



Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority

To: Title XII Re-write Steering Committee Members et.al.
From: Jim Barron, MUFDPA
CC:
Date: June 5, 2018
Re: May 31, 2018 Meeting Notes

At the nineteenth meeting of the Title XII re-write, the following items were discussed:

Pending:

- §12-135 (6) adds a 3-year statute of limitations for subsequent violations.
- §12-126 Marking Requirements -- add new (e) discovers clear evidence.
- § 12-107 -- Membership – new (g) tightens up the appointment process by assigning time limits to the stakeholder nominators. The Authority will review this language at their 6/06/18 meeting.
- (c) the life of an Emergency ticket shall not exceed 24 hours from the time of the one-call system notification. Was green, is now read for further discussion, prompted by the plumbers group.
- 5-foot buffer - the group has decided to have further discussions on the 5ft. buffer issue - marking ...” within 5 feet of the horizontal plane” and the 18” or 24” tolerance zone. There was discussion but no resolution to the issue and will likely remain at 18 inches.
- Part V – Designer Requests - §12-131 has been amended to mirror the DC re-write language. It has been recommended that the section (§12-131(c) that refers to surveys, drawings etc. be stricken entirely. The new §12-131(c) reads(c) the call center will provide the designer requesting a design notice, a contact means for each utility within two business days; and (i) underground facility owners will maintain current contact information for designers to contact.

- **New section §12-130 – Primary Contractors and Temporary excavators –**
The concept and definitions have already been approved in §12-101, however, a new subsection has been created in order to delineate how the two definitions operate.
- **AUC proposals:**
 - 1) ALL utilities owners must mark within 48 hours – no consensus
 - 2) if a damage occurs as a result of a facility owners failure to mark after notification, the contractor will not be held liable for the repair costs. - no consensus
 - 3) §12-101 (d) Clear Evidence – clear evidence must be within the “extent of work” as delineated on the ticket. - no consensus
 - 4) §12-121 –Emergency tickets – must last at least 4 days or for the life of the ticket, this is due to the delays caused by some facility owners delays when marks are requested. - no consensus
 - 5) Attorney Fees – Change the requirement of fee reimbursement to “the losing party” or each person pays their own fees. Does this refer to filing fees?
 - 6) §12-134 – Injunctive actions – A contractor may file for a *writ of mandamus* if: anyone can file
 - (3) a facility owner or its contract locator fails to respond in good faith or in a timely manner to a request for marking the location of its underground facilities.
 - 7) §12-135 – Civil Penalties – add to section (a)(1) or an owner who fails to respond in good faith to a request by a contractor to mark the location of its underground facilities, resulting in damages, dislocations, or disturbances to an underground facility, is deemed negligent and is subject to a civil penalty assessed by the Authority not exceeding: not yet addressed by the working group
 - 8) §12-135(3)(ii) subsequent violations – The group approved a 3 year statute of limitations.

Progress:

- §12-125 now titled Re-notification, adds language about finding disturbed marks or clear evidence shall ask for a re-mark.
- §12-101(j)(3) – new owner language, to exempt “owner or lessee or occupant on a single-family property”
- §12-101 (0)(3) – Removal of the storm sewer exemption from the statute was unanimously approved. Directional drilling has created the potential for health and safety issues for municipal and county utility maintenance workers as well as the general public.

- §12-101(new z) (3) Underground Facilities definition added “applies only to a complete replacement of the piping; and does not apply to a repair or a partial replacement of piping”
- §12-111—Funding. Language has been approved to allow for the recoupment of administrative costs associated with the NPV process. The fee schedule will be posted on the Authority website for transparency.
- A definition for “Mark” has been added to the definition section §12-101 of the statute.
- §12-101 Primary Contractor, formally “Responsible Contractor” - definition has been approved.
- Trenchless Technology definition has been approved (§12-101 (x))
- §12-127(c)(3)(i) under duties of excavator, trenchless technology guidance has been added to the statute.
- §12- 127 Excavation after notice that facilities marked or not in the vicinity. Is now titled “Requirements prior to performing an excavation or demolition” – language has also been added to this subsection that strengthens the “clear evidence” portion of the statute.
- §12-126 Emergency Tickets -- in reference to emergency tickets and delayed response utilizing a code 5 scenario, the term “documented” has been added to the subsection as a means of proof that a conversation or dialogue occurred. There is still no agreement regarding a repository for these agreements, but language was approved on the agreement.
 - (ii) work with the person that intends to perform the excavation or demolition to develop a mutually [agreeable] documented agreement [schedule] for marking the underground facility.
- §12-127- Excavation after notice that facilities marked or not in vicinity.
 - (i) If the marker is obliterated, destroyed, or removed, the person shall [repeat the notification required] request the area be re-marked as required under §12-[124]125 (b) of this subtitle; and
 - (ii) the person shall not, under any circumstance, replace or repair marks.
- §12-103 – Scope of Subtitle – the homeowner exemption has been removed per PHMSA’s request.
- §12-135 - Civil Penalties – changes were approved by the Authority and agreed to by the committee. This section now codifies the requirement set down by the Maryland Court of Special Appeals when assessing penalties. The fines will not increase but the ability to double fine for violations other than “failure to call for a ticket” and can be doubled if the violator does not fulfill their obligations in the proscribed time period. Also, a person who abuses the Emergency Ticket could now be subject to maximum penalties.
- “Call before you Clear”- has now been addressed in the reworked designer ticket section Part V §12-131new (d), the designer ticket section has been heavily amended and is now called “Non-excavation ticket request” it will need to be voted on at the next meeting in May.

- §12-125 – Repeat notification -- the new heading for this section is to be “Re-notification” – added new § (b) if a person discovers the marker is obliterated, destroyed or removed they shall notify the call center to request, all or part of the current scope of work, of a valid ticket be re-marked.

Reminders:

Potential Changes: No changes will be added to the working copy of the statute unless discussed by the committee and placed in **RED** to indicate under consideration. Once agree upon the text will convert to **GREEN**. Any language to be removed from the statute will be bracketed in **RED** and struck through, then turned to **GREEN** once agreed upon. Notations will be shown in **PURPLE**

- Please be prepared to discuss the section changes in “red “(under consideration) at the May 31, 2018 meeting.
- The Agenda for the May 31, 2018 meeting will be sent by blast email prior to the meeting and will also be posted on the Authority website.
- Prepare for introduction of legislation for the 2019 Legislative Session. The bill will be cross-filed as before.

All meeting notes, lists and amendments will be put on the Authority website www.mddpa.org /click on Capitol Dome to go to the Title XII re-write page.

Next Meeting(s): All meetings are held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Attachments: Please go to www.mddpa.org and click on the Annapolis Capitol Dome for the following: (Note: Please allow at least a week for posting!)

May 17, 2018 -- Title XII Statute mark-up, Sign-in Sheet & Meeting Notes