

2018 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Mid-Progress Report

CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: 693JK31840019PSDP

Project Title: State Damage Prevention (SDP) Program Grants - 2018

Date Submitted: March 22, 2019

Submitted by: Jonathan Wolfgram / Mike Mendiola

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety will carry out its responsibilities regarding enforcement, education, training, communication, support, analysis, partnership, and mediation activities associated with its Damage Prevention program. MNOPS continues to utilize a Damage Prevention team in 2017-2018. The team will perform standard pipeline safety functions but focus primarily on damage prevention efforts.

- Develop and implement methods for effective communication
- Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
- Reviewing the adequacy of internal performance measures
- Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders
- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education
- Resolving disputes to define State authority's role
- Foster and promote the use of improving technologies
- Review the effectiveness of Damage Prevention Programs

In addition to:

- 1) Trends (mandatory and volunteer damage reporting), gas damages, annual review of the One Call center
- 2) Intrastate gas operator mandatory leak reporting on leaks caused by excavation activities
- 3) Surveys from annual MNOPS Conference and feedback from MS216D stakeholder meetings
- 4) Risk model rankings for specialized damage prevention inspections
- 5) Locator workshop evaluations
- 6) Damage prevention presentation evaluations
- 7) Conciliation court verdict review
- 8) Enforcement review - frequently cited codes, complaints, & damage prevention presentation feedback
- 9) Enforcement cases are published on MNOPS' web page. In addition, all damage prevention activities that don't explicitly fit in a single element (1-8) will be attributed to this element. This element supports the work of all the other elements, including any travel that may be needed to accomplish individual elements.

Workscope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Grantee will address the following elements listed in 49U.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. **(Applicable)**

- **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. **(Applicable)**

- **Element 3 (Operator Internal Performance Measurement):** A process for reviewing the adequacy of a pipeline operator's internal performance measures regarding persons performing locating services and quality assurance programs. **(Applicable)**

- **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. **(Applicable)**

- **Element 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities. **(Applicable)**

- **Element 6 (Dispute Resolution):** A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues. **(Applicable)**

- **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. **(Applicable)**

- **Element 9 (Damage Prevention Program Review):** A process for review and analysis of the effectiveness of each program element, including a means for implementing improvements identified by such program reviews. **(Applicable)**

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.”)

Objective	Accomplishments (approximate numbers based on grant period as of report date)
Enforcement actions and follow-up collections specific to SDP Grant	43 Damage Prevention violations were cited under the current SDP period for this mid-progress report, 9/28/2018 thru 3/5/2019.
In-office/field investigations and research	46 One Call damage investigation and/or complaints were investigated under the current SDP period for this mid-progress report, 9/28/2018 thru 3/5/2018 (see table on page 6).
Statistical data analysis and damage trending	Damage data analysis and reporting utilizing mandatory damage reporting submitted by pipeline operators and voluntary damage reporting by non-pipeline operators is shown on pages 9-14. These figures are available to the public on MNOPS’ website. https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ops/reports-and-statistics/Pages/voluntary-damage-reporting.aspx
Court proceedings and conciliations	Court cases and conciliations on-going as needed. Thus far, MNOPS has been able to successfully resolve its damage prevention cases without having to litigate in court during this grant period.
Compliance monitoring of one-call center operations, frequent offenders, and types of offenses	The Pipeline Safety Director sits on the Gopher State One Call board. Involvement and partnership with the one call center allows MNOPS to be aware of the one call center activities. Additionally, MNOPS collects and reviews all pipeline related gas releases due to excavation related activities. This allows MNOPS to track and appropriately address frequent offenders.
Rules and law review	No meetings took place for on-going MS216D discussions during the mid-term grant period. The proposed statutory language that was submitted to the Governor’s revisors office on November 1 st , 2017 is still open for consideration at the Governor’s office. MNOPS anticipates that the 2019 Minnesota legislative session will focus on budgetary matters.
Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety presentations to excavators ▪ Safety & training presentations for 	MNOPS is to conduct damage prevention meetings for 2019 (Feb-May). The meetings consist of a presentation reviewing the excavation laws in

<p>Operators & locators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual conference with Damage Prevention track ▪ Safety messages for the general population 	<p>Minnesota via case studies. The case studies are actual on-site damage investigations performed by MNOPS inspectors. For the mid-term progress report dates of Sept. 28, 2018 through March 5, 2019, 1 presentation was conducted throughout Minnesota where over 50 excavators and utility operators were engaged regarding damage prevention and underground utility safety (see page 7).</p> <p>On September 29th, 2018, MNOPS staff participated in the annual Day of the Dozers. This event engages the general public interactive opportunities to learn about underground utility safety and the importance of 'Calling 811 Before You Dig'. The specific activity facilitated by MNOPS replicates locating underground utilities and identifying the type of utility according to color. This activity included the participation by industry operators, utility owners, locators, and Gopher State One Call members. The Day of the Dozers event is hosted and facilitated by the MN Utility Contractors Association (see pages 17-18). Per MUCA, an estimated 6,000 people attended the event.</p> <p>On October 11th-12th, 2018, MNOPS participated in the annual MN State Fire Chief's Association Conference as a vendor. MNOPS staff used this opportunity to discuss underground utility safety and the importance of the 'Call 811 Before You Dig' campaign with emergency responders and the general public (see page 19-20).</p> <p>MNOPS continues to use the SDP grant to establish greater focus on underground utility damages as a result of Agricultural Tiling. An Ag Awareness Committee has been created to focus on education and awareness of excavation safety in rural agricultural areas. This has been combined under the Minnesota Regional CGA.</p>
<p>Involvement in regional Common Ground Alliance</p>	<p>MNOPS participated in 1 regional CGA meeting during the grant mid-term progress report period (see page 7).</p> <p>MNOPS has engaged in the formulation of a Regional Base Common Ground Alliance in Minnesota. The damage prevention manager, who served as the facilitator for the MNCGA Best Practices Committee from 2015-2017, is still</p>

