

OUDDPC Abandoned Lines Discussion Group

Conference Call 2/5/18

10:00 – 11:00am

Call Participants: Clayton Heinz, Kevin Schimming, Lori Wade, Joe Igel, Jeff Kursman, and Alice Miller

Joe Igel opened the call, outlining his role and the purpose of the OUDPC discussion groups as opportunities to jumpstart dialogue in support of potential future legislative issues. He encouraged participants “not to hold anything back” and to engage and share their experiences in the field, their thoughts, and their positions in a constructive way.

Alice Miller explained that the discussion groups are intentionally less structured and encouraged participants to share information via calls and emails.

Kevin Schimming spoke to abandoned lines being the most common root cause of City of Columbus facility damage – 35%-40% of damages over the last three years.

Abandoned line damage can be self-inflicted as there are often limited historical records transcribed into GIS and Mapping. OUDPC has previously discussed better record-keeping moving forward. Legacy tracking would prove challenging, costly, and, in some cases, impossible.

Lori Wade spends a significant amount of time, 2-4 calls-a-day with contractors discussing abandoned lines. Columbia Gas has worked to include lines abandoned during the past 6-7 years in their mapping database. Columbia encourages treating every line as live. They examined using pipe splitters, but tabled the discussion because the practice was determined to endanger other utilities.

Kevin and Lori discussed the definition of abandoned lines, and the relinquishment of rights when lines are abandoned. Lori shared examples of cases where other utilities have run their lines through Columbia’s abandoned lines.

Clayton Heinz of Kokosing shared the frustration of contractors when encountering and working around abandoned facilities and the challenges of trying to identify former owners.

Kevin, Clayton and Lori discussed the need to document the impact of abandoned lines, the frequency of encounters, lost time and monetary costs associated with this issue. Clayton will seek to bring other contractors to the table. Lori will also try to gather information and data for her engineering team and how other utilities manage the issue.

Team discussed next steps and delivering a product: working together, utilities, locators and contractors, to identify top 3-5 concerns/priorities, to develop training opportunities, and share adopted processes and best practices for identifying abandoned lines and safely working around (or removing) them.

Alice encouraged folks to continue discussions, collect perspectives and share best practices.

Discussion group representative to the OUDPC was not yet identified.

Group will initially meet every two weeks.

Next call: Thursday, February 21st at 2:00pm

Submitted By: Jeff Kursman 2/5/2019