



MNCGA Best Practices Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 17, 2017

CenterPoint Energy, 1240 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55454

Members Present:

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| 1. Tom Schmitz | Dakota Electric Association |
| 2. Matthew Miller | BP Pipeline |
| 3. Steve Olinger | CenterPoint Energy |
| 4. Thomas Coffman | MNOPS |
| 5. Mike Gorham | NW Gas |
| 6. Wendy Gorham | NW Gas |
| 7. Keith Novy | CenterPoint Energy |
| 8. Mike Mendiola | MNOPS |
| 9. Jodi Corrow | Minnesota Power |
| 10. Estelle Richard | Gopher State One Call |
| 11. Chris Madden | City of Duluth |
| 12. Adam McAlpine | USIC |
| 13. Stephanie Menning | Minnesota Utility Contractors Association |
| 14. Tracy Mitzel | Great Plains Natural Gas |
| 15. Dan Maschka | Northern Natural Gas |
| 16. Ryan Zelenka | USIC |
| 17. Barb Cederberg | Gopher State One Call |
| 18. Jeff Law | Korterra |
| 19. Allan Clark | Enbridge |

- The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **NEW FACILITATOR:** Chris Madden from the City of Duluth volunteered to be the new facilitator. Mike Mendiola commented on his time as facilitator of this group and said it was a good experience for him and that he enjoyed his time as the facilitator. Chris introduced herself to the group and gave her experience and background.



- **PROPOSED WEBPAGE VERBIAGE:** The new verbiage has been added to the website. The group wanted 2016 goals removed from the site – however - they wanted to keep the groups accomplishments and communication and minutes on the site. Add of the meeting notes for the dates 8/25/16, 11/17/16 & 2/17/17.
- **MARKING INSTRUCTIONS VS. TYPE OF WORK:** The group agreed to keep this discussion going. Florida uses purple for irrigation – however, the group didn’t think that was probably a good idea for Minnesota. The group thought this was an education issue on abandon lines. According to a statute from January, 1999 regarding abandon lines – the excavators are expected to know where they are. The group agreed to table this item until after the 216D subgroup meeting.
- **VACCUUM EXCAVATION:** Stakeholder meeting on February 10, 2017, reviewed current language compared to 2013. “Excavation means an activity that moves, removes, or otherwise disturbs the soil by use of a motor, engine, hydraulic or pneumatically-powered tool my machine – powered equipment of any kind by explosives or by stakes, pins or anchors installed using hand tools.” Vacuum excavation for the purpose of locating or exposing underground facilities provided that if the excavation takes places within 25 feet of gas transmission, or hazardous liquid pipeline, the operator of the pipeline is notified prior to excavation. This topic is becomes both an education piece and a damage prevention piece – it is a growing industry – with the way excavators excavate and the way locators locate – enforce existing text – can’t use the Hi-Vac to locate – would have to hand-dig. This is a work in progress and discussions on it will continue at future meetings.
- **MARKING INSTRUCTION VERSUS TYPE OF WORK:** MNOPS was approached regarding a concern about marking instructions versus type of work. It gets confusing, type of work is at the beginning of a locate ticket – marking instructions are more important – ticket format needs to evolve – maybe rearrange the ticket layout and put marking instruction near the top. This is an education piece – Estelle and Barb will look into this – look at the ticket layout . If anyone has any suggestions, please contact one of them. Iowa and Illinois have a different ticket layout than Minnesota.
- **WINTER MARKING PILOT UPDATE:** Dakota Electric has piloted black and white flags. There test shows that they work 95% of the time. They are putting something together and hope to use them more often. Use them in case of an emergency – 100 ft., of wire, etc. This helps the locator when they are away from the job – they don’t go into ground very well. Minnesota Power has also tried them – specifically used in winter only – they have a 30” stem.

MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 25 2017 – 10:00-12:00 – CenterPoint Energy – 1240 West River Parkway