	actively engaged with the committee. Another member of the MNOPS damage prevention team currently serves as facilitator for Agricultural Awareness Committee.
Active Participation in area Utility Coordinating Committees	During the mid-term progress report dates of Sept. 28, 2018 through March 5, 2019, MNOPS participated in 5 UCC meetings: 2 meetings with MUCC, 2 meetings with PUCC, and 1 meeting with LUCC (see table on pages 6 & 7).
Participation in the one-call center Operations and Communications Committees	<p>MNOPS Participated in all Gopher State One Call Operations and Communications Committee meetings. The Director for MNOPS serves on the GSOC board. For each board meeting, either the MNOPS chief engineer or the damage prevention manager is invited to provide an update from our office.</p> <p>A special industry stakeholder committee was formed to better understand the challenges with “normal” locate requests vs. “meet” locate requests. Within Minnesota’s One Call law, MS216D, excavators can make arrangements with facility operators to extend the lifetime of a “normal” ticket to 6 months. A “meet” ticket allows the same duration, however there appears to be a greater ratio of “normal” tickets submitted when a “meet” ticket would better service the excavator. The participating committee members involved numerous excavation companies, Gopher State One Call, some facility operators, some contract locating companies, and MNOPS. After meeting 6 separate days, the committee came to a consensus that an educational effort would be the best resolution for all. Xcel Energy partnered with MN Utility Contractors Association to produce a short educational video promoting the use of “meet” tickets. This video is currently being played during the 2019 Damage Prevention meetings throughout the state.</p>

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 of the report date, The Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS) has been actively conducting Damage Prevention meetings around the State. MNOPS continues to attend and participate in the national CGA meetings and has been participating in the regional CGA meetings. The regional CGA functioned to facilitate and register Damage Prevention Presentation attendees. 2018 was the fifth year of coordinating the meetings in this fashion. The MNCGA website was used almost exclusively for registrants to attend meetings. MNOPS continues to participate and attend regular Utility Coordinating Committees throughout the State.

The SDP grant funded investigations resulting in 43 violations and \$75,500 in civil penalties.

The damage data noted below maintains the historic trend downward of damages per 1000 locates for all utilities and for gas utility damages. The 2018 gas utility damages reported to MNOPS were calculated to be 2.17 per 1000 locates, which is lower than the three previous years. See pages 9-14 for a summary of damage data.

- 2014 – 2.09 damages per 1,000 locates
- 2015 – 2.24 damages per 1,000 locates
- 2016 – 2.22 damages per 1,000 locates
- 2017 – 1.99 damages per 1,000 locates
- 2018 – 2.17 damages per 1,000 locates

Case Type	Number	Total Hours
One Call Damage Investigations and/or Complaints *	60	374.75
Presentation	1	19.5
CGA / MNCGA Activities	1	6
UCC Activities	5	28
Public Education Events	1	28
Industry Stakeholder Meetings	5	18.5
Data Analysis	1	14
Total	74	486.75

* Majority of One Call damage investigations and/or complaints are covered the State’s One Call Grant

**Administration hours is time applied to reviewing operators’ damage reporting, case administration, communication with stakeholders, presentation(s) preparation, and assembly of publications

2018 SDP Grant - Damage Prevention Presentations
Summary of Hours & Attendees
Progress Report Period 9/28/2018 – 3/5/2019

Date	Case ID	Description	Hours	Attendees
14-Nov-18	154646292	JDH presentation for MPCA Sewer Operator Conference 2018	4.5	52
Totals = 1		Total Hours:	4.5	52

2018 SDP Grant Summary of CGA/MNCGA Activities
Progress Report Period 9/28/2018 – 3/5/2019

Date	Case ID	Description	Hours
03-Oct-18	1270471	MNCGA (MN Common Ground Alliance)	3
Total Meetings = 1		Total Hours:	3

* = more than 1 MNOPS inspector attended meeting on this date

2018 SDP Grant Summary of Utility Coordinating Committee (UCC) Activities
Progress Report Period 9/28/2018 – 3/5/2019

Date	Case ID	Description	Hours
15-Oct-18	1270471	MUCC Meeting	4
17-Oct-18	1270471	*PUCC Meeting	4
14-Nov-18	1270471	PUCC Meeting	7
03-Jan-19	20190019	LUCC Meeting	10
14-Feb-19	20190034	MUCC Meeting	2
Total meetings = 5		Total hours =	27

* = more than 1 MNOPS inspector participated for this meeting

**2018 SDP Grant Summary of Public Education
Event Activities
Progress Report Period 9/28/2018 – 3/5/2019**

Date	Case ID	Description	Hours
11/12- Oct-17	145761418	* 2018 MSFCA St. Paul	28
Total Events = 1		Total hours:	28

