

2020 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Mid-Term Progress Report
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: 693JK32040009PSDP

Project Title: State Damage Prevention (SDP) Program Grants – 2020

Date Submitted: May 25, 2021

Submitted by: Jonathan Wolfgram / Mike Mendiola

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Fund enforcement, education, training, communication, support, analysis, partnership, and mediation activities associated with its damage prevention program. (Elements 1-9)

Workscope

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

- 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 units 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 7 (Enforcement): Enforcement of State excavation laws and damage prevention 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. (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 (See Reporting Requirements Sections of your Agreement)

Objective	Accomplishments (approximate numbers based on grant period as of report date)
Total cases involving One Call violations resulting in enforcement	A total of 107 One Call violations were cited during the current SDP period for this mid-progress report, 9/28/2020 thru 5/24/2021. (refer to the Excel spreadsheet 'MNOPS_Enforcement' included as part of this report submittal). The violations were covered both by the One Call grant and State Damage Prevention grant.
Total cases involving One Call violations investigated under the SDP grant	<p>Thus far, 6 cases were created for the purposes of investigating One Call damage investigations and/or complaints under the current SDP period for this mid-progress report, 9/28/2020 thru 5/24/2020 (see table on page 7).</p> <p>A majority of One Call investigation & complaint cases have been handled under our current One Call grant (94 cases 504 hours).</p>
Statistical data analysis and damage trending	<p>Damage data analysis and reporting utilizing mandatory damage reporting submitted by pipeline operators and voluntary damage reporting by non-pipeline operators are attached at the end of this report. These figures are available to the public on MNOPS' website. https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ops/reports-and-statistics/Pages/voluntary-damage-reporting.aspx</p>
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 of the State's One Call law.

<p>Rules and law review</p>	<p>Minnesota stakeholders reconvened on September 19, 2019 to review survey results regarding proposed language changes to MS216D. MNOPS then facilitated stakeholder meetings during the weeks of Nov. 18-22, 2019 and January 13-17, 2020. Stakeholders had the opportunity to offer their input and feedback. MNOPS used this feedback to further refine the proposed language changes. The proposed language was submitted to the Governor's office in January 2020 so that they can provide further guidance to MNOPS leading in to the 2020 legislative session beginning February 11, 2020, however due to the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, the governor's office set aside a majority of proposed language revisions, including MS216D revisions, in order to concentrate on the safety and welfare of Minnesotans. The below dates identify the most recent MS216D stakeholder review meetings. Please refer to the PDF file '<i>MNOPS 2020 MS216D Survey_10-12-2020</i>' included as part of the grants.gov application package for the latest proposed language revisions and survey results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 18, 2019 • January 13, 2020 (facility operators) • January 14, 2020 (civil penalties) • January 15, 2020 (engineering/survey companies) • January 16, 2020 (locators) • January 17, 2020 (excavators) • August 7, 2020 • October 2, 2020 (white marking) • Dec. 18, 2020
<p>Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety presentations to excavators ▪ Safety & training presentations for utility operators, locators and other stakeholders ▪ Annual conference with Damage prevention track ▪ Safety messages for the general population 	<p><u>Damage Prevention Presentations</u></p> <p>MNOPS performed 8 damage prevention presentations from January 2021 through April 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of the usual annual damage prevention safety meetings were either cancelled or deferred until later in the year. The ones that were held were a mix of in-person meetings and virtual meetings. The meetings consist of a presentation reviewing the excavation laws in Minnesota in the form of case studies. Some meetings are facilitated by utility coordinating committees; other meetings are facilitated directed with excavation companies. The case studies feature actual on-site damage investigations performed by MNOPS inspectors. For the mid-term progress report dates of Sept. 28, 2020 through April 30, 2021, the following presentations were performed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1/15/2021 Atlas Foundation Co. Rogers 37 attendees 2. 2/11/2021 Dunwoody (virtual) 12 attendees 3. 3/4/2021 MUCC (virtual) 21 attendees 4. 3/11/2021 CPE Excavators Mtg (virtual) 57 attendees 5. 3/18/2021 MUCC (virtual) 56 attendees 6. 3/25/2021 CPE Excavators MTg (virtual) 65 attendees 7. 4/1/2021 Crown Underground Northfield 30 attendees

	<p>8. 4/6/2021 St. Cloud Excavators Training 15 attendees 9. 4/30/2021 IMS Contracting Dodge Center 67 attendees</p> <p>From the above damage prevention presentations, MNOPS inspectors were able to reach out and educate 360 attendees. MNOPS anticipates much higher attendance in 2022 when it is safe to hold in-person meetings again.</p> <p>Anticipating that MNOPS would not be able to interact with as many stakeholders as usual during the Covid-19 pandemic, our office decided to narrate three PowerPoint case studies focusing on three key elements to a successful excavation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proper potholing of existing utilities 2. Confirming the positive response on your locate request 3. Refrain from 'Mark Entire Lot' and white marking proposed excavations <p>The above case studies can be viewed following this link... https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ops/Pages/Damage%20Prevention.aspx</p> <p><u>Effective Communication Between Operators & Excavators</u></p> <p>MNOPS periodically engages with effective communications with our facility operator and excavator stakeholders. Typically, these conversations come to us when the involved parties are unable to come to some level of agreement and cooperation in order to proceed with an excavation safely and comply with the state's One Call laws. MNOPS inspectors look forward to these conversations as it brings the involved parties together to discuss the difficulties and challenges with complex excavation projects and work towards ideas and best practices to spur the project forward. During the grant period for the mid-term report from Sept. 28, 2020 through May 24, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/4/2021 S.M. Hentges Safety Meeting Meeting to discuss what best practices can be performed when the One Call law does not favor excavators • 1/21/2021 Metropolitan Council vs S.M. Hentges Failure to comply with predesign and preconstruction tickets • 3/24/2021 Jeff Viner w/ Frattalone Discussion on how best to communicate with telecom and electric facility operators regarding disconnects in preparation of excavation • 3/26/2021 Adam Schmitz w/ S.M. Hentges Adam wanted to discuss the Precore app that his company is proposing utilize for their damage prevention needs • 3/29-3/30/2021 Stake Center Locating Discussion with a locate vendor who locates for Verizon, Zayo and MCI
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	<p>regarding their over-marking practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/19/2021 Veit vs locators John Hass w/ Veit requested MNOPS to attend a meet ticket site meeting to observe how Veit facilitates their documentation with each locator • 4/29/2021 McNamara vs CenterPoint Energy MNOPS met with the involved parties after multiple gas service damages to discuss best practices in order avoid future damages • 5/19/2021 Songhai Construction MNOPS met with the excavator on-site. This is a new excavation company with an individual who is new to the One Call process. The MNOPS inspector met with the crew to discuss the locate notification process and the obligations and expectations by the excavator.
<p>Involvement with regional Common Ground Alliance, Utility Coordinating Committees, Gopher State One Call board and other stakeholder groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Utility Coordinating Committee (MUCC) • Prairie Land Coordinating Committee (PUCC) • Lakes Country Utility Coordinating Committee (LUCC) 	<p>MNOPS continues to participate in stakeholder groups such as the MN Common Ground Alliance, various Utility Coordinating Committees and the Gopher State One Call board to periodically discuss challenges facing the damage prevention community and engage in discussing possible solutions, learning new tools to educate the public, and analyzing damage data and trends to reduce utility damages down to zero.</p> <p>During the mid-term grant period of Sept. 28, 2020 through May 24, 2021, MNOPS participated in the following stakeholder meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/14/2020 MNCGA meeting (virtual) • 10/28/2020 MUCC meeting • 12/14/2020 MUCC meeting • 1/8/2021 GSOC board meeting • 1/14/2021 MUCC meeting • 1/20/2021 Jeff Otten w/ Project Resources Group meeting to discuss best practices • 1/21/2021 Betty Jo Kiesow w/ Dakota Electric Association to discuss reducing damages to electric facilities • 1/27/2021 PUCC meeting • 1/28/2021 Underground Utility Mapping Project Team (UUMPT) meeting • 2/2/2021 City of Minneapolis Traffic Division meeting to discuss future submittals for One Call violations to MNOPS • 2/4/2021 MUCC meeting • 2/17/2021 PUCC meeting • 2/25/2021 UUMPT meeting • 3/25/2021 UUMPT meeting

Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (“Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.”)

As of this report, The Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS) has been actively performing Damage Prevention presentations throughout the state, however after March 13, 2020, all remaining damage prevention meetings were canceled or postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Although, we were not able to participate all the meetings that MNCGA originally scheduled for the year, MNOPS was still able to educate over 2,470 individuals

During the mid-term reporting period of Sept. 28, 2020 through May 24, 2021, the SDP grant aided in funding investigations resulting in 107 violations and \$75,361 in civil penalties.

The damage data noted below demonstrates that utility damages remain lower compared to other areas of the U.S. (as compared to the national DIRT data). MNOPS’ most recent damage data charts are included at the end of this report.

- 2014 – 1.58 damages per 1,000 locate notification requests
- 2015 – 1.67 damages per 1,000 locate notification requests
- 2016 – 2.26 damages per 1,000 locate notification requests
- 2017 – 1.40 damages per 1,000 locate notification requests
- 2018 – 1.57 damages per 1,000 locate notification requests
- 2019 – 1.44 damages per 1,000 locate notification requests
- 2020 – 1.51 damages per 1,000 locate notification requests

Case Type	Number	Total Hours
One Call Damage Investigations and/or Complaints *	6	24
Presentation	9	83**
MS216D Stakeholder Meetings	1	0***
MNCGA, UCC, GSOC Activities	14	26
Effective Communication with Operators & Excavators	8	15.5
Public Education Events	0	0
Telecom Stakeholder Meetings	0	0
Contract Locating Audit Review	0	0
Data Analysis	9	32.5
Total	46	122

