

OUDDPC 48-Hour Waiting Period Discussion Group

Conference Call 7/31/19

Call Participants: Johnnie Henson, Steve Schafer, Mitch Croy, Mark Ritter, Jeff Kursman, and Alice Miller

Participants on the 48-Hour Waiting Period Discussion Group reviewed the draft adjustments to current Ohio Revised Code language, providing utilities with “two full working days to locate their facilities after the date of call or ticket entry.” As a follow-up to the prior meeting, the discussion group also reviewed and approved the “Ohio Excavation Stakeholders Planning Period Fact Sheet” for use and potential distribution by discussion group members and OHIO811 liaisons.

There was a brief discussion around the use of a standardized 12:01AM as the required completion time for location and positive response versus 6:00AM, 7:00AM or 8:00AM. It was agreed that 12:01AM has already been in use for tickets called in during weekends and holidays, and would allow excavators to establish consistent project morning start times. It is also appropriate given that excavation projects may occur during the overnight hours.

Participants recommended that a meeting be arranged with OCA representatives to address concerns with the objective of moving the discussion forward, and a couple members of the OUDPC 48 Hour. Steve Schafer and Johnny Henson offered to participate as utility and locating representatives respectively, and potentially Mary So representing contractors. The group would prefer to schedule this meeting prior to the all OUDPC September 4th meeting. Alice will follow-up with this initiative.

Next Meeting: TBD

For: Review/Consideration by the 48 Hour Discussion Group
July 29, 2019

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.

OHIO EXCAVATION STAKEHOLDERS PLANNING PERIOD FACT SHEET

Under section 3781.29 of Ohio Revised Code, each utility shall, within forty-eight hours of receiving notice (excluding weekends and legal holidays), review the status of its facilities within the excavation site, locate and mark its underground utility facilities at the excavation site in such a manner as to indicate their course, and report appropriate information to the protection service for its positive response system.

In current practice, utilities and their locators receive notification immediately upon generation of an OHIO811 ticket. However, due to an increase in tickets with a larger geographic scope, and growing ticket volume in general, utility locator resources are often already fully scheduled on the day of notification and many times are left with a single day to respond to notifications.

The Ohio Underground Damage Prevention Coalition’s 48-Hour Waiting Period Discussion Group, comprising excavators, utilities and contract locators, has been evaluating the potential impact of **changing the language** from the current “forty-eight hours” waiting period (excluding weekends and legal holidays,) to **two working days excluding the day the notice is given (excluding weekends and legal holidays)**.

Benefits to this potential change in language, as considered by the discussion group membership, may include:

- **Alleviating congestion** in the scheduling of locates;
- **Enhancing locating** and positive response completion;
- Allowing excavators to establish **consistent project morning start times**;
- **Minimizing project delays** to excavators; and,
- **Promoting safer excavations**.

Date/Time of Ticket Generation and Utility Notification	Current “48-Hour” Waiting Period Utilities to complete positive response, locating and marking facilities by:	“Two Working Days, Not Including the Day of Notification” Utilities to complete positive response, locating and marking facilities by:
Mon., 7:00AM	Wednesday at 7:00AM	Thursday at 12:01AM
Tue., 1:00PM	Thursday at 1:00PM	Friday at 12:01AM
Thu, 11:00AM	Monday at 11:00AM	Tuesday at 12:01AM
Fri., 9:00AM <i>3-Day Holiday</i>	Wednesday at 9:00AM	Thursday at 12:01AM
Sat., 10:00AM <i>Standard Weekend</i>	Wednesday at 12:01AM	Wednesday at 12:01AM
Sat., 10:00AM <i>Holiday Weekend</i>	Thursday at 12:01AM	Thursday at 12:01AM