

Meeting Minutes

Regional CGA – Best Practices Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: April 9, 2015

Attendance: Emir Ahmedic, A.J. Clark, Keith Novy, Jody Corrow, Mike Mendiola, Jeff Murray, Steve Olinger, Troy Hopkins, Betty Jo Kiesow, Claude Anderson

Meeting Recap:

Reviewed Highlights of the April Best Practices Meeting at the CGA

Topics included: GPS Coordinates on one-call tickets, Cross Bore determination & mitigation, Mapping proposed facilities, Facility owner provides a monitor during excavation (aka watchdog), abandoned lines.

MNCGA BP Committee Discussion: To minimize rejection or excessive delay, submitted BP's need to be thoroughly vetted with respect to how they fit in with existing BP's. Reference to other BP's (Canada provincial CGA's) may help expedite review.

Unmarked Facilities

CGA best practice 5-10 includes checking for unmarked facilities during locate verification. The Committee agreed on the importance of looking for indication of private facilities earlier in the project, contacting potential owners and arranging for private locators. The Committee reviewed the Ontario Regional CGA (ORCGA) Best Practice – Privately Owned Facility Awareness, and will consider proposing similar language to the CGA Best practices.

The Committee also believes that promoting 811 is important, yet, it is also important that the excavator understands that not everything gets marked (ex. Private facilities). The Committee will reach out to the CGA to determine how this can be best addressed.

Marking in Cold Weather Climates

The committee focused on 2 items: 1) Excavating on frozen ground, 2) White flagging on snow. For excavating on frozen ground the committee discussed using "non-destructive means of excavation" and having appropriate pre-excavation communications between the excavator and the utility owner. For white flagging – using black on a white marker was discussed. Canada's experience (Alberta, Ontario) should be reviewed as they have addressed this issue with BP's.

Marking Guidelines

Existing marking standards were discussed. This included the CGA marking standards, Missouri marking standards and APWA marking guidelines. It was determined that a separate meeting with locators, excavators and utility owners would be beneficial.

Locating Soil Boring Tickets

The committee discussed how these types of tickets can be tricky. Due to the nature of the work, these tickets tend to be larger, often with no specific schedule for the borings. The

importance of solid communications was discussed. It was also mentioned that inviting a company that does these types of tickets to the next meeting would be advantageous.

Excavating upon positive response

The committee discussed the idea of allowing an excavator to start excavating prior to the ticket becoming due if all the utilities had made positive response. It was determined that this would not be a best practice because it could cause confusion such as partial locates or un-locatable situations. This issue is adequately addressed with the existing statute.

Benchmarking Discussion

The committee recognized the importance of information when developing Best Practices. For this reason, the MNCGA as well as utilities themselves could benefit from benchmarking. The Best Practices is working towards developing a process where it can survey specific stakeholders on items that we can all benefit from understanding better. The types of questions are not “code” regulated. An example would be – “How does your company handle white markings when snow is present”?

The results of the surveys would be published on the Best Practices website. The committee sees this as a way to pro-actively address issues as well as promote the benefits of the MNCGA.

Best Practice Website

The committee is actively working to enhance the website. A draft word document will be distributed for comments.

Future Proposed Meeting Dates:

June 4, 2015 – Marking standards meeting (locators will be invited)

July 15, 2015 – BP Committee meeting