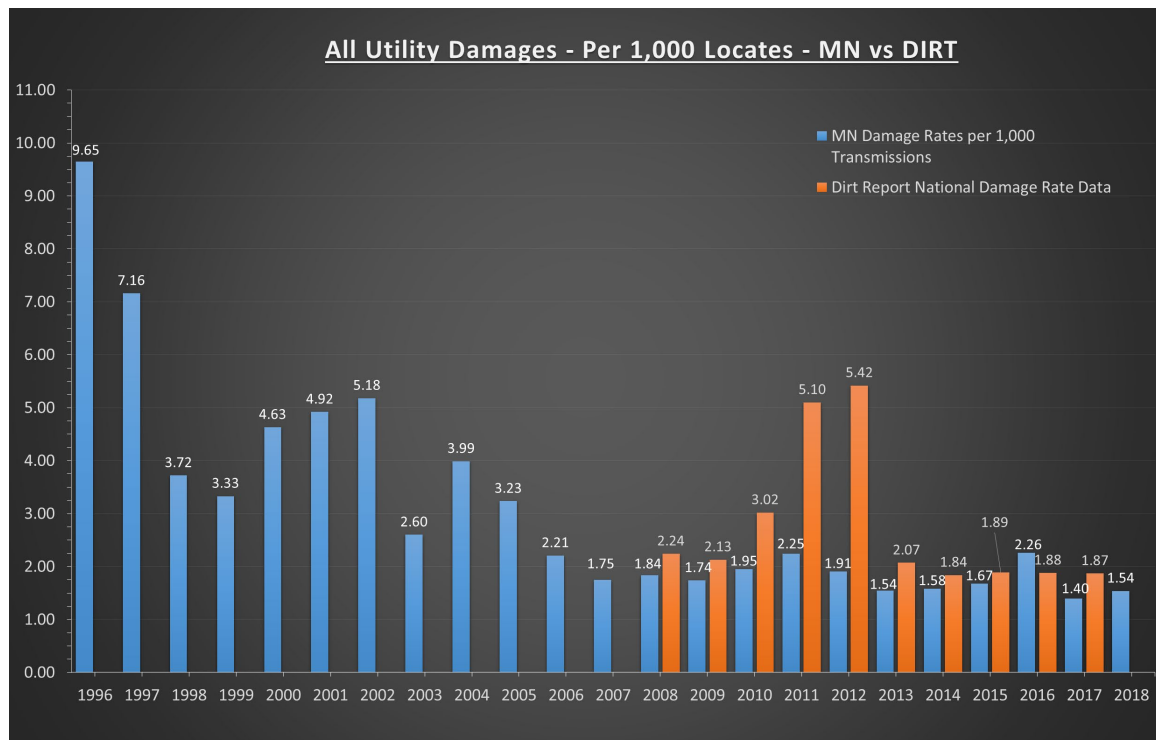
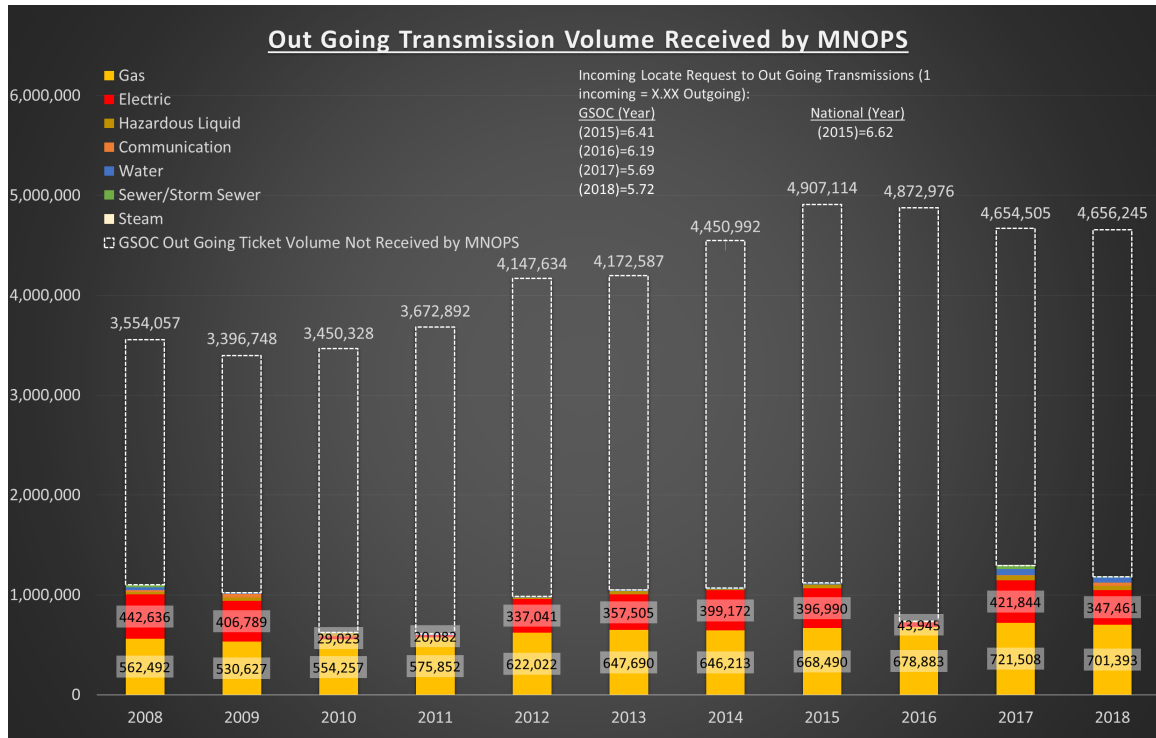
* more than 1 MNOPS inspector participated for this event