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

** Includes preparation hours

**Hours for the Dec. 18, 2020 MS216D meeting were charged to the Damage Prevention Fines (DPF) account

One Call Damage Investigations and/or Complaints

Owner: Full Name	Date	Hours	Grant	Case Number	Case Description
Pat Donovan	3/10/2021	3	SDP	20210252	CenturyLink - Unlocatable fiber in Rochester
Adam J Ratzlaff	3/19/2021	0.5	SDP	20210257	AJR DPPOC week March 15-19, 2021
Pat Donovan	3/31/2021	0.5	SDP	20210266	Crown Underground hit MERC 4" PE, 60# Main in Rosemount (Auburn Ave & 145th St. NW (Cty
Claude Anderson	4/21/2021	4	SDP	20210301	Apple Valley Service line hit
Michael Mendiola	4/1/2021	3	SDP	20210017	CenterPoint Energy Damage, 169th St W and Festal Ave, Lakeville
Pat Donovan	3/22/2021	3	SDP	20210261	Complaint, Comcast late for locates. Locator showed up just as complaint received. SRU Toolbo
Pat Donovan	3/19/2021	2	SDP	20210261	Complaint, Comcast late for locates. Locator showed up just as complaint received. SRU Toolbo
Pat Donovan	3/18/2021	5	SDP	20210261	Complaint, Comcast late for locates. Locator showed up just as complaint received. SRU Toolbo
Pat Donovan	3/23/2021	1	SDP	20210261	Complaint, Comcast late for locates. Locator showed up just as complaint received. SRU Toolbo
Pat Donovan	3/24/2021	2	SDP	20210261	Complaint, Comcast late for locates. Locator showed up just as complaint received. SRU Toolbo

24 hours

6 cases

Damage Prevention Presentations

Owner: Full Name	Date	Hours	Grant	Case Number	Case Description
Pat Donovan	3/4/2021	1.5	SDP	20210247	2021 MUCC DPP (virtual)
Michael Mendiola	3/11/2021	1.5	SDP	20210253	2021 DPP - CPE Hosted (virtual #1)
Michael Mendiola	3/4/2021	2	SDP	20210247	2021 MUCC DPP (virtual)
Pat Donovan	1/15/2021	6	SDP	20210136	Atlas Foundation DPP
Pat Donovan	1/14/2021	4	SDP	20210136	Atlas Foundation DPP
Pat Donovan	1/19/2021	1	SDP	20210136	Atlas Foundation DPP
Michael Mendiola	2/2/2021	4	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	3/24/2021	1	SDP	20210253	2021 DPP - CPE Hosted (virtual #1)
Michael Mendiola	3/24/2021	1	SDP	20210262	2021 MUCC DPP (virtual)
Michael Mendiola	3/25/2021	2	SDP	20210268	2021 DPP - CPE Hosted (virtual #2)
Michael Mendiola	3/18/2021	2	SDP	20210262	2021 MUCC DPP (virtual)
Pat Donovan	3/31/2021	1	SDP	20210270	Cornerstone Utility DPP (18 Attendees)
Pat Donovan	4/1/2021	6	SDP	20210281	Crown Underground DPP (27Attendees, plus 2 NSP & 1 CPE for a total of 30)
Michael Mendiola	2/23/2021	1	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	2/25/2021	0.5	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	2/17/2021	1.5	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	12/10/2020	1	SDP	20200912	2020 DPP - APWA UUCIS
Michael Mendiola	12/11/2020	3	SDP	20200912	2020 DPP - APWA UUCIS
Michael Mendiola	4/5/2021	2.5	SDP	20210286	2021 DPP - St. Cloud Excavators (virtual)
Michael Mendiola	4/6/2021	3	SDP	20210286	2021 DPP - St. Cloud Excavators (virtual)
Pat Donovan	3/25/2021	4	SDP	20210270	Cornerstone Utility DPP (18 Attendees)
Pat Donovan	3/26/2021	6	SDP	20210270	Cornerstone Utility DPP (18 Attendees)
Michael Mendiola	2/11/2021	3	SDP	20210226	2021 DPP - Dunwoody
Michael Mendiola	2/4/2021	2	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	2/9/2021	5	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks

Michael Mendiola	2/10/2021	5	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	2/3/2021	4.5	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	2/11/2021	3	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks
Michael Mendiola	2/12/2021	5	SDP	20200358	DPP Team Planning, DPP creation/prep, and other related tasks

83 hrs 11 cases

Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators

Owner: Full Name	Date	Hours	Grant	Case Number	Case Description
Thomas Chrisfield	4/29/2021	2.5	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Thomas Chrisfield	5/19/2021	2	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Michael Mendiola	1/21/2021	2	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Michael Mendiola	3/24/2021	0.5	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Michael Mendiola	3/26/2021	0.5	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Adam J Ratzlaff	3/29/2021	2	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Adam J Ratzlaff	3/30/2021	2	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Luke Schuette	4/19/2021	2	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators
Michael Mendiola	4/19/2021	2	SDP	20190034	SDP Element 1 - Effective Communications Between Operators & Excavators

15.5 hrs

1 case

MNCGA, UCC, GSOC & Other Stakeholder Meetings

Owner: Full Name	Date	Hours	Grant	Case Number	Case Description
Luke Schuette	4/29/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Thomas Chrisfield	1/14/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	2/2/2021	1	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	1/28/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	1/21/2021	1.5	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	1/27/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	1/20/2021	3	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	3/25/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	2/25/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	2/17/2021	1.5	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	4/7/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Luke Schuette	4/21/2021	1	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	4/21/2021	1	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Michael Mendiola	2/4/2021	1	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders
Thomas Coffman	4/7/2021	2	SDP	20190035	SDP Element 2 - Fostering Support & Partnership of All Stakeholders

26 hrs

1 case

Data Analysis

Owner: Full Name	Date	Hours	Grant	Case Number	Case Description
Michael Mendiola	3/3/2021	5	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Michael Mendiola	3/4/2021	4	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Michael Mendiola	3/5/2021	3.5	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Michael Mendiola	2/24/2021	5	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Michael Mendiola	3/2/2021	3	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Michael Mendiola	2/26/2021	2	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Michael Mendiola	3/1/2021	3	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Thomas Coffman	4/16/2021	2	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness
Michael Mendiola	2/8/2021	5	SDP	20190052	SDP Element 9 - Data Analysis to Improve Program Effectiveness

32.5 hrs

1 case

Issues, Problems or Challenges (“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 AOR (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)

MNOPS plans to continue with the objectives listed above.

Requests of the AOR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.

**Please refer to the following attachments
mentioned earlier in the body of this report.**

Office of Pipeline Safety

MS216D One-Call Revision
Utility & Contract Locator Survey



Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Pipeline Safety

October
2020

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Executive summary

This report contains the results of the 2020 One-Call Utility and Contract Locator Survey conducted by the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS). This follow-up survey was conducted in response to comments received from utilities, locators, and excavation contractors during August 2020 stakeholder meetings.

The survey was open from Sept. 11 to Sept. 30, 2020. MNOPS staff emailed the survey to approximately 8,000 people on its GovDelivery contact list. There were 197 survey replies during the survey period from the following stakeholder groups:

Stakeholder Group	Count of Total Survey Responses Received				
		Company Size if Applicable			Grand Total
		Large	Medium	Small	
Emergency Response	8				8
Engineering/Consulting	6		1		7
Excavator		11	20	54	85
Gopher State One Call	2				2
Government	13				13
Homeowner/Landowner	1				1
Land Surveyor	1				1
Locator		1	3	3	7
Utility Operator	1	14	26	32	73
Grand Total	32	26	50	89	197

1 – Damage reporting and performance metrics

Overview of question:

During the MS216D meetings held in 2019 and 2020, proposed changes regarding damage reporting and performance metrics were discussed. The proposal outlined reporting metrics and damage reporting criteria to be processed and facilitated by Gopher State One Call. As an alternative to this proposal, MNOPS is looking for utility operator feedback to the following:

Utility operators with notification requests greater than 1,000 notifications in the previous year shall provide MNOPS with the following information electronically each quarter:

1. Number of notifications by type.
2. Percentage of normal tickets marked by the start time denoted on the notification.
3. The number of utility damages by cause of damage, facility type, type of work being performed, and the type of equipment causing the damage.

This table provides responses to the survey question noted above by stakeholder type.

Stakeholder Group	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Grand Total
Emergency Response		3	1	4
Engineering/Consulting	2	4	1	7
Excavator	9	29	18	56
Gopher State One Call		1	1	2
Government		8	3	11
Homeowner/Landowner			1	1
Locator	2	3	2	7
Utility Operator	20	31	22	73
Grand Total	33	79	49	161
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>100%</i>

2 – Underground utility geospatial information

Overview of questions:

During the MS216D meetings held in 2019 and 2020, the availability of GPS data pertaining to underground facilities was discussed. Please respond below regarding the availability of GPS data for your underground facilities:

Does your company currently have GPS data/coordinates for all or some of your underground facilities?

Stakeholder Group	No	Yes	Grand Total
Government	7	4	11
Utility Operator	37	36	73
Grand Total	44	40	84
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>100%</i>

If no, does your company plan to obtain this information in the near future?

Stakeholder Group	No	Yes	Grand Total
Government	4	3	7
Utility Operator	31	5	36
Grand Total	35	8	43
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>100%</i>

If no, do you require this information to be obtained on new or upcoming projects?

Stakeholder Group	No	Yes	Grand Total
Government	4	2	6
Utility Operator	30	3	33
Grand Total	34	5	39
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>100%</i>

If yes, what percentage of facilities have GPS data?

		Stakeholder Group		Grand Total
		Government	Utility	
Percentage of Underground Facilities with Associated GPS Data	0%		1	1
	1%		1	1
	2%		1	1
	10%	1	1	2
	15%		1	1
	20%		4	4
	25%	1	1	2
	30%		1	1
	33%		1	1
	40%		1	1
	50%		6	6
	60%		2	2
	75%		2	2
	80%	1	3	4
	90%	1	1	2
	95%		1	1
	100%		4	4
Grand Total		4	32	36

If yes, has there been an increase or decrease of utility strikes/hits of the GPS facilities

Stakeholder Group	Decrease	Increase	Grand Total
Government	3		3
Utility Operator	23	2	25
Grand Total	26	2	28
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>100%</i>

If yes, please denote the collected GPS data position accuracy.

GPS Data Position Accuracy Classification	Government	Utility Operator	Grand Total	Percentage of Totals
1-5 meter (Map Grade "C/A Code" Receiver)		6	6	19%
5+ meter (Recreational Grade Receiver)		1	1	3%
5+ meter (Recreational Grade Receiver), 1-5 meter (Map Grade "C/A Code" Receiver), sub-meter (Map Grade "Carrier Phase" Receiver), sub-centimeter (Survey Grade "Dual-Frequency Receiver)		1	1	3%
sub-centimeter (Survey Grade "Dual-Frequency Receiver)	2	4	6	19%
sub-centimeter (Survey Grade "Dual-Frequency Receiver), sub-meter (Map Grade "Carrier Phase" Receiver)		1	1	3%
sub-meter (Map Grade "Carrier Phase" Receiver)	1	13	14	45%
sub-meter (Map Grade "Carrier Phase" Receiver), 1-5 meter (Map Grade "C/A Code" Receiver)		2	2	6%
Grand Total	3	28	31	100%

If yes, please denote which the facility types GPS data exists.

