

2015 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH56-15-G-PHPS10

Project Title: Georgia Public Service Commission State Damage Prevention Grant

Date Submitted: *June 10, 2016*

Submitted by: *Michelle Thebert, Director, Facilities Protection Unit, Georgia Public Service Commission*

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the GA PSC will:

- Enforce the laws and regulations of the damage prevention process.

Workscope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Grantee will address the following elements listed in 49 U.S.C. §60134 (b) through the actions it has specified in its Application.

- **Element 7 (Enforcement):** Enforcement of State damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate State authority.

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

For the mid-term progress report, the 2015 grant continues to fund a Field Investigator assigned to investigations of third party damages to buried utilities. The Field Investigator position has received continued funding by the SDP Grant since 2008, and has proved to be a valuable resource for both damage investigations and public education presentations. Additionally, the Field Investigator working under this grant was responsible for assessing civil penalties for probable violations of the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act (GUFPA). The specific actions taken by the Field Investigator are detailed below.

The Field Investigator position supported by the grant has made significant contributions to the Commission’s damage prevention program by investigating 110 cases for the period September 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016, and assessing \$143,500 in civil penalties and mitigating \$129,500. The Field Investigator attended 14 meeting/events and reached 214 attendees.

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.”)

The following information demonstrates the public education activities conducted by the Field Investigator from September 2015 – December 2015

Date	Event	Attendees
9/2015	Franklin/Hart County GUCC	11
9/2015	Walton County GUCC	20
9/2015	Clayton County GUCC	22
10/2015	Canton GUCC	15
10/2015	USIC meeting Cartersville	8
10/2015	North Fulton County Meeting	25
10/2015	Cobb EMC LP Meeting	10
10/2015	Clayton County GUCC Meeting	10
11/2015	Large Project Meeting w/ Georgia 811 pt. 1	10
11/2015	Large Project Meeting w/ Georgia 811 pt. 2	10
11/2015	Fulton County GUCC Meeting	33
11/2015	Cobb EMC LP Meeting	20
11/2015	Large Project Meeting w/ Georgia 811 pt. 3	10
12/2015	Large Project Meeting w/ Georgia 811 pt. 4	10
Totals	14 Meetings and Events	214 Attendees

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

No issues to report

Mid-term Financial Status Report

R. Nelson	Sep 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 9/11/2015 to 3/31/2016	
Salary (including ALP)		16,598.26
Fringes (FICA, retirement, Insurance)		8,906.22
unemployment		0.00
workers' compensation		0.00
merit system assessment		36.50

300 Personal Services		25,540.98
612000-Motor Veh Reg Oper		592.41
613000-Printing & Publication		0.00
614000-Supplies & Materials		0.00
615000-Repair & Maint.		0.00
616000-equipment not req on inv		0.00
619000-rents other than R/E		0.00
620000-Insurance & Bonding		0.00
627000-other operating expenses		0.00
640000-Travel		0.00

Total 301 regular operating		592.41
305-computer charges/IT expenses		37.20
307-voice/data communication		182.55
312-contractal services		0.00
Total direct charges		26,353.14
Indirect charges		
Total charges		26,353.14

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

As of January 2016, the employee in this position is no longer employed with the GPSC. The remainder of the funds will be returned after final accounting and documentation of the 2015 SDP Grant.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.