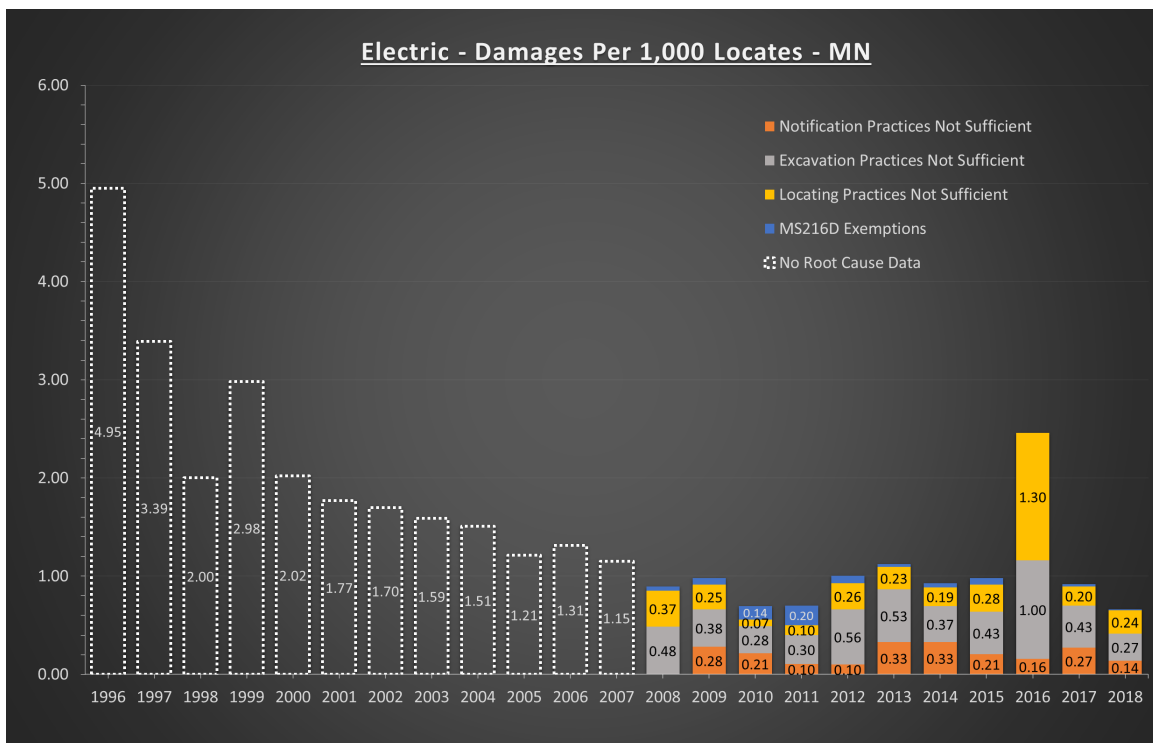
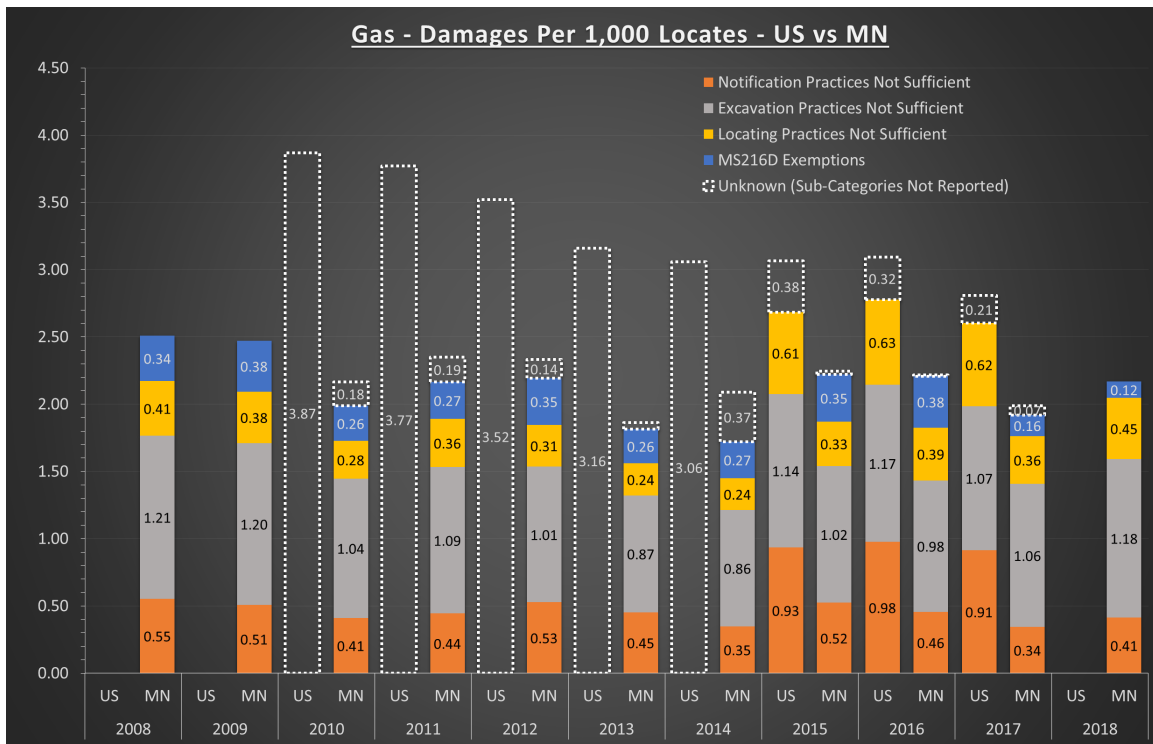
**2018 SDP Grant Summary of Industry Stakeholder Meetings
Progress Report Period 9/28/2018 – 3/5/2019**

