

**2014 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report  
CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH5614GPPS12

**Project Title:** Mississippi Public Service Commission State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** April 30, 2015

**Submitted by:** Rickey Cotton and Ilicia Boaler

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

Under this grant agreement, the MPSC will

- Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders
- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education
- Foster and promote the use of improving technologies

**Workscope**

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

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

**Element 4 (Effective Employee Training):** This has not been addressed in this period.

**Element 5 (Public Education):** MPSC has partnered with Mississippi 811, Atmos Energy, CenterPoint Energy and Comcast Cable to support 7,101 on air cable ads and 390,000 xfinity.com and foxnews.com ads promoting the “Call Before You Dig” message during 2014 - 2015. This message is expected to be seen by over 216,000 households in Mississippi.

During this campaign, 2 new member utilities have been added to Mississippi 811 and during the period of January 1 – April 30, 2015, call volume has increased 1.9%.

**Element 8 (Technology):** By providing hands on training and promoting the D.I.R.T. tool, we are collecting data in a consistent manner to identify the areas of weakness in our existing program, and will then share it with the MDPC Board for analysis with an emphasis on identifying root causes of damages and other useful trends.

Mississippi 811 had a D.I.R.T. form that could be completed on their website, but it was not compatible with the CGA on line D.I.R.T. report. That had to be changed and a link directly to Mississippi's D.I.R.T. form on the CGA website was added, but still allowed Miss 811 to access the information. Then hand-outs were developed to provide education on the D.I.R.T. report and promote entry of the information. Meetings were held with the 3 major gas distribution companies to encourage data to be entered through Mississippi's virtual D.I.R.T. One company is currently entering data through Mississippi's D.I.R.T. and efforts are being made by the other 2 companies. The initial effort centered on gas utilities, but it has been expanded to include water and electric utilities.

In March 2015, a booth was set up at the Mississippi Rural Water Annual Meeting and two breakout sessions allowed for explaining the benefits of participation. 25 packages were given to participants at the booth who specified that they would be the person to enter damage data.

10 companies have registered to start entering damage data and others have made verbal commitments.

**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.")**

It cannot be measured at this time.

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

There are no issues, problems or challenge to report.

#### **Mid-term Financial Status Report**

The mid-term financial report has been sent to the AA and the AOR as a separate attachment.

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

The Call Before You Dig advertising schedule will continue for the remainder of the grant period. Meetings will be held with various utilities providing education on and promoting the use of the D.I.R.T. report and once additional funds are released, Element 4 will be addressed. We expect all aspects to be completed by the end of the grant period.

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

No actions requested at this time.

{Follow form instructions}

Standard Form 425  
OMB Approval Number: 0348-0061  
Expiration Date: 10/31/2011

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0348-0061. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0060), Washington, DC 20503.

# Mississippi Public Service Commission



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**JOEL BENNETT, DIR.**  
FINANCE & PERSONNEL  
**RICKEY L. COTTON, DIR.**  
GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

April 30, 2015

Ms Janella Davis  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
Office of Acquisition Services, PHA-30  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, E22-306  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: 2014 Damage Prevention Grant mid-term report

Dear Ms Davis:

The cost breakdown for the 2014 Damage Prevention Grant is as follows:

Contractual Services: \$36,000

Copies of all invoices are included.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rickey Cotton", is written over a horizontal line.

Rickey Cotton, Director  
Pipeline Safety



February 17, 2015

Ilicia Boaler  
Mississippi Public Service Commission  
Pipeline Safety Division  
Jackson, MS

For contract services to provide a statewide effort of encouraging all utility members of Mississippi 811, Inc. to use the Common Ground Alliance Damage Information Reporting Tool (D.I.R.T.) for the period of January 1, 2015 through September 21, 2015.

Total Grant Amt. \$54,000.00  
Please remit: \$21,000.00  
Balance: \$33,000.00

Thank you,

Fred D. Johnson, Operations Mgr.  
Mississippi 811, Inc.

5258 Cedar Park Drive, Suite H  
Jackson, MS 39206

**Invoice #**

151065

Bill To

Mississippi Public Service Commission  
P O box 1174  
Jackson, MS 1174



P.O. No.	Account #	Terms

Description	Qty	Amount
2015 Comcast Spotlight Sponsorship		15,000.00

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[www.ms811.org](http://www.ms811.org)

Tax ID: 64-0686358			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Fax #</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Payments/Credits</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
601-362-4322	601-366-7666	office@ms811.org	<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>