Energy                             |
| 14. Chris Madden     | City of Duluth (teleconference)                |
| 15. Justin Larson    | Xcel Energy (teleconference)                   |
| 16. Lisa Frenette    | Frenette Legislative Advisors (teleconference) |
| 17. A.J. Clark       | Enbridge (teleconference)                      |
| 18. Troy Hopkins     | Badger (teleconference)                        |

- This will be the last meeting of 2015. The next meeting will be on February 4, 2016 @ Minnesota Energy Resources, 1995 Rhancliff Court, Suite 200, Eagan, MN 55122 (upper level of the Bremmer Bank building)
- The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Update on National CGA:**
  - White Markings – Replace paint with white marking products instead of paint.

- Allow excavators GPS coordinates capability - so excavators could punch in coordinates on locate tickets – this will be in the 2016 book. Person calling in ticket would provide GPS format – decimal degrees – everybody would be on the same page then.
- **Submit proposal to adding language to CGA BP 5-10 Locate Verification:**
  - The committee agreed to the below verbiage (red) for the proposal
    - CGA BP 5-10: Locate Verification  
Practice Statement – Prior to excavation, excavators verify that they are at the correct location, verify locate markings and, to the best of their ability, check for unmarked facilities **including but not limited to private facilities.**
  - Mike Mendiola will contact the National CGA and inform that the Minnesota CGA would like to change the verbiage. Mike will let the committee know when the review process has been started.
  - A better education system was discussed by the group. Contractors are being told not to call Gopher State when locating private facilities.
- **White Lining/Marking in Winter Conditions:**
  - The committee approved proposing added verbiage to CGA BP 5-2: White Lining (red):
    - CGA BP 5-2: White Lining  
Practice Statement – When the excavation site cannot be clearly and adequately identified on the locate ticket, the excavator designates the route and/or area to be excavated using white premarking prior to the arrival of the locator. **If snow or ice is present or anticipated to be present at the proposed excavation location, the use of contrasting black and white markings in addition to white is encouraged.**
  - The City of Duluth, Dakota Electric, Enbridge, and MUCA have volunteered to develop pilot programs using contrasting white and black flagging for proposed excavations for the upcoming winter season. The results of the programs will be provided at a spring 2016 meeting. Mike presented three samples of flags and the committee thought this one was the best one:



- Thomas Coffman from MNOPS presented an update of current numbers:
  - Damages are down from last year!
  - There are have been 1040 damages to pipelines so far this year – at this time last year the total was at 1200.
  - Mike reminded the group that One Call Concepts is taking over on January 1
- Stephanie Menning thanked the group for their help with the Day of the Doziers. Over 40,000 attended the event this year and a \$30,000 check was presented to Children’s Hospital.
- **Excavating parallel to an existing utility – sufficient pot holing (hand digging):**
  - Tolerance zones may vary - 24 inches/2 feet – transmission lines - nothing different than what is already stated
  - The group decided there was nothing to add to this
- **Committee Web Page:**
  - Jeff Law Korterra manages the web page – he will continue to do this after One Call Concepts takes over in January
  - The group would like the calendar to be more updated – currently there are no events on it and they wanted upcoming committee meetings, damage prevention meetings, etc., on the calendar.
  - Can the MNCGA calendar also sync up with Outlook so meetings could automatically be exported to Outlook calendars?
  - Can we add more vibrant colors and more visuals and graphics. Ideas welcome.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**