**January 11th, 2024 Town Hall**

**How Can We Address Safety Concerns and Job Delays Related to Abandoned Lines?**

[Yesterday 10:35 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

abandoned lines still get located accidently because of their depths

[Yesterday 10:37 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

a recurring issue that affects our Lake County IL public roadway improvement projects...one ongoing as we discuss with an abandoned electrical conduit

[Yesterday 10:37 AM] Bryant, Tracey

Q:  If excavator confirms abandoned line, is it usually removed from the site / torn out as part of their work?

[Yesterday 10:40 AM] Preston Hannah

There is the 2 man sweep locating process that you can use to help identify conductive abandoned lines as well, which is where SUE can come in handy

[Yesterday 10:41 AM] Doug Beck

How about requiring the use of RodRadar Buckets while digging?

[Yesterday 10:42 AM] Diana Bowers

We utilize GPR scans and still miss unknown underground utilities (typically abandoned)

[Yesterday 10:43 AM] Preston Hannah

GPR is also affect by soil type as well, is my understanding.

[Yesterday 10:44 AM] Mitchell Argall

Being a SUE Mgr the use of GPR to scan for utilities does not work in all aspects and is based on ground conditions of rock and other soil make-ups. But is a good tool to use with EM locating (QL-B) and other methods when designing projects along with QL-A

[Yesterday 10:44 AM] Kemp Garcia

When pipes are empty.  There is a chance to not see the empty utility

[Yesterday 10:44 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

In California, Chevron requires what I call "The Big 3" utility locating technologies currently available on the market to be used on their sites: EM, GPR and the SENSIT Acoustic Pipe Locator (APL.) On the jobsite, a 2-person sweep with a Pipehorn on 480 kHz in conjunction with GPR and APL is the best total approach. Since EM can only find metallic lines, GPR can only see certain lines in certain site conditions and APL can see things GPR cannot. I have created case studies and have used SENSIT APL globally for years. There is no perfect technology, but these 3 used together allow the best option to find abandoned lines using proven technologies.

[Yesterday 10:45 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

our County agency has adopted the practice of voluntarily gathering Level B SUE as part of our Phase I/II design consultant contracts to try and minimize these utility delays

[Yesterday 10:46 AM] Preston Hannah

Colorado, as I understand, also is requiring SUE to be done prior to excavation actually beginning.

[Yesterday 10:46 AM] Lee, Manking

How many states require mapping of abandoned facilities by statute?

[Yesterday 10:46 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

keeping abandoned lines on the records is a good thing!

[Yesterday 10:47 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

not yet in Illinois

[Yesterday 10:47 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Good question Manking!

[Yesterday 10:47 AM] FRANK PLANTON (Guest)

OREGON REQUIRES MAPPING RECORDS BE MAINTAINED...AND MARK FACILITIES AS ABANDON OR OUT OF USE

[Yesterday 10:49 AM] Doug Beck

With the amount of needs for water inland why not reuse the abandoned pipelines for pumping desalination water to drought areas and for construction, firefighting, and other needs that our current drinking water is being used for? If you hit a pipe the issues can be fixed and mapped accordingly

[Yesterday 10:49 AM] Greg Jeffries

State statutes should be written or revised to make the owner of the abandoned facility responsible for the facility in perpetuity, including any damages or delays resulting from failure to mark and designate it properly.

[Yesterday 10:49 AM] Mario Luna

Are those that are identified then assigned a responsible party going forward?

[Yesterday 10:50 AM] Bryant, Tracey

Q:   Is the utility notified when their known abandoned utility is ripped out of the ground as part of excavation job there?

[Yesterday 10:50 AM] Mitchell Argall

Unfortunately, when I was a locate tech in Illinois I have seen records where RIP phone lines were removed from mapping tools and making decision making process harder when in field with contractors. And they started removing access to the records that had that data.

[Yesterday 10:50 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

does the unknown line process require the utility operator to remove the abandoned line in conflict...our experience has been that private excavating contractors are unwilling to remove privately owned utility lines

[Yesterday 10:51 AM] stephanie (Guest)

we found a gas line with our hydrovac.... called it in.... it was abandoned, but the 2" tap and transition fitting was live for 6'   not abandoned.

[Yesterday 10:52 AM] Lee, Manking

Bryant, Tracey I try as a utility rep to catch utility conflicts during the utility coordination process. I am lucky my agency has "mapped" abandoned facilities. However, figuring out if the pipe still contain water can be a pandoras box.

[Yesterday 10:53 AM] Doug Beck

When is new technology coming out, Backscatter x-ray or other technologies need to be explored

[Yesterday 10:53 AM] Mario Luna

Have we considered raising the standard of record keeping of UG utilities. Ex. XYZ, active vs abandoned

[Yesterday 10:54 AM] Levi Mills

Speaking of locator appreciation (or sometimes lack thereof), LSAW is coming up in April! <https://excavationsafetyalliance.com/lsaw-home>

Locator Safety & Appreciation Week

Locator Safety & Appreciation Week (LSAW) celebrates the essential and too often underappreciated work of utility locate technicians. LSAW takes place the last full week of April.

[Yesterday 10:54 AM] Mario Luna

Seems the root issue is documentation, especially accuracy.

[Yesterday 10:54 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

quality of utility atlas records is a big topic for our JULIE OneCall system here in IL...currently, there are no Statewide minimum standards that I'm aware of

[Yesterday 10:54 AM] stephanie (Guest)

I still don’t understand why GPS is not being used to accurately mark unlocatable, abandoned and mis marked.  Our new developments all are gps.

