**2013 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-13-G-PHPS19

**Project Title:** North Carolina Utilities Commission State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** *4-24-14*

**Submitted by:** *Louis Panzer, North Carolina 811 and John Hall, North Carolina Utilities Commission*

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

**Section 2.03 Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement**

Under this grant agreement, the NCUC will:

Develop and implement methods for effective communication

Foster support and partnership with stakeholders

Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders

Laws and regulations of the damage prevention process

Foster and promote the use of improving technologies

**Article III. Workscope**

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

**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.

**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 7 (Enforcement):** Enforcement of State damage prevention laws and 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.

**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.

**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.**”)

*NC 811 has begun development of a web portal to host the enforcement complaint process (Element 7). The PIPES Plus program is also being modified to be offered as online education (Elements 1, 4 and 8) “on demand” and in response to enforcement training requirements. At this time the NC 811, Gas Distribution and Transmission and communication sections have been completed and are in module form. Electric, Excavation and Locate Processes will be completed by May 15. Once this is complete, the testing portion will be created and tested.*

**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.”)**

*We do not have definable metrics yet. The training modules will be delivered live at (10) PIPES Plus meetings around the state in August and September. The training will also be made “on demand” and we will have statistics once the program begins being accessed.*

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

*Guidance and final approval is needed from our Enforcement Board which has not been officially sat by the Governor’s office yet.*

**Mid-term Financial Status Report**

*Attached*

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

*The plan is to continue the completion of the modules for training and have them approved prior to July 1. The web portal will be activated and in testing mode by August 1 with the goal of turning it on live September 30.*

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

*No actions requested at this time.*