

## **TRANSACTION RECORD (TR 2009-16)**

**Purpose:** Updating 5-23

**Task Team:** Patrick Foster (Chair, Electric), Mary Muse (Gas Distribution), Tammy Wilfong (Telecomm), Dean Yancey (Electric), George Glenn (One Call), Dan Bradley (Locator) and Jim Holzer (One Call).

**Transaction Record Opened:** November 2009

**Final Wording Approved by Board of Directors:** July 16, 2010

**Final Practice Wording to Appear in Best Practices Version 8.0\*\***

### **PRACTICE MODIFICATION:**

*(Proposed Modifications/Additions in Red)*

5-23: Locate Request Updates

**Practice Statement:** The excavator calls the one call center to refresh the ticket when excavation continues past the life of the ticket (sometimes, but not always, defined by state/provincial law). This recognizes that it is a best practice to define ticket life. If not currently defined in state/provincial law, ticket life would best be 10 working days but not to exceed 20 working days.

*Original locate request tickets are generated so that the minimum number of locate request updates are necessary for the duration of a project. Locate request updates are not generated after all the excavation covered by a locate request is completed. Communication between excavation project planners, field personnel, and clerical personnel is essential in accomplishing this task.*

### **Practice Description**

Refreshing the ticket recognizes that markings are temporary and provides notification to facility owners/operators of ongoing excavation when a job is started but not completed as planned. Any excavation not begun during the life of the ticket is recalled to the one call center. Any excavation that covers a large area and will progress from one area to the next over a period of time is broken into segments when notifying the one call center in order to coordinate the marking with actual excavation. The possibility exists that new facilities have been installed in the area where the excavation is to be conducted after the original notification and marking. This practice also helps in situations where multiple excavators are working in the same area at essentially the same time. An example of when this can occur is when two facility owners, such as a cable television company and the telephone company, are planning to serve a new section of a subdivision. In their pre-planning process, they see a vacant space in the right-of-way to place their new facility. Each excavator (internal or external) calls the one call center for locates and each facility owner/operator comes and marks their respective facilities indicating that nothing exists. For one reason or another, one of the excavators gets delayed and does

not start construction as planned, and when returning to the job site to place the new facility, finds new lines have been installed in the previously vacant space. Many facility owners/operators do not perform their own locates and utilize the services of a contracted facility locator. These contracted facility locators may not be aware of work planned in the near future. By excavators refreshing the locate ticket, the contract locator has another opportunity to identify newly placed facilities. This practice also gives the facility owner/operator another chance to identify the location of their facilities and to avoid a possible damage and disruption of service should something have been marked incorrectly or missed on a previous locate.

Excellent planning, generation, and updates of tickets will enhance safety and reduce the unnecessary use of locate resources.

**References:** *Provide references for any existing practices/updates cited in Origin/Rationale.*

Progress Energy

Duke Energy

Arizona Blue Stake

**Status:** Proposed to the Board on July 16, 2010.

*\*\*Best Practices 8.0 to be published March 2011.*