

Exemptions Subcommittee
Conference Call
2/11/2019

Participants: Dave Berens, Lawrence Hamilton, Scott Lucas, Regan Noble, Darren Owens, Mark Ritter, Stephen Schafer, Les Schell, Al Tonetti, Roger Lipscomb, Jeff Kursman, Alice Miller

Call participants discussed the advantages of rewording exemptions language found in the ORC. By removing the name of an entity that may be exempt and focusing on the activity that may be exempt Ohio will become eligible to apply for the PHMSA Damage Prevention Program Grant.

Roger Lipscomb noted that one use for the PHMSA DPP money may be to offset the fees incurred by municipalities to support enforcement in Ohio. Lawrence, PUCO, stated that the registration fee will be applicable in 2019.

Participants discussed varying opinions about exemptions and the “less than 12”” and “right of way” verbiage. Roger noted that many municipalities, although the excavation activity planned is exempt, do call before they dig.

The previously created exemptions list (2017) will be provided to Alice and she will circulate to subcommittee members. Alice will also survey municipalities (AMP), the Ohio Township Association, ODOT, and telecoms (Frontier, AT&T, and Verizon) in order to find out 1) do they track their damages, and 2) if so, what number of damages occurred while performing the excavation activities identified (on the previously referred list within the public right-of-way)?

Submitted By: Alice Miller