**2013 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report**

**Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-13-SN-000001**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:**  *DTPH56-13-G-PHPS19*

**Project Title:** *North Carolina Utilities Commission State Damage Prevention Grant*

**Date Submitted:** 9/26/2014

**Submitted by:** *Louis Panzer, North Carolina 811 and John Hall, North Carolina Utilities Commission.*

**Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement**

Under this grant agreement, the NCUC will:

Develop and implement methods for effective communication

Foster support and partnership with stakeholders

Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders

Laws and regulations of the damage prevention process

Foster and promote the use of improving technologies

**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 1 (Effective Communications):** Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of methods for establishing and maintaining effective communications between stakeholders from receipt of an excavation notification until successful completion of the excavation, as appropriate.

**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 4 (Effective Employee Training):** Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective employee training programs to ensure that operators, the one-call center, the enforcing agency, and the excavators have partnered to design and implement training for the employees of operators, excavators, and locators.

**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.

**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, ­: “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.**”)

*NC 811 has completed development of a web portal to host the enforcement complaint process (Element 7). The PIPES Plus program was also modified to be offered as online education (Elements 1, 4 and 8) “on demand” and in response to enforcement training requirements. The modified video training is also what we provide during live PIPES Plus meetings. At this time all completed modules for Gas and Hazardous Liquid Transmission, Gas Distribution. Electric, Communications, Locating, Excavating and One Cal are online. Material was reviewed and approved by the stakeholders to assure their support in the program and message (Element 2).There is a quiz after each section and a 50 question exam when the program is finished. The resulting score from the exam is provided on a certificate of completion. The score is also recorded and tracked to show compliance if this training is used as an enforcement requirement.*

**Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.”)**

*The PIPES Plus program, using the videos, will reach over 1000 excavators in 2014. In addition to the 10 meetings scheduled in the transmission corridor, we are also offering “seal team 6” training where we bring the program to the excavator directly. The video program is what we use for all training now. This is augmented with live company representatives to answer any specific questions about the facilities. Because the program results are able to be tracked we will have a much better set of numbers after enforcement goes “live”. This year alone the program’s reach will cost less than $15 per excavator (per money received through grant.) As this is an ongoing program using the materials built once, costs per person reached will continue to fall.*

**Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.021 Final Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met. “)**

*No issues to report.*

**Final Financial Status Report**

*The final financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA.*

**Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA**

*No actions requested at this time*