

2015 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH5615GPPS13

Project Title: Missouri Public Service Commission State Damage Prevention Grant

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Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the MO PSC will engage each aspect of the excavating and utility industries to prevent avoidable accidents and damages to underground utility infrastructure and protect the public health and welfare of those working and living near buried utility facilities.

Workscope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Recipient will address the following elements listed in the approved application as stated in 49 U.S.C. §60134 (b).

§ **Element 1 (Effective Communications):** Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of methods for establishing and maintaining effective communications between stakeholders from receipt of an excavation notification until successful completion of the excavation, as appropriate.

§ **Element 2 (Comprehensive Stakeholder Support):** A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders, including excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government in all phases of the program.

§ **Element 3 (Operator Internal Performance Measurement):** A process for reviewing the adequacy of a pipeline operator's internal performance measures regarding persons performing locating services and quality assurance programs.

§ **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 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.

§ **Element 6 (Dispute Resolution):** A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues.

§ **Element 7 (Enforcement):** Enforcement of State damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate State authority.

§ **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.

§ **Element 9 (Damage Prevention Program Review):** A process for review and analysis of the effectiveness of each program element, including a means for implementing improvements identified by such program reviews.

The MO PSC retained final approval and overall financial oversight for all of the expenditures of the Summit. Expenditures were also reviewed/approved by

a committee established to administer the Summit's business affairs. All SDP Grant funding provided was utilized solely for the administration of the Summit. All non-allowable expenses or indirect costs were paid through a separate fund designated specifically for those purposes and administered by the committee.

The MO PSC and an additional member of the committee maintained records for the purposes of verification of expenditures and their relevance to the Damage Prevention Program.

Accomplishments for this period (Item 1 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: "A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.")

The MOPSC, in a collaborative effort with the Missouri One Call System, Missouri Common Ground Alliance, and additional stakeholders, requested this grant funding for the purposes of conducting a two-day Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety Summit (Summit) in December 2015. This objective was accomplished/completed by conducting the Summit December 9 and 10, 2015, as planned. The number of attendees has grown each year with over 1,500 attendees at the 2015 Summit.

The Summit engaged each aspect of the excavating community to prevent avoidable accidents and damages to underground utility infrastructure and protect the public health and welfare of those working and living near buried utility facilities. This is accomplished by utilizing the following components:

- 1). The Summit provided more than 51 hours of educational instruction designed to familiarize attendees with legally required activities, industry standards & best practices, safety related topics and pertinent theories to proactively avoid damages.
- 2). The Summit provided participants with the opportunity to view and operate equipment used in virtually every excavating scenario imaginable, with equipment manufacturers demonstrating the safest and most efficient way to employ their products.
- 3). The Summit discussed and demonstrated best practices for excavators and locators through competitive "rodeos" designed to analyze and showcase the accuracy and efficiency of competitors.
- 4). The Summit was an inclusive forum for the exchange of ideas, concepts, experiences, and the resolution of problematic issues. Stakeholders had ample opportunity to initiate discussion among their peers in the excavation industry and establish networks for communication in future activities.
- 5). The Summit raised awareness of the current state of utility damages and encouraged summit participants to implement practices to reduce damages and to educate colleagues, customers, and the general public on the importance of damage avoidance.
- 6). The Summit continues to provide the volunteer group consisting of stakeholders from varying industries and backgrounds the opportunity to consistently review conformity to PHMSA's Nine Elements of Damage Prevention. This group also developed, implemented, and reviewed training programs designed to sustain the gains made during instruction through the Summit.

- *Develop and implement methods for effective communication*

The entire concept of putting on the Summit is to create a forum for more effective communication. An annual Summit provides the continued opportunity for communication among the stakeholders involved.

- *Reviewing the adequacy of internal performance measures*

Locator training and damage investigation classes were provided, as well as the locator rodeo.

- *Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders*

One of the purposes of the Summit is to provide industry stakeholders damage prevention education classes each year.

- *Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education*

Stakeholder education was addressed above. Due to the size of the event, we have attracted media attention to the Summit which increases public awareness. In addition, the 2015 Summit included a realistic trench rescue demonstration that included fire/rescue, emergency medical personnel and police personnel.

- *Resolving disputes to define State authority's role*

The Missouri Damage Prevention statutes changed substantially during the 2014 legislative session. A presentation, that included the Senator that sponsored the legislation, was made on what those statute revisions mean for stakeholders, including new provisions for requesting arbitration with utilities for disputes of damages.

- *Laws and regulations of the damage prevention process*

The Missouri Damage Prevention statutes changed substantially during the 2014 legislative session. A presentation, that included the Senator that sponsored the legislation, was made on what those statute revisions mean for stakeholders.

- *Foster and promote the use of improving technologies*

Various product vendors at the Summit to displayed the latest equipment and had opportunities to discuss current technologies with stakeholders.

- *Review the effectiveness of Damage Prevention Programs*

The Summit raised awareness of the current state of utility damages through discussion of the changes to the Damage Prevention statute and other presentations and encourages summit participants to implement practices to reduce damages and the importance of damage avoidance.

Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.01

Project Report: "Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.")

The Grant was to provide the means to be able to conduct the Summit and that was accomplished. One measure of effectiveness would be the increased attendance annually. The attendance at the 2015 Summit was approximately 1,500 people (the 2014 Summit attendance was approximately 1,300). Comments were solicited from stakeholders and those comments were summarized, tabulated, and reviewed to determine how the Summit was received by the participants, determine what the participants liked/didn't like about the Summit, and determine what the participants would like to see in the future. Those comments are being used in the planning process to plan for future Summits.

Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Project Report: "The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met. "

The only “issue”, if you could call it that, encountered was actually a good thing. The number of Summit participants (over 1,500 in 2015) has grown every year to a point that we had to limit and even cut-off registrations to be able to accommodate the attendees. The location of the 2015 Summit was changed from Columbia, MO to Springfield, MO to accommodate the increased attendance.

Final Financial Status Report

The expenditures were all Contractual. There were contracts with several entities for the following services: venue rental (Ozark Empire Fairgrounds); convention services equipment rental (Page & Brown Convention Services), video production services (Burnt Bridge Films and Wise Group), design/marketing/advertising services (Imagemark Marketing & Advertising), professional speaker services, T-Scene (t-shirts). Included with this submission is a spreadsheet of all the expenditures and supporting documentation for those expenditures that have been paid by the MO PSC.

On-Going Planning for 2016 Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety Summit

The 2015 SDP Grant project was to conduct a Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety Summit (Summit) in December 2015, and that was accomplished (December 9 and 10, 2015). The planning group for the 2016 Summit has already conducted meetings to review and evaluate the 2015 Summit participants’ comments and to plan for the 2016 Summit.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.

Submission of Deliverables

Under the terms of the Grant Agreement, the Missouri Public Service Commission (MO PSC) is to submit four deliverables: (1) a Progress Report; (2) a Final Report; (3) a Mid-term Financial Status Report; and, (4) a Final Financial Status Report. All of the SDP Grant funds were expended between the effective date of award and before the due date of the mid-term documents. The awarded project (Summit) has also been completed. The MO PSC proposes to submit: (1) a Final Report; and (2) a Final Financial Status Report (SF-425 – Federal Financial Report) by the due date for the Progress Report (April 30, 2016). A mid-term SF-425 and a progress report would not be submitted. There will be no additional “progress” to report or any additional financial expenditures to report since the Summit has been held and the bills have been paid. The Progress Report and the Final Report, as well as the Mid-Term and Final Financial Status Reports would be the same.