

## GRANT AGREEMENT DTPH56-14-G-PHPS09

### 2014 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report CFDA Number: 20.720

**Award Number:** DTPH56-14-GPPS09  
**Project Title:** Michigan Public Service Commission State Damage Prevention Grant  
**Date Submitted:** December 18, 2015  
**Submitted by:** David Chislea, Principal Investigator

#### Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

- The development and implementation of effective employee training programs
- Foster and promote the use of improving technologies

#### Workscope

- **Element 4 (Effective Employee Training):** Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective employee training programs to ensure that operators, the one call center, the enforcing agency, and the excavators have partnered to design and implement training for the employees of operators, excavators, and locators.
- **Element 8 (Technology):** A process for fostering and promoting the use, by all appropriate stakeholders, of improving technologies that may enhance communications, underground pipeline locating capability, and gathering and analyzing information about the accuracy and effectiveness of locating programs.

**Accomplishments for the grant period (Item 1 under Agreement Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.”)**

#### Project Abstract/Statement of Objectives

The grant funded the development and implementation of effective training programs. MISS DIG provided support for the continuation of safe digging practices for the Damage Prevention Associations (DPA) in the State of Michigan through on-site and web-based training, as well as provided training for the newly enacted Act 174 of 2013 (PA 174). Training and education efforts targeted relevant industries, facility owners and operators, excavators, and homeowners. Training sessions were held in conjunction with DPA events, on-site with excavators, and designers through the MISS DIG tool box talks, at industry group events and through the use of the recently released training modules available on the MISS DIG website.

The MPSC entered into a contractual/grant agreement with MISS DIG System, Inc. who accepted the role and performed the duties of developing and implementing effective employee training programs. The work completed by MISS DIG System, Inc. is set forth under Element 4.

The MPSC intended to enter into a contractual agreement to perform the database upgrade set forth in Element 8. The bid received by the potential vendor was cost prohibitive.

**Element 4 – Effective Employee Training**

*Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective employee training programs to ensure that operators, the one call center, the enforcing agency, and the excavators have partnered to design and implement training for the employees of operators, excavators, and locators.*

**Objective:**

This funding will provide Excavator's Seminars and other DPA efforts at educating stakeholders; including the hosting of the Excavator's Seminar to enable continued education of safe digging practices in existing and additional areas of the State of Michigan. The educational messages of focus included the requirements under PA 174, the importance of placing a locate request and the importance of properly marking underground facilities.

The objectives were completed as follows:

1. Following last year's restructuring of the Damage Prevention Associations (DPA) and the addition of new local DPAs, the MISS DIG Damage Prevention Liaisons hosted quarterly workshops at each DPA to provide all Associations with the same information and increase clarity on safe digging practices throughout the State. Grant funds were used to assist in the hosting of 90 events, including workshops and monthly local DPA meetings.
2. MISS DIG held or presented at 90 events, reaching a total of 3,869 attendees. This number excludes the thousands of homeowners who visited the MISS DIG booth at The Ticket Opening Day Block Party event at Grand Circus Park in Detroit. The events allowed MISS DIG to educate facility owners, home owners and excavators. Eleven of the 90 events were trade shows or workshops hosted by other parties; which accounted for 712 attendees of the total 3,689 individuals MISS DIG educated.
3. The goal was to conduct 30 training events around the state; however, by utilizing the attendees' locations to host events, MISS DIG was able to provide training and outreach at an additional 60 events for a total of 90 events.

**Element 8 – Technology**

*A process for fostering and promoting the use, by all appropriate stakeholders, of improving technologies that may enhance communications, underground pipeline locating capability, and gathering and analyzing information about the accuracy and effectiveness of locating programs.*

**Objective:**

This funding will provide modifications to the MPSC's safety database to accommodate the data collection and enforcement of PA 174.

The objectives were completed as follows:

The bid received from a potential vendor for database upgrades to accommodate damage data was determined to be cost prohibitive. MPSC is currently researching options that will meet the database needs for the Damage Prevention Program.

**Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.”)**

The goal was to conduct 30 events; MISS DIG participated in 90 events; a 300% increase in the anticipated goal. Through these events approximately 3869 operators, excavators, and other stakeholders; a 1.1% increase in the number of operators, excavators, and other stakeholders reached in 2013 (3,515).

**Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met.”)**

The bid received from a potential vendor for database upgrades to accommodate damage data was determined to be cost prohibitive. The funds allocated for Element 8 (Technology) were not spent.

**Final Financial Status Report**

A total of \$28,635.99 of the \$55,000 grant award was spent during the term of the grant, leaving an unspent balance of \$26,346.01.

The following documents supporting the grant expenditures are attached:

- SF 425
- MPSC Cost Breakdown
- Financial Status Report and/or Payment Request

**Requests of the AOR and/or PHMSA**

No actions requested at this time.