

# Progress Report on the Wyoming Public Service Commission's Damage Prevention Stakeholder Workshop

September 30, 2008

As part of the State Damage Prevention Program Grant number DTPH56-08-G-PHPS07, the Wyoming Public Service Commission is required to give the U.S Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration an update on the progress of the activities of the grant as required under section 9.01 of the Basic Grant Agreement. This report will address all areas in the Basic Grant Agreement.

**1. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.**

We have been able to work with One-Call of Wyoming to develop good panel presentations for the Workshop and are currently working with other governmental agencies on various levels to help fill other panel positions. We have identified the Keynote Luncheon Speaker and have a verbal commitment from him to speak. We are currently working on the logistics and cost reimbursement and hope to have these finalized by the end of the week.

Our first choice of venues is not available for the date selected, but we have been able to work with other facilities in the Casper area and will have the contract signed in the near future. With this step accomplished, we will start announcing the Workshop the first week of October.

**2. Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.**

The output of the Workshop will be quantified in two ways. The first measure of the output will be the effect on the number of calls received by the One-Call Center for locates by the people attending the meeting, and the second will be the effect on the number of occurrences of third-party damage to underground facilities. The important number is the number of calls for locates as a result of Workshop and not the number of tickets issued by the One-Call Center. The number of tickets per call can vary greatly from one to as high ten tickets per locate, and the true measure of effectiveness is reflected in the number of calls for locates. The ultimate goal is the reduction in not just third-party damage but all external damage to underground facilities. In reviewing many of the occurrences of external damage to underground facilities, we are finding several cases of first-party, the owner of the facility; second-party, a contractor for owner of the facility; as well as third-party damage.

**3. The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met.**

As of the date of the writing of this report we have met our objectives.

**4. Other pertinent information including, when appropriate, actions taken to address the recommendations PHMSA provided in correspondence dated April 4, 2008.**

In the April 4, 2008, correspondence we were asked to address four recommendations within this report. These will be addressed individually.

1. *Solicitation, Section 6.01, Criteria (6) states, "A commitment to quality controls in timing, personnel, and costs for deliverables offered in exchange for the grant." We would like to see more detail on your commitment to this criterion.*

We have been working extensively with One-Call of Wyoming and other stakeholders to set a time and place where additional travel and costs will not be incurred. In the site selection we solicited bids from five separate venues for hosting this event. As explained in emails to Ms. Karina Munoz, we are looking at ways to contain costs to get the biggest bang for the buck, including sharing of vehicles to reduce travel costs. The governor's transportation costs will not be a part of the overall costs, and it is our intention to bring this event in under budget so that we can deliver the best message for the best cost.

2. *We noted the (sic) Wyoming has exemptions on certain facilities. We would like to see more detail clarifying the rationale for this decision.*

The facilities that are exempted from Wyoming's current One-call laws are those totally under the facilities owner's control. There has been some confusion as to what is meant by this exemption, but it has been determined that the land and the facilities must be owned by the same entity, and facility owners still have to call for locates for facilities not under their control.

3. *No provisions in place for positive responses. We would like to see more detail clarifying the rationale for this decision. Are there plans to improve?*

This is one of the subjects we will address in the workshop on ways the system can be improved. Additionally, One-Call of Wyoming has instated an internet tracking mechanism of all locate requests where the person requesting locates can track which entities that have been notified, responded to the locate request and the status of the requests. This is based on the locate ticket number which the locate requestor receives.

4. *If not already in the plan, consider reaching out to other States to get “lessons learned” on putting together such a workshop (best stakeholders to bring to the table, some draft presentations, etc.).*

Both the Commission and One-Call of Wyoming have been reaching out to other states for best practices and lessons learned. Our keynote speaker is Larry Englerth from South Dakota One Call. Larry was selected as the keynote speaker because, like Wyoming, South Dakota is very rural and faces many of the same challenges as Wyoming in establishing an effective Damage Prevention Program. Through NAPSIR and NARUC we have had several discussions with other state pipeline safety program managers about what is working in their states and what is not. One of the things Wyoming has learned from other states is the need to have affordable locator training programs available to industry. One-Call of Wyoming and Casper College have worked together to develop a locator training course through Casper College to train locators to fully understand what is involved in locating of underground facilities. This is a one-week course offered at Casper Community College, which includes actual field hands-on training and was developed through Stakers University.

Overall, the Wyoming Public Service Commission is well on its way to meeting the goals for the Damage Prevention Workshop, and our progress is moving quite well.