

**2011 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report**  
**Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-11-SN-0001**  
**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-11-PHPS22

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

**Date Submitted:** 04/30/2012

**Submitted by:** William Boyd

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

- Development and implementation of methods for effective communication
- Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
- Support a Damage prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders
- Resolving disputes to define State authority's role; and
- Laws and Regulations of the damage prevention process

**Workscope**

*Element (1):* 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):* 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 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 (6):* A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues.

*Element (7):* 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."

**Accomplishments for the grant period (Item 1 under Agreement Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: "A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.")**

Field audits/inspections of sites in the Indianapolis area and surrounding counties, where excavation is planned and a request for underground facility locations has been submitted, has progressed according to the contract between the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and Indiana 811. In addition, Common Ground Alliance Regional Damage Prevention Councils have been created in central and northern Indiana and participation continues in the

Ohio/Kentucky/Indiana regional council in the Cincinnati area. These activities support Indiana's work toward Elements 1 and 2.

Work to comply with the Indiana Underground Plant Protection law, IC 8-1-26, has progressed significantly during the grant period. The law, revised and revisions signed into law in July, 2009, calls for the creation of a Governor's Advisory Committee to review reports of excavation damage to gas and hazardous liquid pipelines and make recommendations for civil penalties under the law. A basic database has been developed in-house to store and track damage reports. A training program has been developed and the third party company that completed this effort, Utility Consulting Professionals, will also conduct this training, all with the approval of the Advisory Committee, which is now meeting regularly to conduct business. As the Advisory Committee is made up of seven individuals representing all stakeholders, including two excavators, this helps fulfill development of training programs with the input and support of all stakeholders. These activities support Elements 4, 6, and 7.

**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.")**

Field audits from mid-October, 2011 through April 3, 2011 total 366, of which 214, or 58%, involved gas pipelines, nearly all of which are owned by LDC's. Cost per visit over the entire grant period equals approximately \$98.04, including vehicular maintenance and operating expenses, and wages. A surprising number of the audits reveal that not all facility owners left markings as requested. It has been determined that the majority of facilities not marked as requested are water and/or sewer lines. The employee who conducts the field audits has indicated that mandatory positive responses from facility owners would be very beneficial to improve communication and reduce damages.

The Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly for some time, having developed procedures and a penalty matrix for violators of Indiana Code 8-1-26. To date, no training, as a possible penalty under the law, has been assigned to any violators.

**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.

**Final Financial Status Report**

The final financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA.

To date, \$50,000 of the awarded \$100,000 has been received by the IURC. Disbursements in the amounts of \$77,223.05 to Indiana 811 and \$20,000 to Utility Consulting Professionals have been made. The payment to Utility Consulting Professionals is allowable as a funds re-allocation request was approved in January, 2012.

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

No actions requested at this time.