**2013 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-13-G-PHPS02

**Project Title:** Missouri Public Service Commission State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** April 30, 2014

**Submitted by:** Robert Leonberger

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

Under this grant agreement, the MO PSC will:

Develop and implement methods for effective communication

Reviewing the adequacy of internal performance measures

Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders

Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

Resolving disputes to define State authority’s role

Laws and regulations of the damage prevention process

Foster and promote the use of improving technologies

Review the effectiveness of Damage Prevention Programs

**Workscope**

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Grantee will address the following elements listed in 49 U.S.C. §60134 (b) through the actions it has specified in its Application.

**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 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.

**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 November 2014. This objective was accomplished/completed by conducting the Summit November 6 and 7, 2013. The number of attendees has grown each year with approximately 1,150 attendees at the 2013 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 50 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 encourage 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 2013 Summit included a realistic trench rescue demonstration that included fire/rescue and police personnel.

*Resolving disputes to define State authority’s role*

The MO Attorney General’s Office (AGO) has the authority to levy penalties for violations of the damage prevention statutes. AGO personnel made a presentation of their enforcement efforts.

*Laws and regulations of the damage prevention process*

As noted above AGO personnel made a presentation at the Summit. In addition, damage investigation and mock trial classes were provided.

*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 the AGO 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, with the attendance at the 2013 Summit being approximately 1,150. 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. Those comments are 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, we are having is actually a good thing. The number of Summit participants (1,150) has grown to a point that we have had to limit and even cut-off registrations to be able to accommodate the attendees.

**Mid-term Financial Status Report**

The expenditures were all Contractual. There were contracts with five entities for the following services: catering services (Peachtree Catering & Banquet Center), convention services equipment rental (Page and Brown Convention Services), audio/video production services (Wise Audio/Video Group), design/marketing/advertising services (Imagemark Marketing & Advertising), and professional speaker services (Safety Awareness Solutions). Included with this submission is a spreadsheet of the expenditures to date and supporting documentation for those expenditures that have been paid by the MOPSC. NOTE: The invoice for the venue rental has not been received by the MOPSC and therefore has not yet been paid. The bid for the venue rental was $5,275.00 and a bill for this amount should be received and paid in the near future.

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

The project was to conduct the Summit and that was accomplished in November 2013. We have already begun conducted meetings to review and evaluate the Summit participant’s comments to plan for the 2014 Summit.

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

No actions requested at this time.