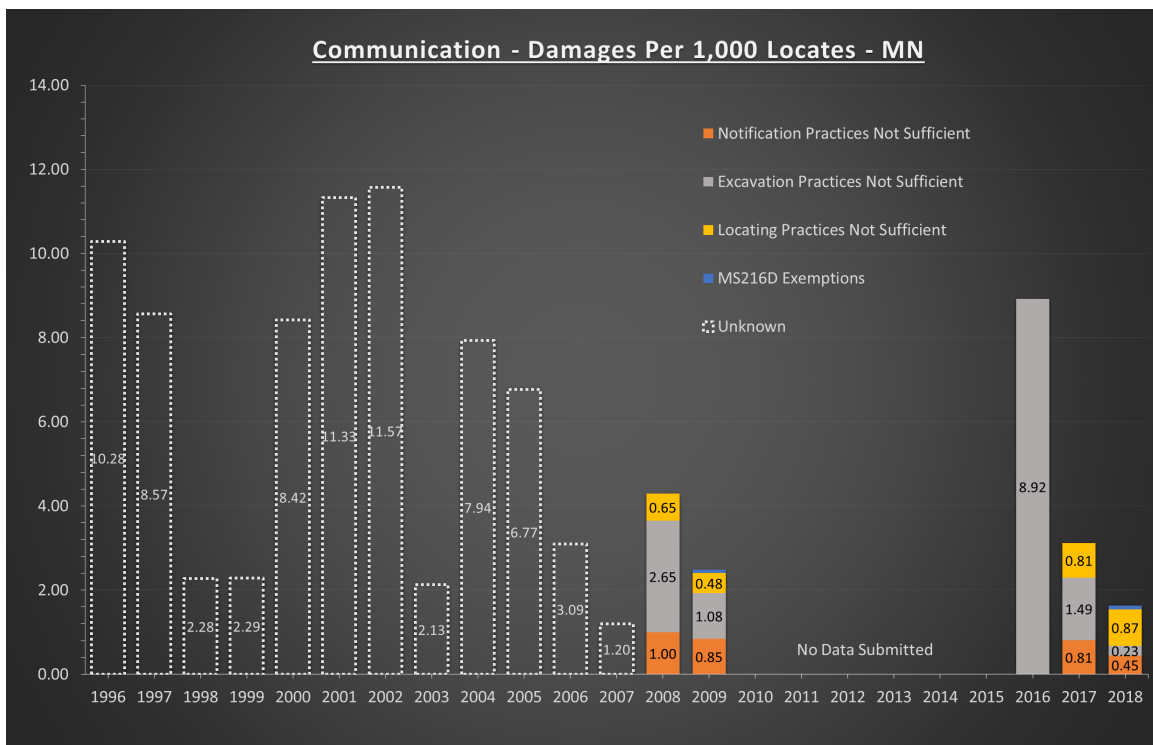
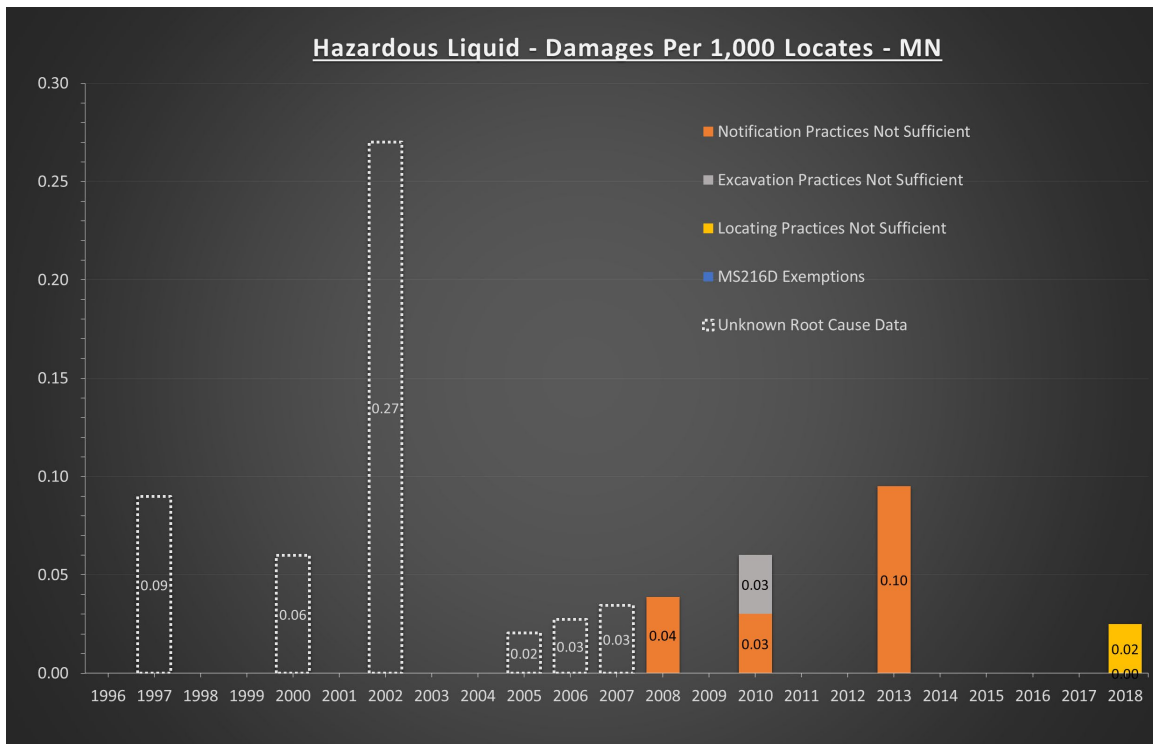
Date	Case ID	Description	Hours
04-Oct-18	1270471	*Site Mtg. w/ Bolander & Sons	4
13-Nov-18	1270471	MNCGA Special Meeting re: NULCA draft language	6
14-Nov-18	1270471	GSOC Board Meeting	5
19-Dec-18	1270471	6-Month Tix Committee Mtg.	1.5
04-Jan-19	20190036	Meeting w/ CenterPoint Energy & Michels Pipeline	2
Total meetings = 5		Total hours =	18.5

