**2011 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**

**Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-11-SN-0001**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-11-PHPS22

**Project Title:** Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission State Damage Prevention

**Date Submitted:** 10/28/2011

**Submitted by:** William Boyd

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

* Development and implementation of methods for effective communication
* Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
* Support a Damage prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders
* Resolving disputes to define State authority’s role; and
* Laws and Regulations of the damage prevention process

**Workscope**

*Element (1):* 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):* 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 (4):* 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 (6):* A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues.

*Element (7):* 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."

**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.**”)

Field audits/inspections of sites in the Indianapolis area and surrounding counties, where excavation is planned and a request for underground facility locations has been submitted, has progressed according to the contract between the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and Indiana 811. In addition, Common Ground Alliance Regional Damage Prevention Councils have been created in central and northern Indiana and participation continues in the Ohio/Kentucky/Indiana regional council in the Cincinnati area. These activities support Indiana’s work toward Elements 1 and 2.

Work to comply with the Indiana Underground Plant Protection law, IC 8-1-26, has progressed significantly in 2011. The law, revised and signed into law in July, 2009, calls for the creation of a Governor’s Advisory Committee to review reports of excavation damage to gas and hazardous liquid pipelines and make recommendations for civil penalties under the law. A basic database has been developed to store and track damage reports. A training program has been developed and a third party company has been found to conduct this training, all with the approval of the Advisory Committee, which is now meeting regularly to conduct business. As the Advisory Committee is made up of seven individuals representing all stakeholders, including two excavators, this helps fulfill development of training programs with the input and support of all stakeholders. These activities support Elements 4, 6, and 7.

**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.”)**

Field audits from April 2011 through mid-October, 2011 total 519, of which 293, or 56%, involved gas pipelines, nearly all of which are owned by LDC’s. Only three of the visits revealed that a pipeline operator was requested to locate their facilities. Cost per visit equals approximately $71.25, including vehicular maintenance and operating expenses, and wages. A surprising number of the audits, 431, reveal that not all facility owners left markings as requested. It may be that the markings were removed prior to the site visit, or that a positive response was made via email or phone call. It has been determined that the majority of facilities not marked as requested are water and/or sewer lines. The employee who conducts the field audits has indicated that mandatory positive responses from facility owners would be very beneficial to improve communication and reduce damages.

The cost to develop a database to track damage reports has not been charged to the grant, as all of this work to-date was done “in-house” by Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission employees. Other options are still under review however, and should be reviewed and decided upon soon.

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

Work is progressing as expected and there are no issues to report.

**Mid-term Financial Status Report**

The mid-term financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA.

No funds have been disbursed to date as Indiana 811 has not yet submitted a request. No funds were spent to develop the damage reporting database in use as this was developed internally within the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission’s Pipeline Safety Division.

**Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)**

No changes to the projects associated with this grant are expected or proposed at this time.

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

No actions requested at this time.