

OU DPC Abandoned Facilities Discussion Group

Conference Call 8/13/19

1:00 – 2:00pm

Call Participants:

Lori Wade, Jonathan Culbreath, Kyle McCloud, Scott Lucas, Mary So, Clayton Heinz, Kevin Schimming, Christopher Langford, Ryan Perkins, Joe Igel, Jeff Kursman, Gilan Enam, and Alice Miller

Notes:

The Abandoned Facilities Discussion Group call focused primarily on existing abandonment processes and the potential identification of best practices. What is the proper treatment of an “abandoned line?” What action should a contractor take when no one claims ownership of an abandoned facility? If a utility owner states that a facility is abandoned and a property owner requests its removal, “the excavator is taking the risk and responsibility.

Who makes the call? The municipality? The property owner? If there is a potential conflict, you can’t ask the former utility to safely remove the facility if the owner is unknown or out of business. There are also environmental risks associated with PCBs and asbestos coatings that shouldn’t fall on the contractor.

It has been a challenge to identify third party resources that will provide hands-on training in step-by-step safe abandoned facility removal for contractors. Most existing training is focused exclusively on theory rather than practice. Utilities may be willing to share processes anonymously, but understandable wish any potential responsibility or liability issues that could arise from sharing their respective abandonment processes.

Has CGA made any headway on abandoned lines best practices or are they willing to revisit the issue? Alice is going to check with CGA.

Next Steps:

Group members are asked to forward questions for an anonymous survey of utility members to Alice. Mary So can send an email to excavators.

Alice will send proposed survey questions to the committee By August 23rd for review and approval.

Alice will work with the center to develop an anonymous survey monkey that can be sent to OHIO811 utility members after seeking Roger Lipscomb’s approval.

Next Abandoned Lines Discussion Group Meeting:

October 22nd at 10:00 A.M.