TRANSACTION RECORD 2014-04

Purpose: *Describe the purpose of the proposed practice.*
Abandoned utilities are a source of uncertainty and confusion for everyone associated with excavations. Over time, many subsurface facilities have been abandoned in-place without proper documentation. When encountered, these facilities can impede construction or worse yet when mistaken for known active facilities, lead to injuries or damages to truly active facilities even when other good practices may have been followed in relation to the excavation. This proposed best practice is to provide the excavator and designers with information regarding suspected abandoned facilities in the vicinity of the intended excavation in an effort to raise awareness of what may be encountered underground.

Origin/Rationale: *Briefly describe the origin/rationale behind the practice proposal. Include any examples of existing practices.*

The proposed Best Practice is to add to the list of locating marks, a symbol representing a suspected abandoned utility. It is proposed that a circled "A" be used to depict an abandoned facility which would not otherwise be marked. It is proposed that the circled "A" marking be placed by a person with knowledge of the existence of the abandoned facility, but the accuracy of the actual location has not been thoroughly documented. The information would serve as a general field reference but would not, in any way, be considered to relieve the excavator from performing the excavation in the same safe manner as would occur if the suspected abandoned facility had not been marked.

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

Arizona Bluestake has reference using an "A" marking to depict abandoned lines. The associated statement reads "1. Abandoned Facility: Represents that there are abandoned facilities in the general vicinity of the excavation (the symbol will not identify the location of abandoned
facility)."

http://www.azbluestake.com/pdfs/BluestakeBrochureEnglish.pdf

CGA Best Practices 11.0
4-3 Color Code: A uniform color code and set of marking symbols is adopted nationwide.

4-11 Abandoned Facilities
Practice Statement: Information on abandoned facilities is provided when possible.

Transaction History

- July 2014 Meeting
  New TR Task Team Establishment Proposal – Abandoned Lines (Bill Johns)
  Bill Johns proposed creating a task team to mark abandoned lines differently in the field.

- The committee discussed the topic. Some brought up that this has been reviewed by the committee in the past. Bill Kiger noted that the team should address the glossary as well – the committee agreed.
- Additional discussion included: Abandoned facilities should be marked by locators and treated by excavators as if they are live lines. Including the 'A' as additional information would be okay. Abandoned lines are taken off the property records for tax purposes by some facility owners. Some facility owners have started keeping abandoned lines on their records. MN has a statute that requires facility owners to keep abandoned lines on their records going forward from a specific date.
- The committee agreed to establish a new TR (information below).

- **TR 2014-04 – Abandoned Lines. Task Team**: Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), and Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission).

- **November 2014 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), and Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission).

  ONGOING

- **March 2015 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), and Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**.** **New 11/11/14**: Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Distribution). **New January 2015**: Rick Lonn.

  - Not much progress but continue to discuss and will keep moving forward. Back to task team

- **July 2015 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), and Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**.** **New 11/11/14**: Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission). **New January 2015**: Rick Lonn.

  Status: Bill Johns provided an update. Arizona has pulled back on the existing practice the team was citing. Now APWA is considering a proposed practice. The task team will continue

to work on this prior to the November meeting and will provide an update at that time. **ONGOING**

- **November 2015 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**,** Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission) and Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution).

  ONGOING – No update on progress.

- **March 2016 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**,** Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission) and Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution) NEW.

  Status: Bill Johns provided an update. The task team was unable to agree on wording and has not found consistency in practices between the referenced states. The team believes that this continues to be an important subject and that the committee should continue to keep up-to-date on any progress. As the team continued to discuss, they realized there is much to be done to get it to the level where it could be adopted as a BP. Bill recommended the committee consider closing the TR. However, following discussion, it was agreed the TR should be kept open. **ONGOING**

- **July 2016 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**,** Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission) and Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution) NEW.

  STATUS – At the last meeting, still very interested in moving this forward but has been some frustration over potential solutions/practices in place. No report. **ONGOING**

- **November 2016 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**,** Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), and Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution)

The team has not met since the last BP meeting. Bill Johns will set up a conference call for the team after the 1st of the year. **Status: ONGOING**

- **March 2017 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), NEW Al Fields (Co-Chair, Public Works), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**,** Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution), New 3/14/17 – Armando Ferri (Excavator).

  Status: The team has not met since the last meeting. **NEW**: Al Field agreed to Co-Chair this task team with Bill Johns. Armando Ferri also asked to join the task team. **ONGOING**

- **July 2017 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Al Fields (Co-Chair, Public Works), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Bruce Bevers (Gas Transmission)**,** Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution), and Armando Ferri (Excavator).

  Discussion: Bill Johns reported that the task team met but did not agreed on wording. The task team is trying to determine if this proposed practice is in use. Discussion included the suggestion to have a best practice for abandoning lines as well as marking and digging around abandoned lines. The task team will continue to work on this TR and consider the feedback received from the committee. **Status: ONGOING**

- **November 2017 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Al Fields (Co- Chair, Public Works), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution), Armando Ferri (Excavator) and **NEW** Scott Brown (Gas Distribution).

  Bill Kiger reported the task team met via conference call on 10/15/17, and that APWA is developing a position statement. **Status: ONGOING**

- **March 2018 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Al Fields (Co-Chair, Public Works), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Dan

Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution), Armando Ferri (Excavator) and Scott Brown (Gas Distribution).

Status: Wording displayed for discussion/comment not for approval consideration
Bill Johns provided an update on the task team's progress. The committee reviewed the latest draft wording. Walt Kelly provided information on success seen in Minnesota and how this has made a positive impact on abandoned lines in the state. The committee discussed the marking of abandoned lines and how this is an issue for the locators. The lines essentially become "unlocatable." Bill Johns noted that there is a need to avoid the ownership issue when considering practices. The focus can be on a practice to document where the lines are once they are located/identified and keeping a record. The committee discussed how abandoned lines are marked across states. The task team will continue to meet.

Status: ONGOING

- **July 2018 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Al Fields (Co-Chair, Public Works), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission), Jennifer Reams (Gas Transmission), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution), Armando Ferri (Excavator) and Scott Brown (Gas Distribution).
  Status: No wording posted. Discussed getting symbol in book (from APWA). Will continue to work toward updated wording.

- **November 2018 Meeting**
  Bill Johns (Chair, Engineering/Design), Al Fields (Co-Chair, Public Works), Bill Kiger (One Call), Allen Gray (Road Builder), Walt Kelly (Excavator), Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Walt Pegram (One Call), Steve Allen (Regulator), Tammy Wilfong (Telecom), Mark Newman (Gas Transmission), Murv Morehead (Public Works), Charles McCadden (Gas Distribution), Dan Bradley (Locator), Kirk Steinberger (Gas Transmission, Rick Lonn (Gas Distribution), Cynthia Davis (Gas Distribution), Armando Ferri (Excavator), and Scott Brown (Gas Distribution), Arch York (One Call)

  The task team provided an update. The committee discussed the use of a circled A mark to indicate that abandoned lines may be present and the problem inherent with this practice as every excavation site could end up with this mark. A suggestion was made that the locator mark the size and type of the facility on the ground so that the excavator knows what they are looking for. The committee also discussed challenges related to responsibility for abandoned lines. The current field practice is to treat all lines as live until a facility owner provides instructions. As a result, a review of 4-11 is included in this task team. Lastly, a practice covering maintaining records of abandoned lines was discussed; some states have laws, including Pennsylvania and Minnesota.
  Status: Task team to review prior to the next meeting and either introduce proposed wording, an updated focus or a recommendation to table/close the TR.