**2012 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-12-G-PHPS21

**Project Title:** Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission State Damage Prevention

**Date Submitted:** 02/28/13

**Submitted by:** Stephen E. Allen

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

Under this grant agreement, the IURC will:

* Develop and implement methods for effective communication;
* Foster support and partnership with stakeholders; and
* Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders.

**Workscope**

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Grantee will address the following elements listed in 49 USC §60 134 through the actions it has specified in its Application.

*Element* (1): Participation by operators 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): 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): Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective employee training programs to ensure that operators, the once call center, the enforcing agency, and the excavators have partnered to design and implement training for the employees of operators, excavators, and locators.

**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.**”)

There has been quite a bit of activity and a number of accomplishments to report for this reporting period.

To begin, efforts related to the Indiana Underground Plant Protection law (IC 8-1-26) and the processing of gas related excavation damage cases have continued in earnest. During this reporting period, 1140 excavation damage cases were investigated and sent to the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee for their review and recommendations for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission regarding penalties. During this reporting period 208 cases resulted in training recommendations for excavators and operators. Ten (10) such training programs were conducted during the period. As the Committee is comprised of representatives of all stakeholders including operators, excavators and locators, this work directly supports Elements 1, 2 and 4.

Quality control activities including field audits/inspections of excavation sites in and around central Indiana (Indianapolis area and surrounding counties) where locate requests had been made to determine whether physical locate efforts were completed by the due dates. 242 such sites were visited during the reporting period where gas related pipeline locates were requested. This quality control function provides direct feedback on the effectiveness of the locate request/communications process and addresses Element 1

Twenty (20) educational and communications meetings and events were attended during the reporting period. Regional Damage Prevention Council meetings throughout the state were attended as well as various home and farm shows and expos. These educational and communication driven activities, support Indiana’s work toward addressing Elements 1, 2 and 4.

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

Additional metrics/measures will be provided in the final report for 2012. At this time, no financial information is available as we have not received any invoices from the contracted party. The following metric is provided however.

A key metric or measurement related to the effectiveness of the states damage prevention efforts is in the measurement and tracking of the overall numbers of excavation damages to gas and hazardous liquid pipelines over a period of time. The following table shows that excavation damages in the state have steadily dropped over the past five years. This is especially noteworthy when considering the reductions which occurred in 2012 which was the first year of formal investigative activity and the associated efforts of the Advisory Committee.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Natural Gas and Hazardous Liquids** **Excavation Damages** |
| **2012** | **1483** |
| **2011** | **2299** |
| **2010** | **2213** |
| **2009** | **2220** |
| **2008** | **2662** |
| **2007** | **3330** |

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

There are no issues to report.

**Mid-term Financial Status Report**

The semi-annual financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA and GOTR.

There have been no advances requested, expenses incurred or invoices received related to this grant as of 2/28/2013.

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

Plans for the remainder of the grant year include development of additional metrics associated with the results of the various efforts underway and the expansion of communications of the results of the program. It s also worth noting the Pipeline Safety Division has recently implemented some organizational changes and now have one full-time-equivalent dedicated to the state’s damage prevention efforts. We also have a new information system which should be operational within the next six (6) months. This system will enable additional analyses to be completed which should provide useful and actionable information and insight into damage prevention efforts and results.

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

No actions requested at this time.