[Yesterday 10:54 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Good point Stephanie!

[Yesterday 10:57 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

Abandoned lines may carry fiber optic cables... Leased space used as a conduit.

[Yesterday 10:57 AM] Brandon T (Guest)

A "new it old out (consolidated) " policy has a lot of potential.

[Yesterday 10:58 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

There may be product still present in the line causing a release as well.

[Yesterday 10:58 AM] Brandon T (Guest)

\*"new in old out"

[Yesterday 10:59 AM] Mario Luna

As a contractor we started delivering XYZ UG facilities to some telecom owners and inputting into their GIS

[Yesterday 10:59 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

Kurt...does that requirement extend to the as-constructed records of unmarked lines encountered during construction?

[Yesterday 10:59 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

**Unknown User(Guest)**i still don’t understand why GPS is not being used to accurately mark unlocatable, abandoned and mis marked. Our new developments all are gps.

Great idea! Who owns that process and where is the data housed and how is it then accessed later?

[Yesterday 11:00 AM] Mitchell Argall

We XYZ trans mains for some clients as they are installed and are not to be backfilled till our surveyors are completed with their work.

[Yesterday 11:00 AM] Mario Luna

We are also working on gathering this information through locate attrition updating the GIS as locates come in

[Yesterday 11:01 AM] stephanie (Guest)

Adam, sometimes the municipality will take over possession of our gps construction records.

[Yesterday 11:01 AM] Preston Hannah

I know both RadioDetection & Vivax Metrotech have equipment that can save the location & information provided by the receiver as the locate happens in real time.

[Yesterday 11:01 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

**Doug Beck** When is new technology coming out, Backscatter xray or other technologies need to be explored

EM, GPR and SENSIT APL are already being deployed. Xray has site restrictions while these 3 do not.

[Yesterday 11:01 AM] LeSage, Fred

Abandoned lines can be like decoys.  An excavator potholing for a live line finds the abandoned facility, assumes they've found the live line then hit the real one while avoiding the abandoned one.

[Yesterday 11:02 AM] stephanie (Guest)

facility operators provide contractors records?  would love to see that on a locate.

[Yesterday 11:02 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

sharing maps COULD be a good thing.

[Yesterday 11:19 AM] Mario Luna

What can we do to raise the standard of UG asset documentation across the state/nation for utility owners?

[Yesterday 11:20 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

Our Lake County Code of Ordinances (90.102K) specify that the utility owner is responsible for abandoned lines within the public right of way <https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/lakecountyil/latest/lakecounty_il/0-0-0-4545>

CHAPTER 90: HIGHWAY ACCESS AND USE

Legal publisher offering ordinance codification services for local governments, specializing in providing codes of ordinances in print and on the Internet

[Yesterday 11:20 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

**Mario Luna (Guest)**What can we do to raise the standard of UG asset documentation across the state/nation for utility owners?

That would be changing the state one-call law to require the specific change(s)

[Yesterday 11:21 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Great job panelists and those of you asking awesome questions in the chat group!! 

[Yesterday 11:21 AM] Mark Edwards

Regarding documentation, are projects not generally following the published ASCE guidelines that were updated sometime in the last two years? It seems to me information communication guidelines could be applied to abandoned lines as well.

[Yesterday 11:25 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

CA requires all new installations to be mapped and input into a GIS database since 2017.

[Yesterday 11:25 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

per CGC4216

[Yesterday 11:26 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

Sandy...could you share a link to your Arizona unknown lines program for other agencies to consider as model language for adoption in other jurisdictions?

[Yesterday 11:28 AM] Kiger, William G.

Had a Muni come out and tell the contractor that they need to sign an agreement and the abandoned Steam Line would be theirs would be able to remove the asbestos covered line ( at their expense of course)

[Yesterday 11:28 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

centralizing of accurate utility line data like the SUE being done by designers

[Yesterday 11:29 AM] LeSage, Fred

You hit it on the nose.  The biggest problem is that facility owners are allowed to put stuff underground and not know where they left it.

[Yesterday 11:30 AM] Mario Luna

My team and I are willing to collaborate
We specialize in GIS Data.
Feel free to reach out so we can move this industry forward.

[Yesterday 11:30 AM] Kiger, William G.

You are talking about lines that in the East may have been installed in the 1800's.  811 Centers are at the hub of this and should logically be the Repository.

[Yesterday 11:30 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

There should be a "handover" procedure for shutting down lines prior to abandoned and put into a national database.

[Yesterday 11:31 AM] Adam Zeciri (Guest)

including co-ordinates at min

[Yesterday 11:31 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

159 at one point

[Yesterday 11:31 AM] Vandame, Willard

How about a web site chat group ?

You are invited to complete January 11 ESA Town Hall Survey.[Yesterday 11:32 AM] Mario Luna

The move from 2D to GIS is not new but the data behind it is old. This is a widespread issue.

[Yesterday 12:38 PM] Dennis Jarnecke

<https://geospatial.blogs.com/geospatial/2021/01/inertial-locating-to-accurately-map-live-underground-gas-distribution-lines-is-a-game-changer.html>

Inertial locating to accurately map LIVE underground gas distribution utilities is a game changer

Inertial locating is an innovative technology that is used to accurately map underground pipe networks. But to date the technology has required non-pressurized pipes. Now a PHMSA-sponsored project ...

[Yesterday 12:40 PM] Dennis Jarnecke

Technology to map existing underground utilities exists today (accurate x y z location).  This makes a lot of sense, especially in advance of road construction projects.  I also agree with others that this information needs to be placed in a database for future reference by all.