Stakeholder Group	Both	Individual customer services	Mains or large facilities serving an area	Grand Total
Government	2	1	1	4
Utility Operator	15	1	15	31
Grand Total	17	2	16	35
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Does your company currently provide this information to other utilities, engineering firms, contractors, or other entities for purposes of conveying information about your facilities? This would include project meets, boundary surveys, or design tickets.

Stakeholder Group	No	Yes	Grand Total
Government	4	7	11
Utility Operator	31	40	71
Grand Total	35	47	82
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>100%</i>

3 – Notification following damage

Overview of question:

During the MS216D meetings held in 2019 and 2020, revisions to MS216D.06 were discussed. The proposed language below, would require a person to contact the utility and 911 in the event of a damage causing the release as noted:

Subdivision 1. Notice; repair.

(a) If any damage occurs to an underground facility or its protective covering, the person [DELETE excavator] shall notify the operator promptly. When the operator receives a damage notice, the operator shall promptly dispatch personnel to the damage area to investigate. If the damage results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid or endangers life, health, or property, the person [DELETE excavator] responsible shall immediately notify the operator and the 911 public safety answering point, as defined in section [403.02, subdivision 19](#), and take immediate action to protect the public and property. The person [DELETE excavator] shall also attempt to minimize the hazard until arrival of the operator's personnel or until emergency responders have arrived and completed their assessment. The 911 public safety answering point shall maintain a response plan for notifications generated by this section.

Stakeholder Group	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Grand Total
Emergency Response	1	3	2	6
Engineering/Consulting	1	1	4	6
Excavator	3	28	48	79
Gopher State One-Call		1	1	2
Government		3	8	11
Homeowner/Landowner			1	1
Land Surveyor		1		1
Locator		2	5	7
Utility Operator	4	21	45	70
Grand Total	9	60	114	183
<i>Percentage of Totals</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>100%</i>

4 – Organizations represented

The following organizations participated in the survey:

Arvig
Austin Utilities
Burnsville Fire Department
CenterPoint Energy
Charps, LLC
Charter Communications
City of Duluth
City of Fairmont
City of International Falls
city of litchfield mn
City of Minneapolis Public Works Traffic and Parking Services Division
city of moorhead
City of North Branch
City of Otsego Engineer
City of Tonka Bay
City of Winnebago
Connexus Energy
Continental Post Services
Cooperative light and power
Cooperative Network Services, LLC
Crow Wing Power
Dakota County
Dakota Electric Association
Dooley's Natural Gas
e-z excavating llc / A&A Septic service LLC
Ferrellgas
Flint Hills Resources
Frattalone Companies, Inc.
Garden Valley Telephone Company, DBA Garden Valley Technologies
General Corrosion Corp.
Groth
Hagen excavation
Halstad Municipal Utilities
Jaguar Communication
k & k tiling, inc
K A WITT CONSTRUCTION INC
Kevin Casey Contracting LLC
Lil Bob's Electric Inc.
Long Prairie Fire Department
LPRW
Lyon-Lincoln Electric Coop
Mahnomen County Highway Dept.

MDU utility group
METCO
Midcontinent Communciations
Mikes mini excavating
Minneapolis Water
Minnesota Army National Guard
Minnesota Energy Resources
MMU
Morreim Drainage Inc.
Morrison Well and plumbing
New Ulm Public Utilities
New York Mills Municipal Gas System
Nodland Construction
Northwest Gas
NuStar Energy
Otter Tail Power
Randall City Hall
Renville-Sibley Coop Power
S.J. Louis Const.
Saint Paul Regional Water Services
Sellin Brothers, Inc.
Set It Up Party Rental
Sheehan's Gas Company
Springvale Township
Stearns County Hiway Department
Stevens Drilling & Environmental Services, Inc.
Stump Chaser LLC
windomnet
Woodlake Lawn
Worthington Public Utilities
WSB and Associates
Xcel Energy
ZAHL-PMC

Survey Comment Detail

Damage Reporting and Performance Metrics Comments:

1	<p>1. Would be interested in understanding the definitions of notification type categories. Is this numerous such as mailbox installations, fence installations, pre engineering, etc.... or private vs public operator.</p> <p>2. Seems logical</p> <p>3. Seems logical</p>
2	2020 has been bad for response. Seems like the 3rd party locators don't care and mark if they want and if they don't want. We do contact the small utility to let them know the issues but it is usually after we hit a few lines.
3	Annual notification like we have now suffices. Being a small operator, we don't have extra staff to track all metrics.
4	As a small utility operator the request above would add work load which could affect other work that is required to be completed to meet requirements.
5	huge problem with USIC locating on time
6	I believe this would not include my business at this time, but Safety is the most sought after result.
7	I can see the damage reporting. But, I don't feel that I need the extra paperwork each quarter to report the percentage of tickets responded by the start time when I am using the app for my responses. You already have that information.
8	I don't see the point. Still peeved we pay for multiple tickets if the locate request is both inside and outside of city limits. I don't want to see more regulation especially at the hands of Gopher State
9	My department is not in charge of the tracking process so I can not say either way.
10	no thanks, we have enough work to do. We do not even track that info.
11	Regarding the first to items, GSOC can provide this information to MnOPS. Regarding the last item, the excavator who damaged the underground facility should bear the responsibility to contact MnOPS if they hit a marked facility, not the owner/operator of the damaged facility! If the owner/operator mismarked or failed to mark their buried facility, then and only then they should alert MnOPS.
12	Sending information from GSOC for #1 & #2 would be more efficient. For #3, utilities would need to provide this information, but it take considerable effort.
13	Should be reporting
14	The contractor, providing the locating service for the Minneapolis area, seems to need more than 48 hours notice.
15	<p>There are several concerns. What does MNOPS intend to do with the information gathered? Will the information be used for enforcement? How will the MNOPS use this information to impact public safety and reduce damages? Will this information be publicly available?</p> <p>We understand the desire for MNOPS to collect this information. We would be supportive of this proposal if data were not collected on an individual operator level. We suggest that anonymized, state level aggregate data be collected.</p>

16	This is added work that we do not have staff to complete. It would come as added expense to our customers to fund this. GSOC should be able to provide some of these numbers.
17	This may be perceived as one more mandated thing (actually several more things) that local government utility operators are not budgeted or staffed for to be able to do, especially in a time with budget shortfalls. The labor and effort that goes into collecting and compiling and QA/QC for accuracy could be the responsibility of the State, rather than fall on local government.
18	This year [2020] has been very good compared to last year.
19	Undo burden on operator.
20	We already track and report a lot of this information as a Gas utility. Work being performed would need to be well defined and also type of equipment to make the data meaningful
21	we have quite a bit of reporting, we currently do and participate in DIRT, which most of this information would come from
22	While definitely a move in the correct direction, what will the data be used for? What will be done to ensure the data is reliable? If these metrics are used to enforce a standard, how will the standard be determined? If the Utility operators are reporting the damages and late markings to their own tickets what is to stop them from intentionally under reporting? Why would they report honestly?
23	Will this information be of real value to MNOPS? It does add another layer of paperwork to the whole process. How detailed of information on each incident is expected?
24	Zayo Group and Arvig are the worst responders in my experience throughout the Twin Cities metro area. The other operators seem to be responsive.

Underground Utility Geospatial Information Comments:

1	All locations marked on plan are an estimate only and require field verification
2	All of my utilities were installed in the 1970's. They did not have GPS and did not install tracer wire. All of my water lines are untraceable pvc. The same goes for the pvc sewer lines. And the maps that were made were for install proposal and not as-built.
3	GPS data is only relayed to contractors that are working on our system for our utility. This information is not given to everyone and anyone as GPS data is not perfect and is not something we want to rely on to locate the pipe. We still want to maintain site meets with other utilities working within and around our facilities.
4	Hard for us smaller utilities to do with limited resources
5	Having GPS location surveyed data has seldom been a factor in utility damages for our utility. We as a utility have very few damages that are "Location Practices Not Sufficient". Almost all of the hits to our utilities are "Excavation Practices Not Sufficient". Occasionally, our utilities are not readily locatable by electro-magnetic equipment, and we use GPS location data to mark it. But that is a very low percentage of our locating.
6	I am a sewer and water excavator not a small utility contractor
7	I answered no to the question regarding new/upcoming projects, as we do not GPS our routes. We have, however, started getting GPS coordinates on pedestals and ONT's on our last few projects.

8	I personally like to talk to a Person and hopefully have a successful ticket. That is what I'm used to.
9	I'm not sure, I subcontract for the utility companies.
10	Locate ticket screening is outsourced. The operator does not have the capacity or authority to provide the data. Internally we could provide the data.
11	Maps with and without GPS info provided to Engineering firms, other utilities, and contractors as requested.
12	Only as-built record drawings for ticketed locate requests - GPS locations not requested or shared at this time
13	Our utilities consist of storm water management system. The majority of our system is centerline culvert pipe that is easily located visually because it daylights at each side of the roadway.
14	Physical markings that are marked by facility operator or contract locating company are the only true way to get utility marks.
15	Provided as appropriate and when available.
16	We are currently investigation the possibility of increasing our GPS data collection on our system. GPS data varies greatly in completeness, quality and accuracy depending on the method and reason of collection. We do not currently share this information outside the company. If information were to be shared with outside parties there are regulatory and security implications that would first need to be addressed.
17	We are in the process of obtaining GPS data. The problem of course is cost due to being a small operator.
18	We do not have the ability to get this in place within the next 5 years.
19	We provide on maps. Actual location always needs to be marked for accuracy.
20	We provide this data. We do not have all of our facilities GPS'd. We typically provide shp file kmz or other. With the understanding our data is not GPS accurate.

Notification following damage comments:

1	911 should be listed before the operator for contact order for any gas or flammable situation.
2	Concerned about the lack of clarity about the person versus excavator. Also I am worried about the language of having the person attempt to minimize the hazard until the operator's personnel or emergency response personnel arrive. Seems like we may be placing citizens responsible for doing something they are not trained to do.
3	Confusing language trying to figure out what is changing from existing law.
4	Do you really want a homeowner trying to minimize a gas leak after they damage it and it starts leaking? I would remove that sentence.
5	I do have a concern if the 911 dispatch folks have current operator contact info and a map of the service areas (?)