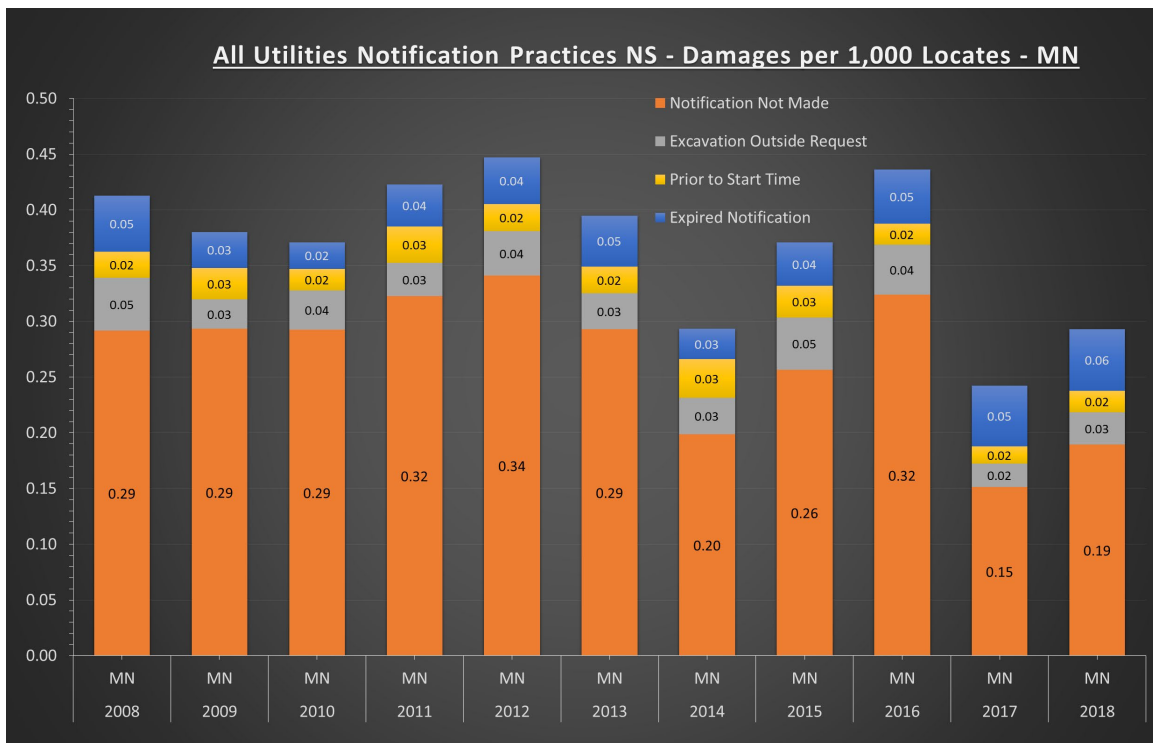
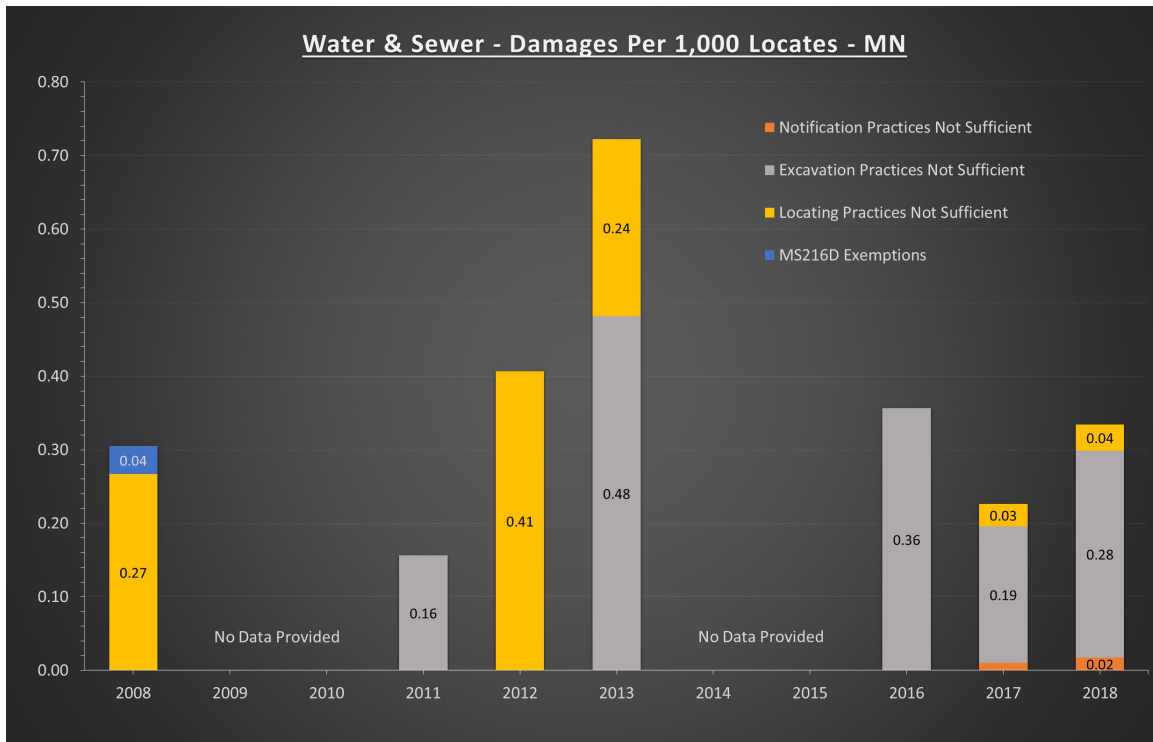
* = more than 1 MNOPS inspector participated for this meeting

