

2015 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report

CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH5615GPPS02

Project Title: Railroad Commission of Texas State Damage Prevention Grant

Date Submitted: April 22, 2016

Submitted by: David Ferguson

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the Railroad Commission of Texas will strengthen two elements of its damage prevention program: Element 2: Comprehensive Stakeholder Support and Element 8: Technology. As the enforcement authority for all damage to pipeline facilities caused by excavation, or any other movement of earth, near intrastate pipeline facilities, the Commission plans to use this grant funding to enhance its capabilities through improved technology and engagement with stakeholders in communities throughout the state.

Work Scope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Recipient will address the following elements listed in the approved application as stated in 49 U.S.C. §60134 (b).

- Element 2 (Comprehensive Stakeholder Support): A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders, including excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government in all phases of the program.
- Element 8 (Technology): A process for fostering and promoting the use, by all appropriate stakeholders, of improving technologies that may enhance communications, underground pipeline locating capability, and gathering and analyzing information about the accuracy and effectiveness of locating programs.

Accomplishments for the grant period (Item 1 under Agreement Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: "A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.")

Element 2 (Comprehensive Stakeholder Support)

The Railroad Commission of Texas is recognized throughout the state as the organization leading the state's damage prevention efforts through compliance and enforcement activities, public awareness, and stakeholder education. Since the grant's effective date of 09/30/2015, the RRC has participated in several meetings and safety day events hosted by damage prevention councils and other stakeholder organizations located throughout Texas. These events are attended by excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government.

Element 8 (Technology)

The Commission's online database system collects incident reports from both excavators and operators. The reports include information on the root causes of incidents, type of excavator, work performed, and equipment used when damage occurred. Gathering and analyzing this information provides the capability to monitor compliance and detail any actions taken in response to the reports. A dedicated technology resource started working on updates and modifications to the online database system during the month of February, 2016 and has been able to improve the accuracy of input and add an internal query option.

Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Project Report: "Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.")

Element 2 (Comprehensive Stakeholder Support)

Around 1,000 stakeholders, including excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government have attended the meetings and events around Texas.

Element 8 (Technology)

Input accuracy and an additional internal query option are improvements to our online database system.

Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Project Report: "The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met.")

At this time, the Railroad Commission has no issues, problems or challenges to report. As anticipated, the majority of the Element 8 aspect of the project will take place in the second half of the grant period.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

Please see the attached SF 270 and SF 425.

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

Element 2 (Comprehensive Stakeholder Support)

There are numerous stakeholder meetings and events planned for the remainder of the project. The RRC is also participating in "Earth Day Texas 2016" which has thousands of attendees.

Element 8 (Technology)

Our dedicated technology resource will continue to work on updates and modifications to improve our online database system.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

The Railroad Commission has no request for action at this time.