6	<p>I don't agree with this statement: "The person [DELETE excavator] shall also attempt to minimize the hazard until arrival of the operator's personnel or until emergency responders have arrived and completed their assessment"</p> <p>This could subject the "person" to hazards they are not trained to deal with, and expose them to greater potential of getting injured.</p>
7	I think changing from Excavator to person is good. When it comes to the operator expectations, I would be curious to see what the definition of "promptly" would be?
8	If the "excavator" causes damage to a buried facility, then the "excavator" shall be responsible to do the things required in this section. Generalizing the term "excavator" doesn't necessarily make the damage they've caused a shared problem, unless the facility that was damaged was mid-marked or unmarked.
9	Is replacement of the word "excavator" with "person" an attempt to relieve excavation companies of responsibility for an event? Looks like it to me.
10	It seems to me they are pushing responsibility on the person or employee and not to the company or locating company.
11	Most of the time if you call you talk to some one out of state and don't get a response
12	person responsible or the company that the person represents shall immediately...
13	<p>The person [DELETE excavator] shall also attempt to minimize the hazard until arrival of the operator's personnel or until emergency responders have arrived and completed their assessment:</p> <p>I feel this statement could put the operator in harms way on a natural gas leak because with out the proper detecting equipment and training they could be in a hazardous situation and not be aware of it.</p>
14	We have no concerns with this proposed change.
15	What person?

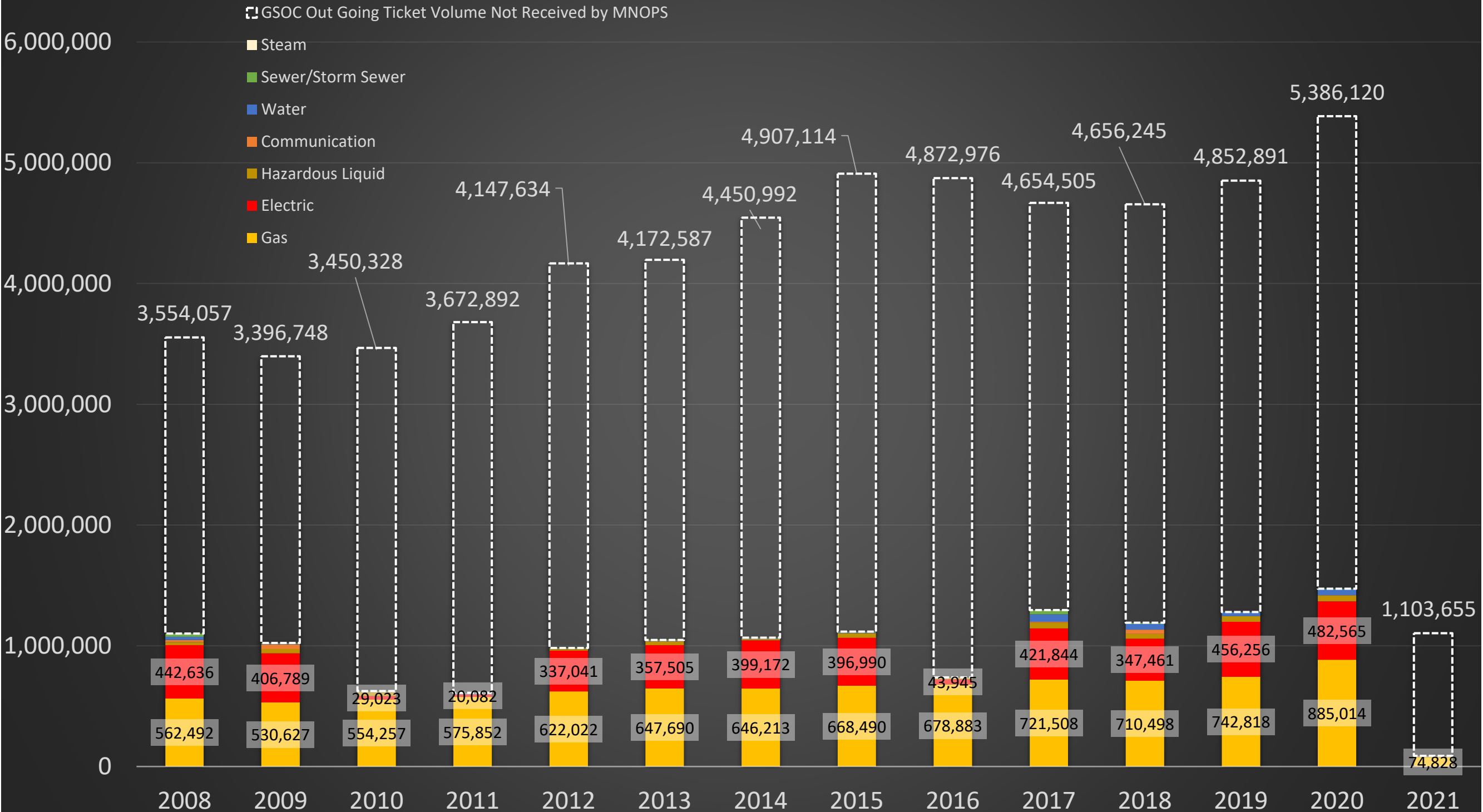
Table 1

General Survey Comments:

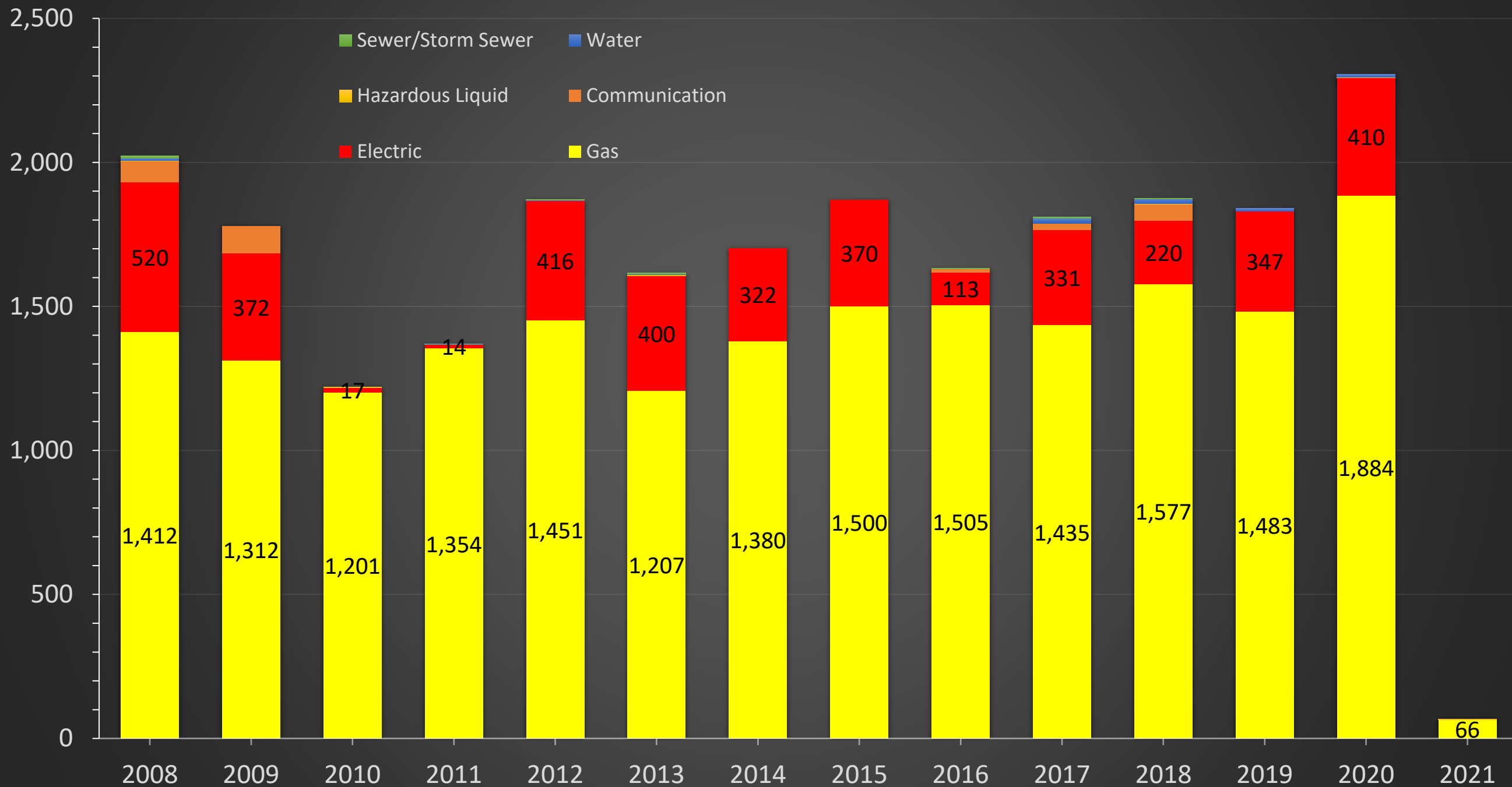
1	How come the locators dont have a problem if they dont locate in there 48hrs we excavator (Person) has a law saying we can't start within 48hrs of the new ticket. But the locators can just put us on a hold and theres nothing we can do that has me furious! Seems like it goes back to the excavator (person) is always in the hot seat and they can do as they wish with no regards to anyone because we can't start till they locate and that is whenever the hell they want 48hrs should be whenever they do it!! And dont start before it located because you will be in trouble if you do its [EXPLETIVE DELETED]!
2	Rules need to be changed to have old flags removed from public right of ways once excavation activities are complete. Our roadsides and boulevards are very dangerous for the workers and the public that maintain these public right-of-ways and they also look terrible. The old metal skewer flags need to be removed and disposed of properly.