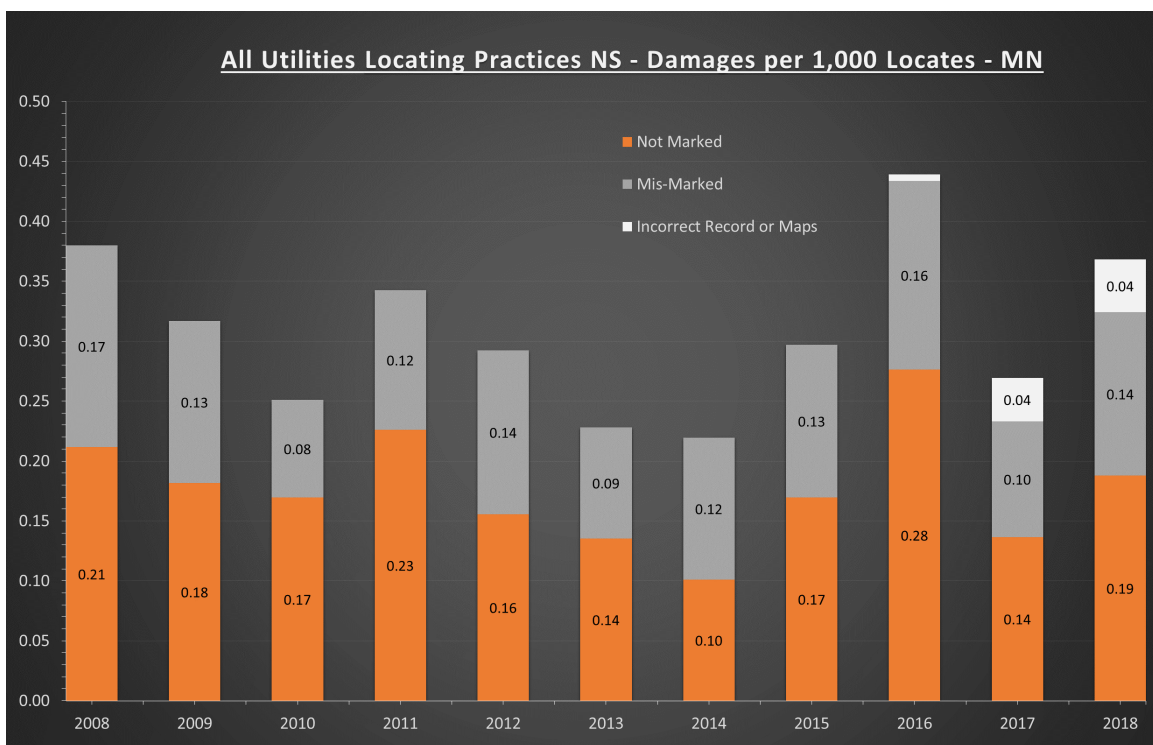
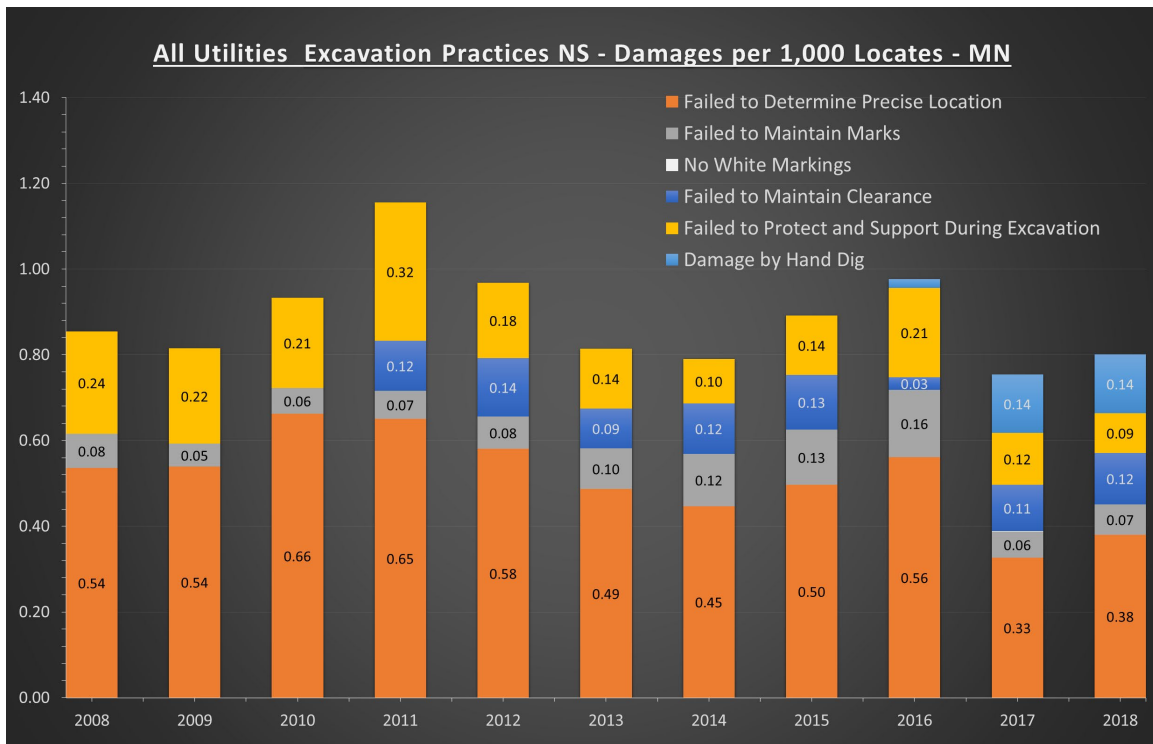
2018 SDP Grant Summary of Damage Reporting

