

OUDDPC 48 Hour Waiting Period Discussion Group
Conference Call 4/18/19

Call Participants: Johnny Henson, Steve Schafer, Russ Coppock, Mitch Croy, Joe Minelli, Roger Lipscomb, Jeff Kursman, and Alice Miller

Following the flow of prior 48 Hour Waiting period discussion group meetings, there was consensus amongst participants that adjusting current Ohio Revised Code language, and thereby providing utilities with “two full working days to locate their facilities after the date of call or ticket entry,” would allow for better scheduling, enhanced locating and positive response completion, and safer excavations. With current call and I-Dig volumes, the number of dig tickets and notifications continues to reach new record levels, and a potential change may alleviate some of the congestion in the timely scheduling of utility locating. Earlier notifications would minimize project delays to excavators.

The team reviewed the history leading to current Ohio Revised Code language. Due to the current 48-hours for locating/positive response commencing immediately upon completion of the OHIO811 CSR / excavator ticket call or I-dig submission, locators may lose significant time in the scheduling process.

Previously considered language forwarded by Alice Miller, following this conference call, for group discussion:

3781.28 (Effective 3/27/2013) Excavator notifying protection service or pipeline owner

(A) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this section, **at least forty-eight hours two working days, excluding the day the notice is given**, but not more than ten working days before commencing excavation, the excavator shall notify **a the** protection service of the location of the excavation site and the date on which excavation is planned to commence.

(B) On receipt of notice under division (A) of this section, the protection service shall provide to each utility with underground utility facilities located at the excavation site, notice of the proposed excavation.

(C) In the case of an interstate hazardous liquids pipeline or interstate gas pipeline, the excavator shall comply with the special notice requirements of the public safety program of the owner of the pipeline as indicated in the plans or otherwise provided to the excavator in accordance with division (E) or (F)(2) of section 3781.27 of the Revised Code.

(D) If it has been determined pursuant to division (D) of section 3781.27 of the Revised Code that relocation, support, removal, or protective steps are necessary, the excavator shall provide earlier notice to the utility in order to provide the utility with reasonable time to coordinate making the adjustments with actual excavation.

(E) If an excavation will cover a large area and will progress from one area to the next over a period of time, the excavator shall provide written notice of excavation with projected timelines for segments of the excavation as the excavation progresses in order to coordinate the marking of underground utility facilities with actual excavation schedules. Under such circumstances, the utility and excavator shall determine a mutually agreed upon marking schedule based on the project schedule. Once such a schedule is established, the marking and notification requirements set forth in division (A)(1) of section 3781.29 of the Revised Code shall not apply.