3	Whoever causes damage to marked, buried facilities should be responsible to make initial contact to the owner/operator and well As MnOPS when the damage requires them to. Don't fizzy up the language to let the "excavator" off the hook for damage they cause to buried facilities.
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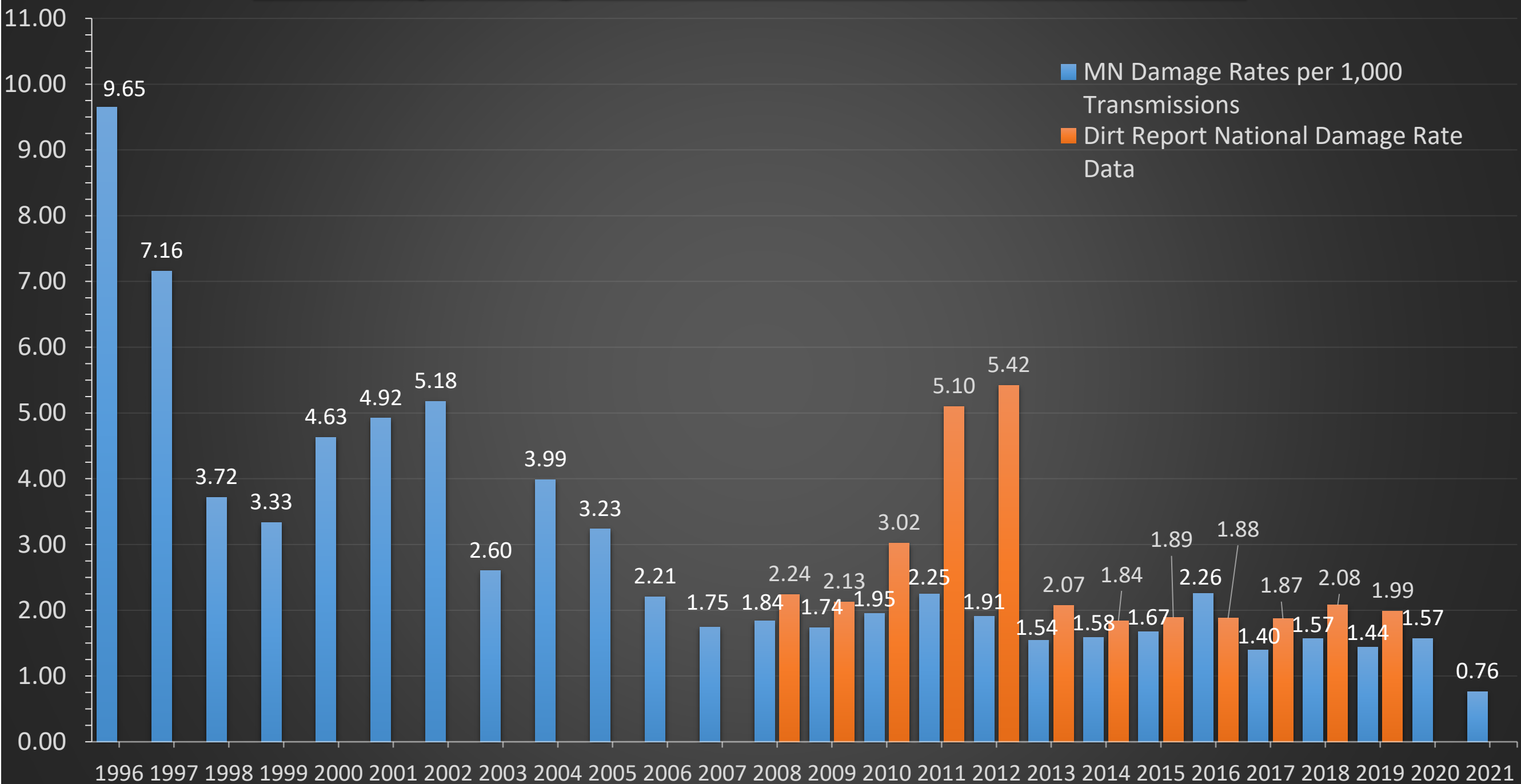
Out Going Transmission Volume Received by MNOPS



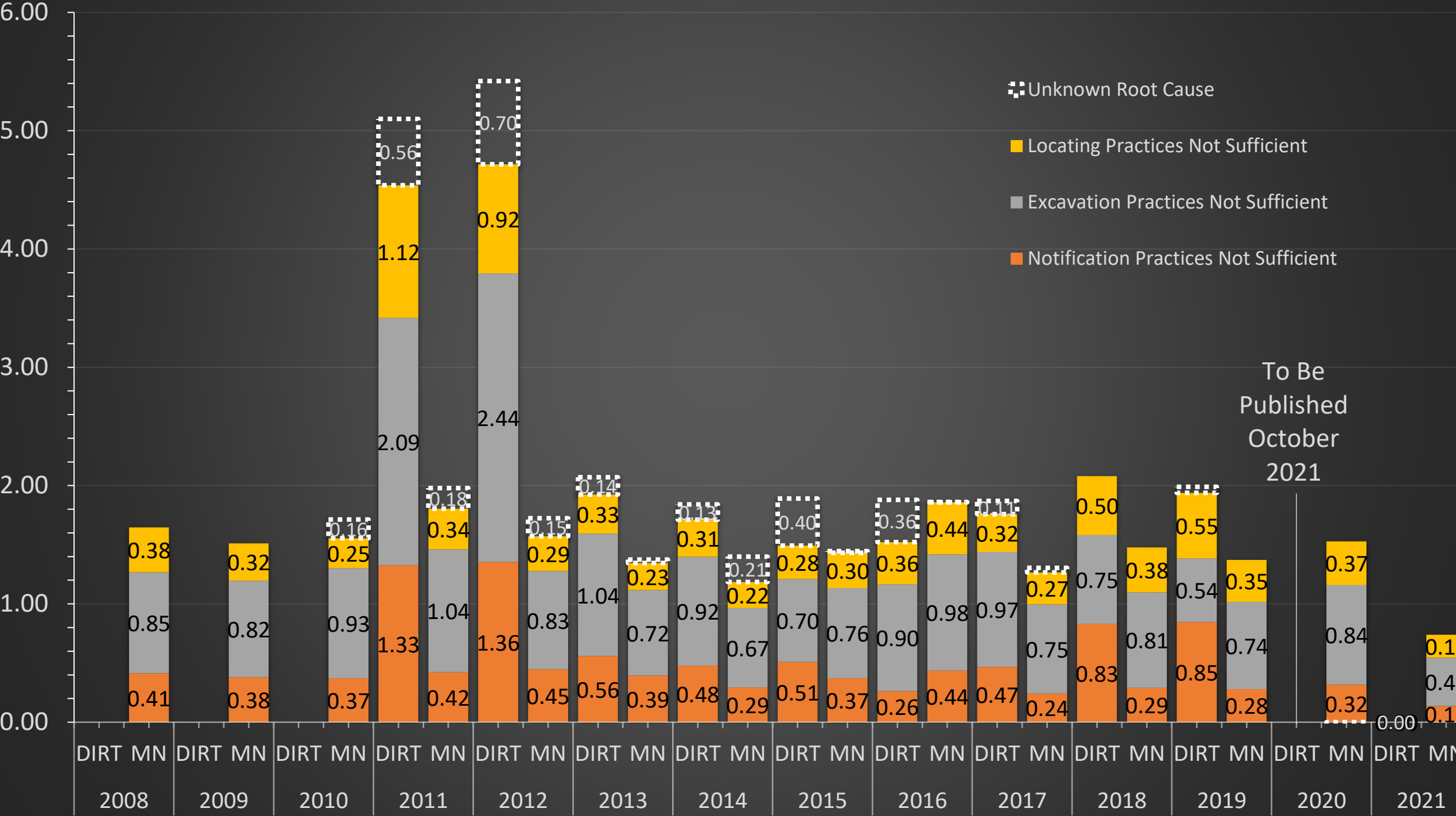
Damages Submitted to MNOPS by Utility Type



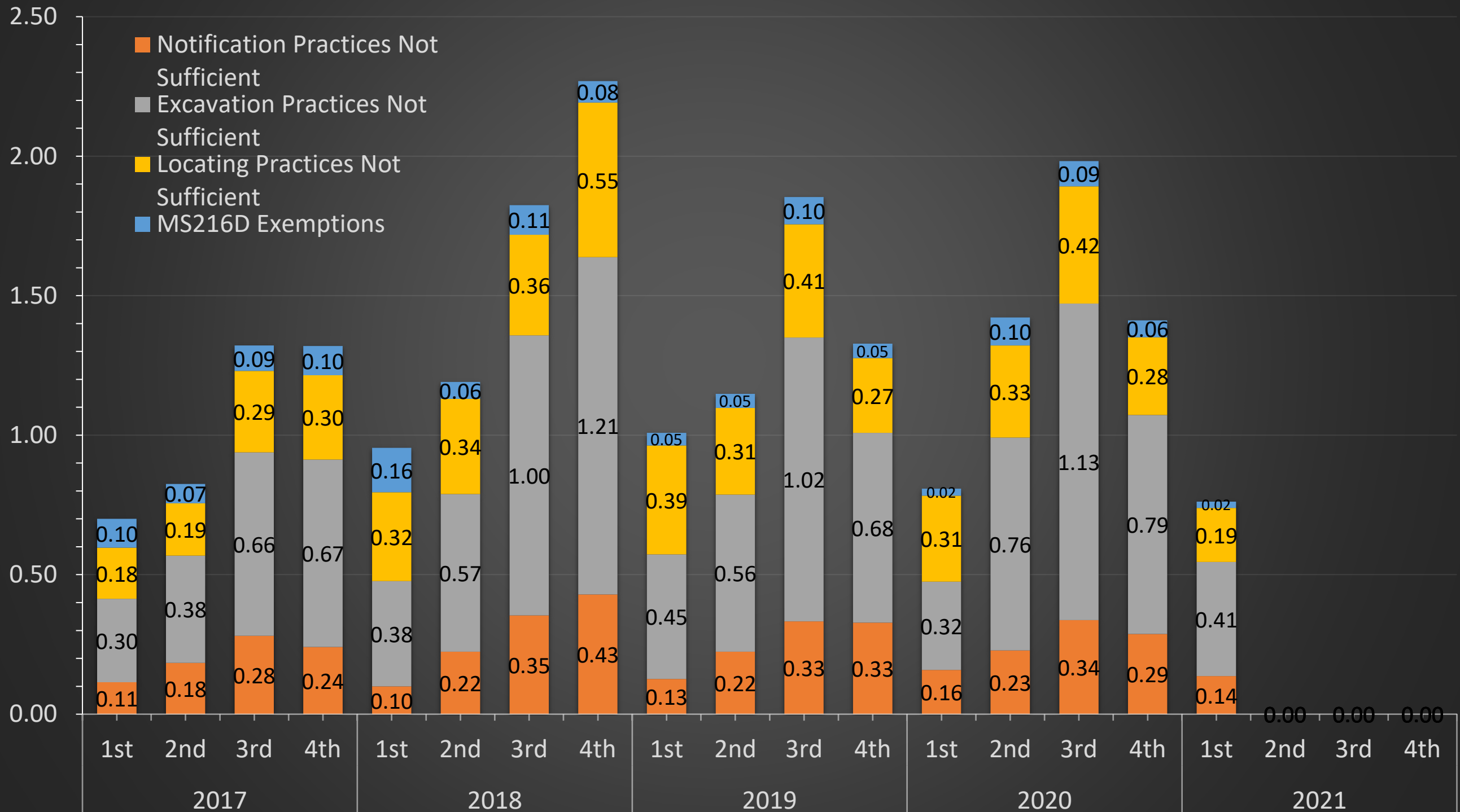
All Utility Damages - Per 1,000 Locates - MN vs DIRT