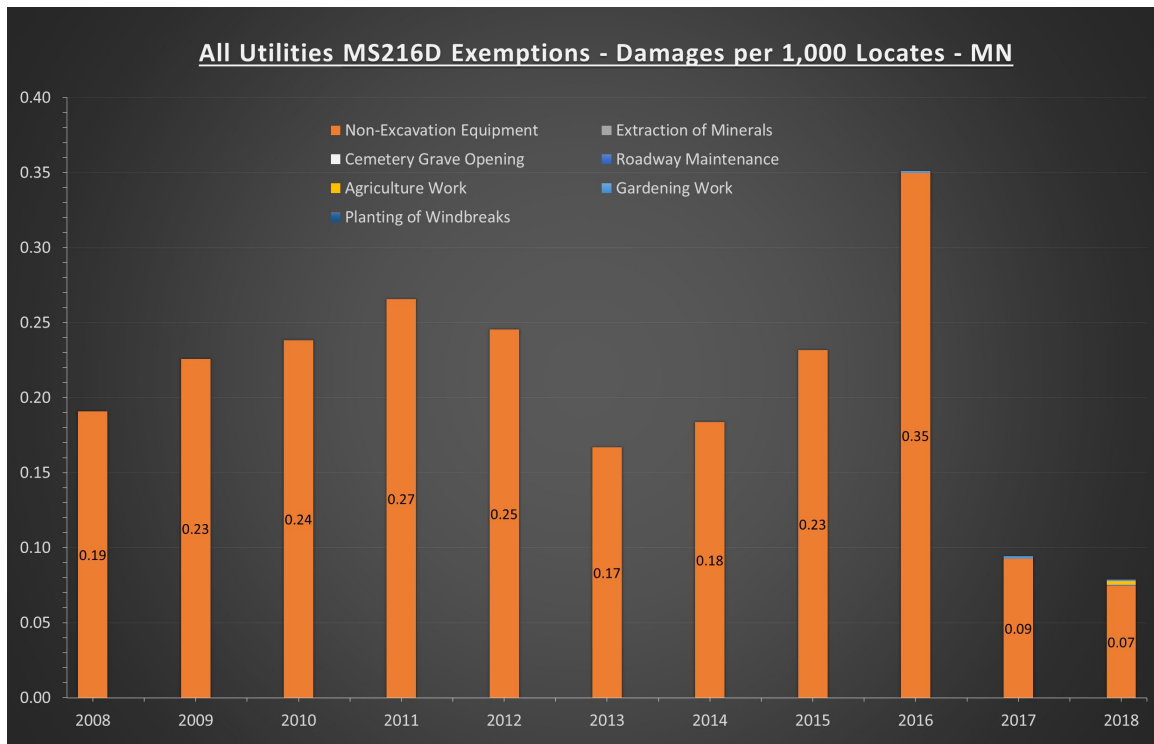












Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met. “)

MNOPS has not encountered any issues or challenges during the current SDP grant period thus far.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

The mid-term financial report will be sent as a separate attachment to the AA and AOTR (Form SF-425). Included with be a breakdown of costs for each object class category (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other and Indirect Charges).

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

Continue with the objectives listed above.

Requests of the AOR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.

Photos of MNOPS staff public education activities: 2018 Day of the Dozers



Pictured: Representatives from Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy (inside MNOPS tent) engaging with the public and educating them about 'Call 811 Before You Dig'.



Pictured: Adam Ratzlaff w/ MNOPS (far back) and representatives from CenterPoint Energy and Gopher State One Call educating the public about underground utility safety and the 'Call 811 Before You Dig' campaign.



Pictured: Adam Ratzlaff w/ MNOPS and Gopher State One Call educating the public about underground utility safety and the 'Call 811 Before You Dig' campaign. Mike Mendiola w/ MNOPS (not pictured) also participated in the event.

Photos of MNOPS staff public education activities: 2018 MN State Fire Chiefs Association



Mike Mendiola and Pat Donovan representing MNOPS at the annual MN State Fire Chiefs Association Conference.



Pat Donovan w/ MNOPS engaging the public and discussing the importance of natural gas safety and calling 811 before you dig.



Overhead view of the MSFCA Conference.