

OUDPC Accountability for Third Party Locators Subcommittee

Report to OUDPC

April 30, 2019

- Topics discussed included:
 - Looking at owner / locator contracts, at-fault ratios, key performance indicators, other states' procedures
 - Public Utilities Commission indicated they are seeing a drop in damage trends
 - There was a discussion as to whether the utility company should be accountable for the actions of its third party locator, comparing it to a contractor/subcontractor relationship
 - If a gas company hires a contractor to bury lines – the facility owner is held responsible for that work
 - General Contractor is responsible for sub contractors' work, safety, and the like.
- Conclusions:
 - Enforcement legislation currently in place is working – the UTC is seeing an improvement in communications, an increase in those being trained, and an improvement in the requested process improvement plans.
 - PHMSA will probably not like this change in legislation
 - Passing legislation should be solving a problem.
 - Committee members decided not to pursue new language