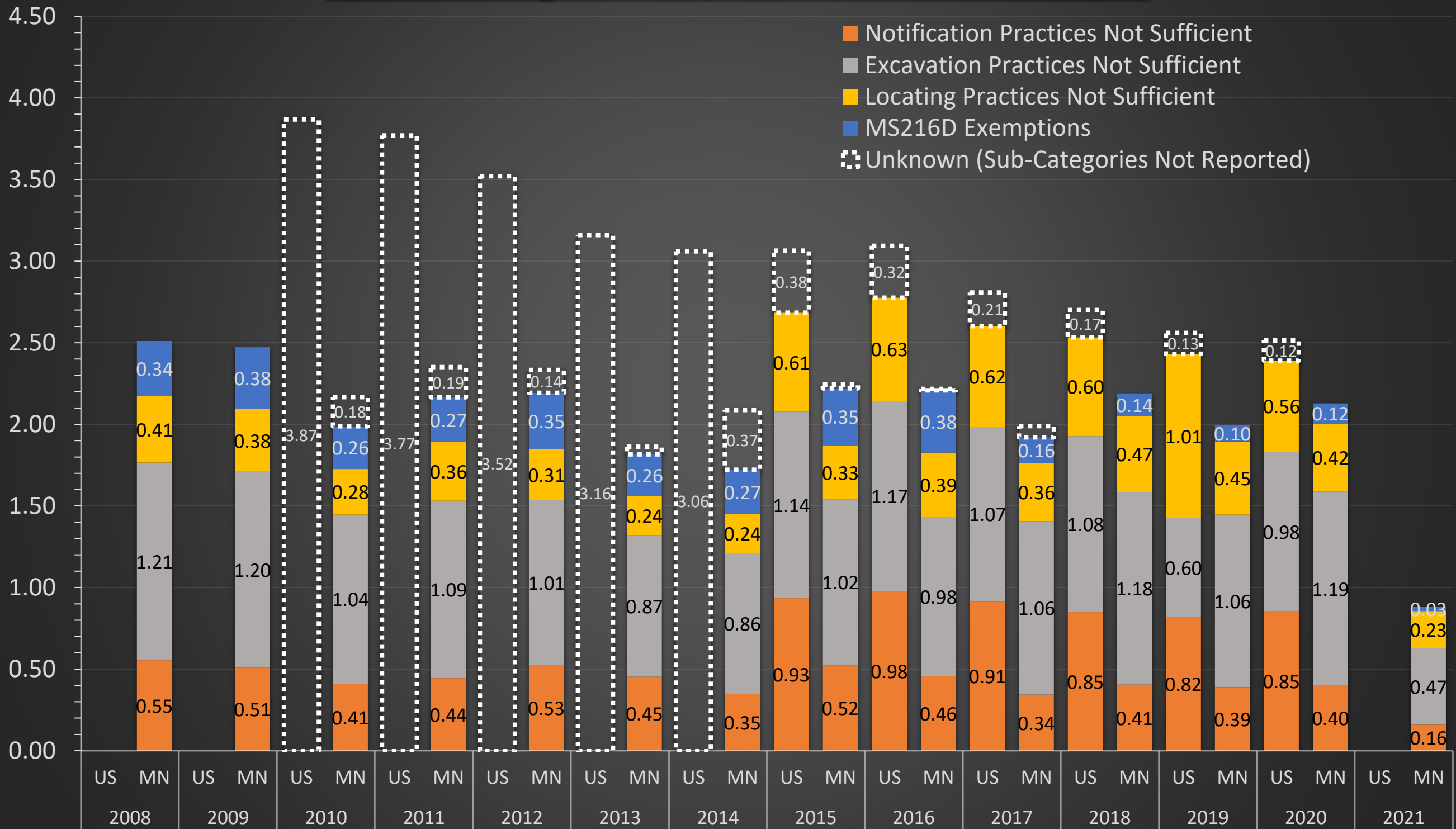
All Utilities - Damages per 1,000 Locates - MN vs DIRT



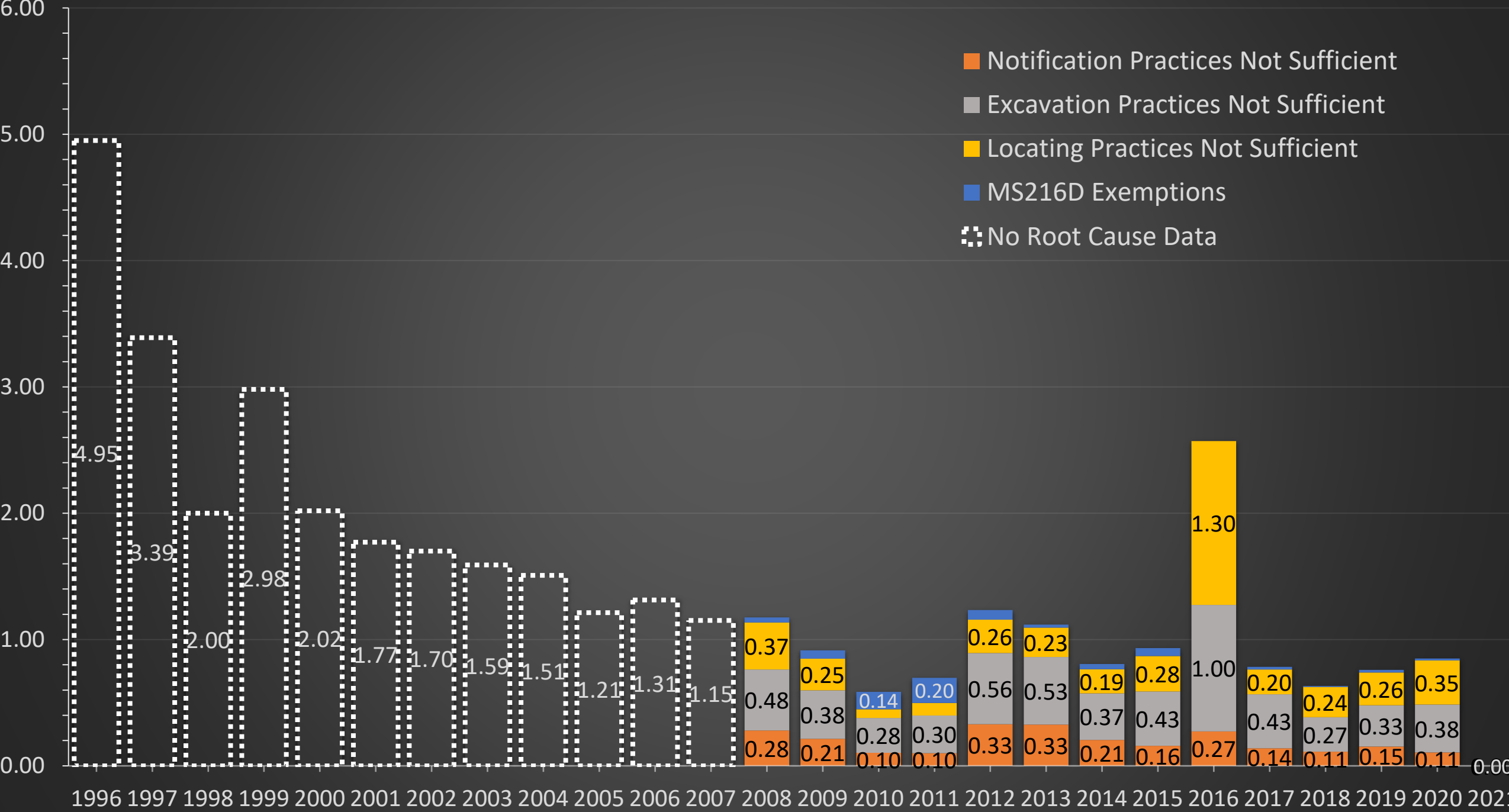
All Utilities - Damages per 1,000 Locates - MN Quarterly



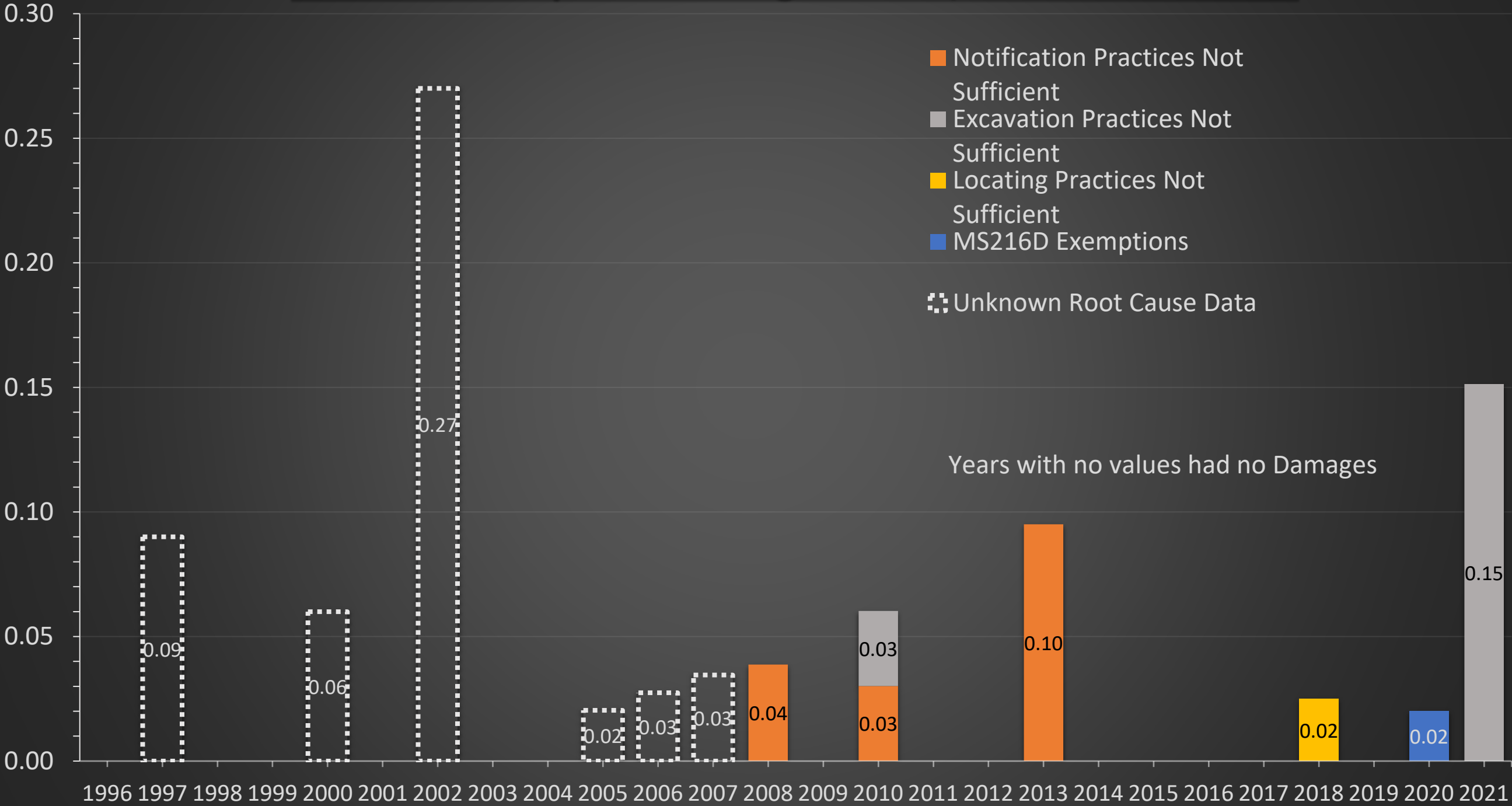
Gas - Damages Per 1,000 Locates - US vs MN



