

**2015 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report**  
**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** *DTPH5615GPPS19*

**Project Title:** *Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works State Damage Prevention Grant*

**Date Submitted:** *September 13, 2016*

**Submitted by:** *Fernando Borrero*

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

Under this grant agreement, the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works will enhance existing Partnership in Employee Training, Public Education and Technology which will improve communications between all stakeholders. During the activity a special committee will be created to evaluate the current state of employee training in Puerto Rico and start developing a joint public education campaign. Through effective communication between stakeholders, the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Work's Directorate for the Excavation and Demolition Coordination Center and Pipeline Safety Program will learn about their needs and interests on damage prevention issues and ensure safety and effective public education.

**Workscope**

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

Although the SDP grant did not provide assistance for effective employee training as requested, the Directorate for Excavation, Demolition and Pipeline Safety planned and held a three-day Conference in May 2016, on the topic of Damage Prevention and Pipeline Safety with the attendance of over 100 operators, excavators and other stakeholders in order to provide training for trainers within participating companies.

Enclosed is the attendance data, as well as the Program for said activity, which we plan to hold every year.

On the other hand, the grant did provide assistance with the Technology element. With the approved \$37,530, we were able to pay for part of the equipment, software and training for our inspectors. The purchasing process was delayed at the General Services Administration, from November 2015 to February 2016, when the equipment was finally delivered. Once we had the equipment, changes had to be made to the software and personnel had to be trained. As a result, we started using the equipment on April 20, 2016, for various interventions throughout the northern and eastern parts of the island.

The intervention plan to cover the seven regions in the island has been accomplished by our inspectors. On a daily basis they were assigned an area to patrol and pursue any new project without permit and other issues that they may encounter. Special operations have also been conducted where all inspectors were concentrated to a specific area in the island. These operations were done on April 19-20 and June 9 in which twenty-one projects were visited and four were without the required permit.

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

As reported, the equipment with new technology has only been in use since April 20, 2016. Since then it is being utilized to measure the effectiveness in the number of notices of excavation by municipalities, and to determine the action plan that will be taken to impact those areas where there exists more violation to the laws and regulations. With the use of the equipment it has been more effective and assertive in project inspection and within the areas where there are more incidents.

Twenty-two (22) fines have been issued with the equipment.

Also it has been used to collect data of forty-six (46) notice of utility rupture. In preparing reports of the affected areas, it can be used by the inspector in the field and in turn this would be uploaded in the coordination excavations and demolitions notices system (SCAED).

Photos of the impacted areas are also taken and stored in the coordination excavation and demolition notices system (SCAED) with the equipment.

We're adding new attachments to maximize the utility and its versatility.

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

Once the delay for the purchase of equipment was overcome, the intervention plan is now back on schedule.

### **Final Financial Status Report**

The Federal Financial Report, Standard Form 425 (SF-425) for the period ending in September 30, 2016, is submitted.

**Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)**

The intervention plan covering the seven regions in the island will continued as well as the educational program for employee training as in seminars to our stakeholders to assure that the best practices are being implemented to assure safety among the industry.

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

No actions requested at this time.