

2016 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Midyear Report

CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH5616GSDP13

Project Title: Railroad Commission of Texas State Damage Prevention Grant

Date Submitted: March 29, 2017

Submitted by: James Osterhaus

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the Railroad Commission of Texas will strengthen Element 5: Public Education of its Damage Prevention program. As the enforcement authority for all damage to pipeline facilities caused by excavation, or any other movement of earth, near intrastate pipeline facilities, the Commission plans to use this grant funding to enhance its capabilities through targeted outreach activities aimed at licensed plumbers and electricians across the state.

Work Scope

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

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

Element 5 (Public Education)

The Railroad Commission of Texas is recognized throughout the state as the organization leading the state's damage prevention efforts through compliance and enforcement activities, public awareness, and stakeholder education. The RRC aims to reduce the number of pipeline damage incidents through compliance and education. The RRC developed electrician and plumber specific materials for distribution in partnership with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (electrical licenses) and the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (plumbing licensees). The Commission developed and printed "flipbooks," which serve as a handy reference guide to the Commission's Damage Prevention rules. The books are handed out at various tradeshows and public outreach events, with demand often exceeding supply. Damage prevention staff gave presentations at the Concho Valley Damage Prevention Council meeting and at the Permian Basin Damage Prevention Council meeting about the Commission's Pipeline Damage Prevention Program. Railroad Commission staff also educated contractors and the public on the importance of having underground natural gas lines marked before

digging at the 2017 Texas811 Damage Prevention Summit, the largest gathering of industry professionals dedicated to excavation safety and damage prevention in Texas.

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.”)

Element 5 (Public Education)

Since the grant’s effective date of 09/01/2016, the RRC has:

- Mailed 2,000 flyers/brochures to attendees from the August 2016 Sunbelt Builders Show
- Mailed 1,500 flyers/brochures to attendees from the August 2016 Texas Nursery/Landscape Expo
- Printed 5,000 English and 2,000 Spanish APWA Uniform Color Code wallet cards to hand out to stakeholders
- Printed 10,000 English and 4,000 Spanish Chapter 18 rule flipbooks to hand out to stakeholders
- Printed 28,000 brochures to be mailed to all licensed electricians in Texas
- Printed 60,000 brochures that will be distributed to all licensed plumbers in Texas in the annual license renewal packets each plumber receives. This activity occurred in partnership with the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners

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 principal investigator, Mr. David Ferguson, terminated his employment with the Commission as of February 3, 2017. As such, Mr. James (Jim) Osterhaus assumed Mr. Ferguson’s role as principal investigator. The transition was smooth, and communicated to PHMSA on February 2, 2017.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

Please see the attached SF 270 and SF 425.

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

Element 5 (Public Education)

There are numerous stakeholder meetings and events planned for the remainder of the project period, including several mock line strike demonstrations in cities across Texas:

- Wichita Falls—Red River Safety Day & Pipeline Response
- Victoria—Golden Crest Safety Day & Pipeline Response
- Midland—Permian Basin Safety Day & Pipeline Response
- Austin—Central Texas Safety Day & Pipeline Response
- Fort Worth—North Texas Safety Day & Pipeline Response
- Bryan/College Station—Excavation Safety Rodeo & Pipeline Response
- Kerrville—South Texas Safety Day & Pipeline Response
- Bastrop—TX Electrical Power Conference

The Commission will also staff display booths at several upcoming events to distribute safety rule flipbooks and provide pipeline damage prevention safety information:

- Austin County Market—Austin
- Earth Day Texas 2017—Dallas
- Sunbelt Builders Show—Dallas

As the regulatory agency with jurisdiction over pipeline safety in Texas, the Railroad Commission helps educate industry operators, contractors, and the public about the agency's pipeline damage prevention rules so accidents—and accompanying violations and penalties—can be avoided.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

The Railroad Commission has no request for action at this time.