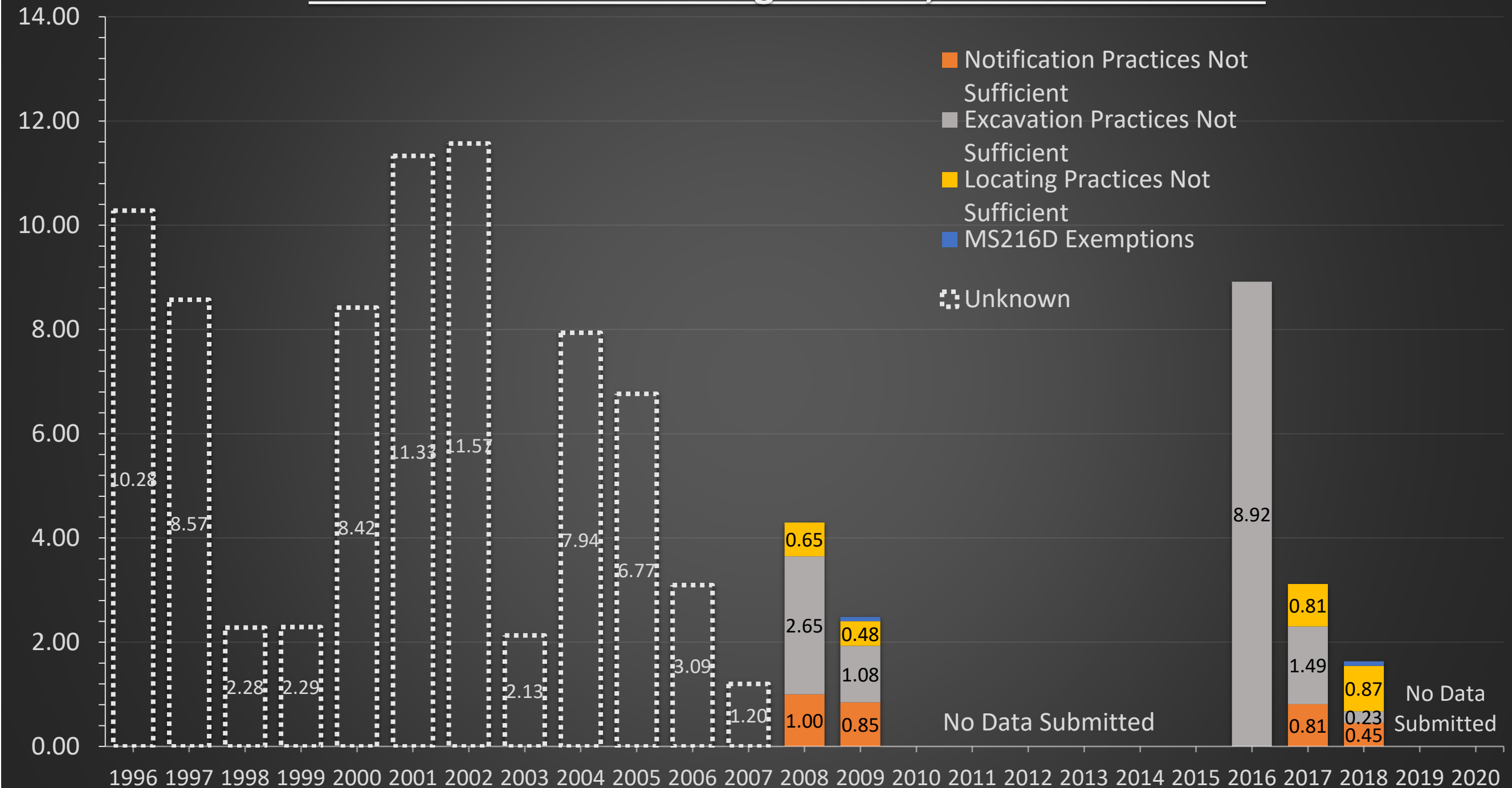
Electric - Damages Per 1,000 Locates - MN



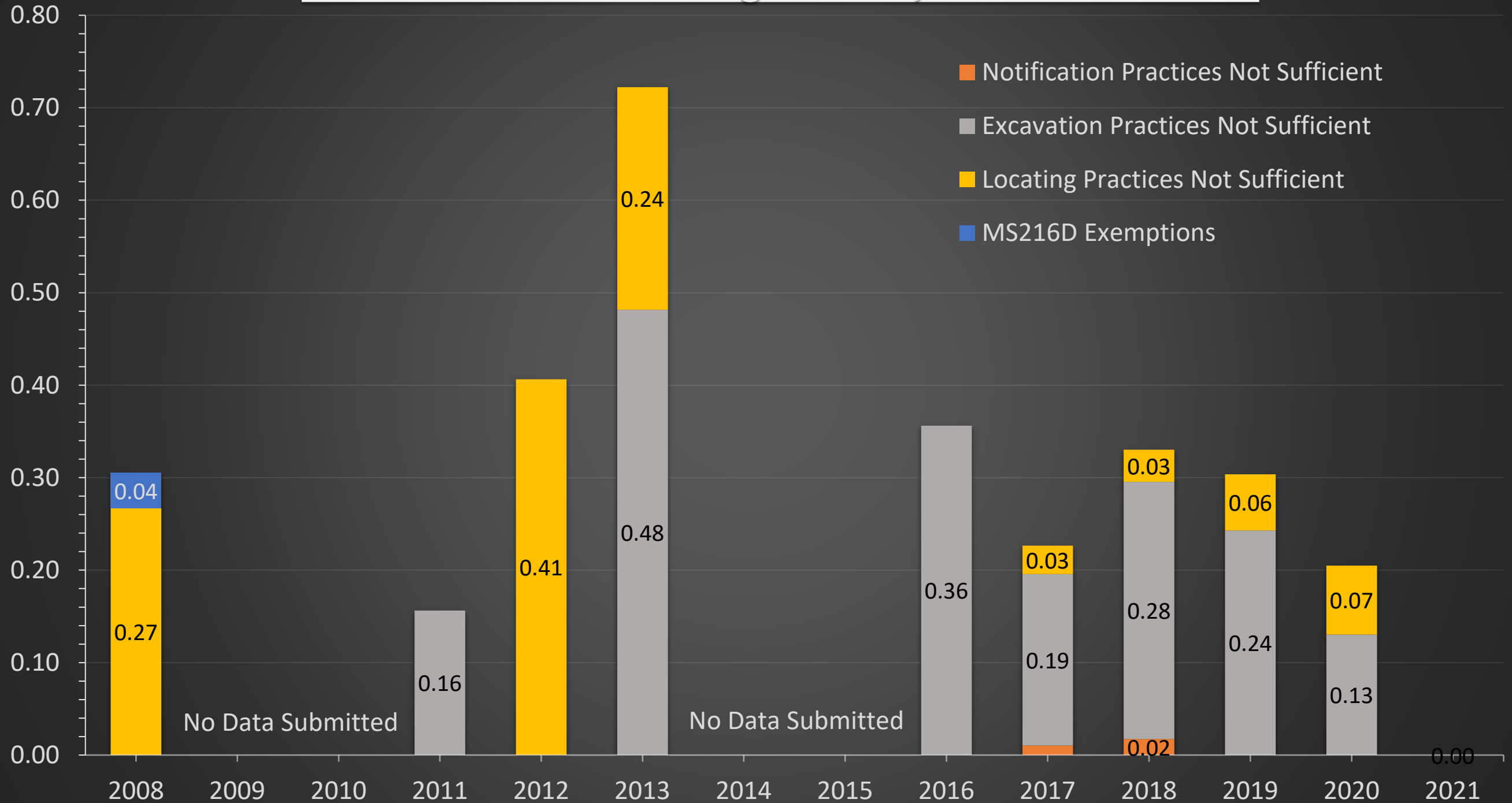
Hazardous Liquid - Damages Per 1,000 Locates - MN



Communication - Damages Per 1,000 Locates - MN

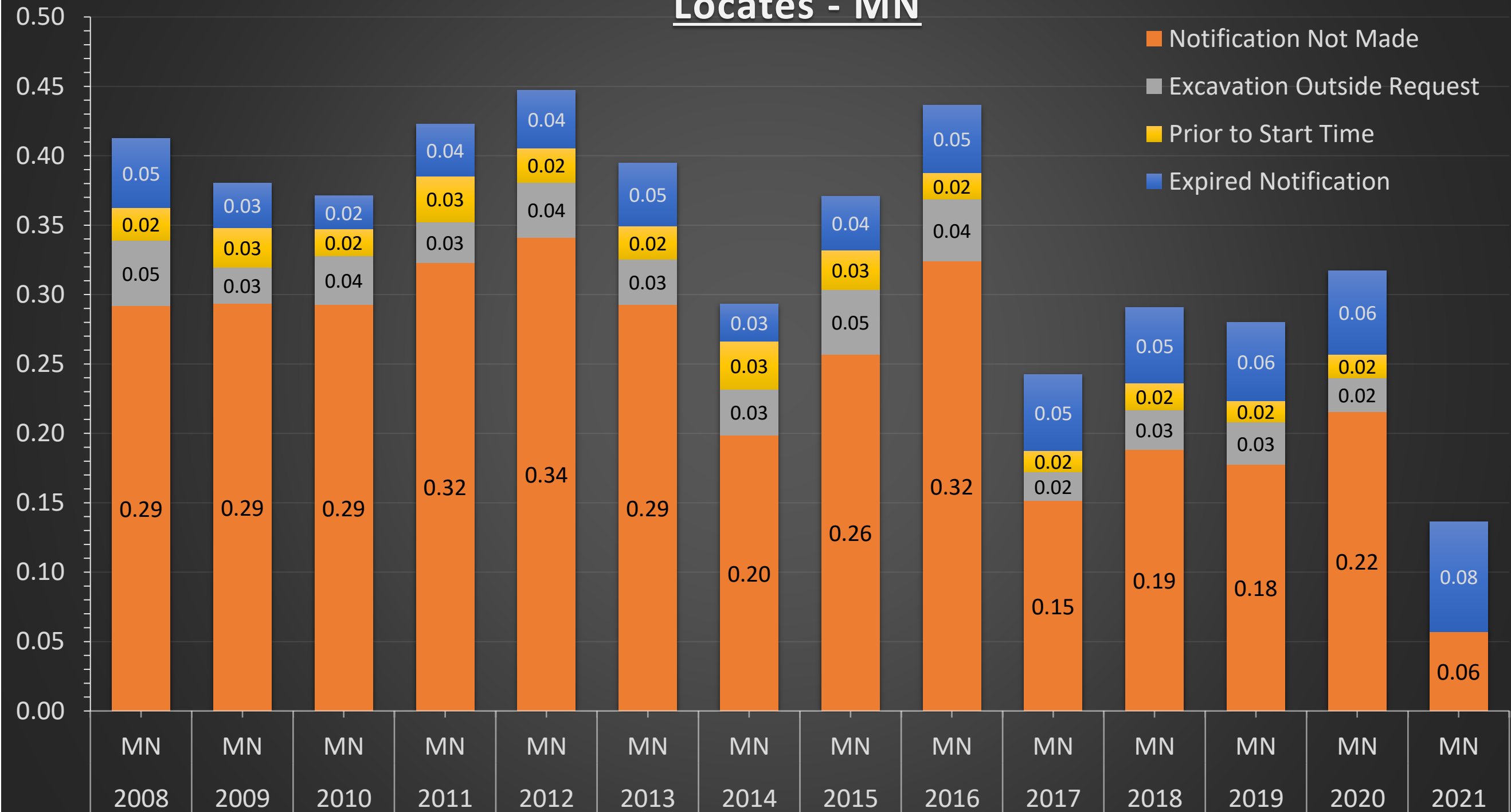


Water & Sewer - Damages Per 1,000 Locates - MN



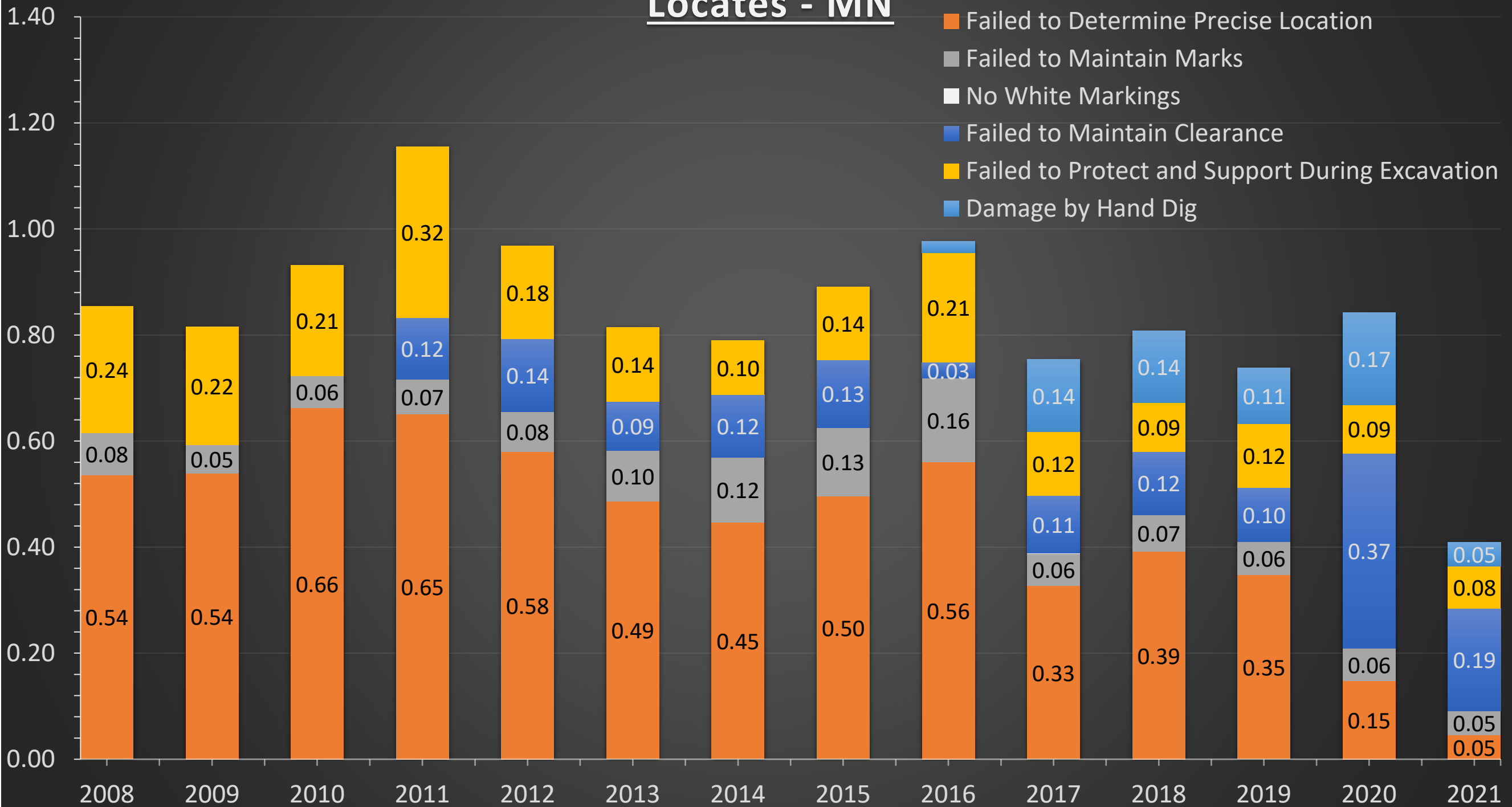
All Utilities Notification Practices NS - Damages per 1,000

Locates - MN

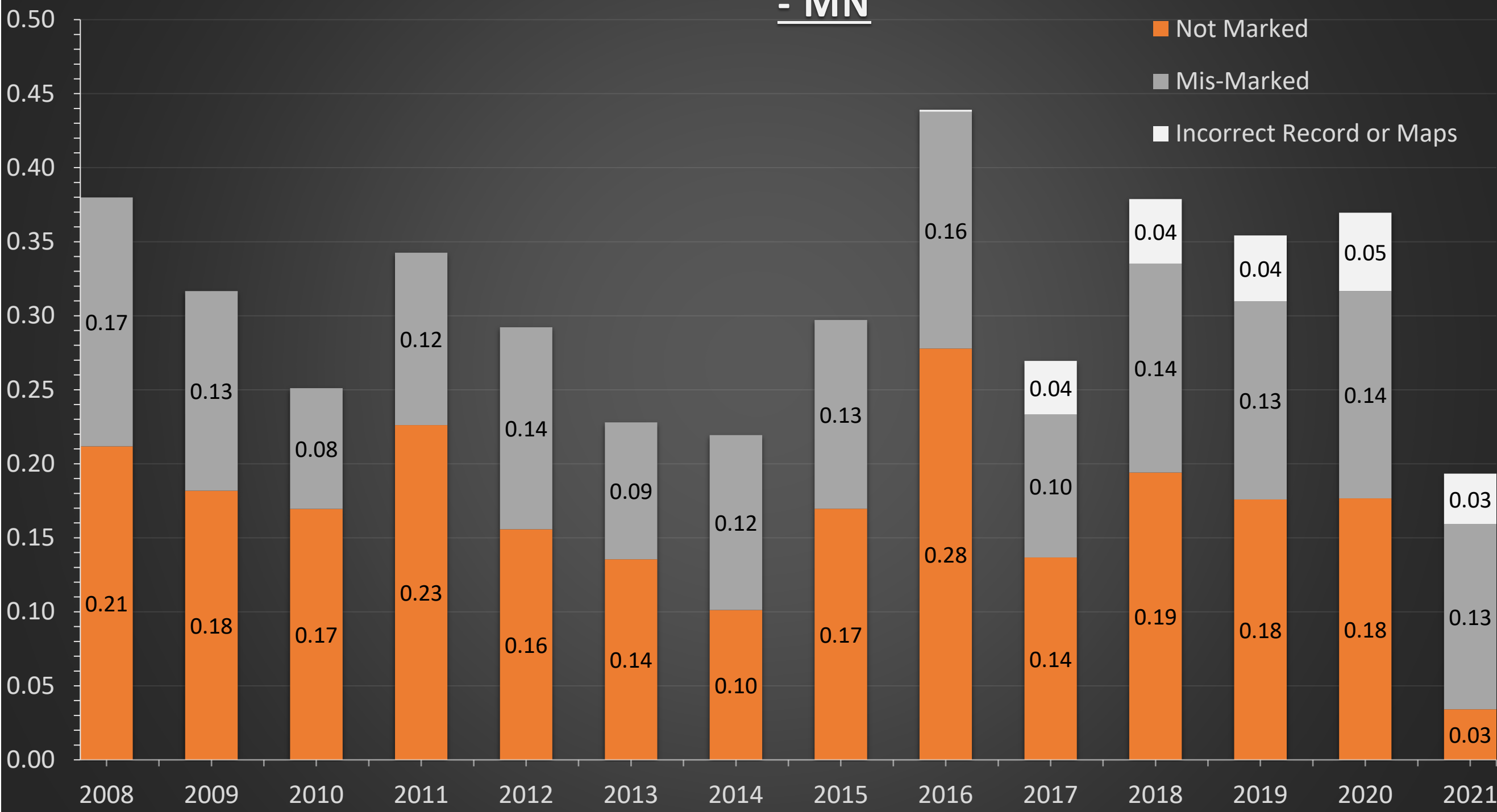


All Utilities Excavation Practices NS - Damages per 1,000

Locates - MN



All Utilities Locating Practices NS - Damages per 1,000 Locates
- MN



All Utilities MS216D Exemptions - Damages per 1,000 Locates - MN

