

Thirteenth Annual Report

MSRA# 8340

2024

MARYLAND UNDERGROUND FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION AUTHORITY

2023 State Damage Prevention Program Review



Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority 7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100

Hanover, MD 21076 (410) 782-2102

February 2023

David Gaines Contractor Representative – AUC Chairman

Members

David Wilkins Utility Owner Representative

Jennifer Arroyo One-Call Center Representative

Jimmy Jennings *Locator Representative*

James Dudley **Public Member**

Bahareh Inanloo *MACo Representative*

Mickey Beall MML Representative

Keith Dill Contractor Representative - PWCA

James A. Barron *Executive Director jim.barron@mddpa.org*

Susan A. M. Stroud **Deputy Director** susan.stroud@mddpa.org

info@mddpa.org www.mddpa.org The Honorable Wes Moore Governor of Maryland The State House 100 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable William Ferguson President Senate of Maryland State House, S-107 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones Speaker Maryland House of Delegates State House,H-101 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Report Required by Public Utilities Article - §12-144 (MSAR# 8340)

Lady and Gentlemen:

As the 2023-24 Chair of the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority, I submit this <u>Thirteenth Annual Report</u> to you. This document serves as an outline of the Authority's activities and accomplishments for the 2023 Calendar year.

Sincerely.

David Gaines Chairman

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services

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MARYLAND AUTHORITY MISSION STATEMENT



"The Authority seeks to protect underground facilities of owners in the State of Maryland from destruction, damage, or dislocation to prevent death or injury to individuals; property damage to private and public property; and the loss of services provided to the general public.

To accomplish this, the Authority seeks to promote, enhance, and assist the State of Maryland in enforcing the Maryland underground utility damage enforcement, effective public education, and the constant knowledge that public safety through reduced Damages is our prime concern."*

*Pursuant to the legislative intent enacted by the Maryland General Assembly, as part of the State Underground Facilities law, Article Public Utilities, Title 12, Section 12-102, the mission statement adopted by the Authority in 2010.

The Miss Utility Statute - Brief History¹

In 1990, the General Assembly enacted the Miss Utility Statute, Md. Code (1957, 1991 Repl. Vol.), Section 28A(a) of Article 78. Its aim was to protect the public from death or injury caused by damage to underground public utility structures, including sewer, gas, oil, and water lines, and to prevent damage to those underground facilities during construction projects. It "required that all owners of underground facilities in the state—i.e., public utilities, telecommunications corporations, cable television corporations, political subdivisions, municipal corporations, steam heating companies, and authorities become 'owner-members' of a 'one-call' system." Reliable Contracting Co., Inc. v. Md. Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Auth., 222 Md. App. 683, 686, cert. granted, 444 Md. 638 (2015).1 If a contractor planned to perform any excavation or demolition work in the State, the contractor was required to notify the one-call system and could not begin excavation or demolition until it received notification that all underground facilities in the vicinity had been marked or that no underground facilities were in the vicinity of the site. Id.

In 2006, Congress enacted the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act, 49 U.S.C. § 60134 ("the PIPES Act"). That act authorized the federal Department of Transportation to allocate grants to a "State authority" to improve underground facilities damage prevention programs. 49 U.S.C. § 60134(a). Only State authorities having the power to assess civil penalties for violations of State law governing underground facilities were qualified for federal grants. See 49 U.S.C. § 60134(b)(6), (7).

In 2010, the General Assembly revised the Miss Utility Statute, consistent with the PIPES Act, to create the Authority. As relevant here, the Authority is empowered to adopt bylaws; maintain facilities for the purposes of holding hearings; employ a staff; and "do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted by this subtitle." PU § 12-110(a). It is comprised of nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor to staggered two-year terms. PU § 12-107.

With the exception of one 1 In Reliable Contracting, this Court rejected a challenge to the constitutionality of the provisions of the Miss Utility Statute empowering the Authority to adjudicate complaints and assess civil penalties.

¹ UNREPORTED -IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS OF MARYLAND -No. 2079 SEPTEMBER TERM, 2014

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION ET AL.

MARYLAND UNDERGROUND FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION AUTHORITY Eyler, Deborah, S., Nazarian, Sharer, Frederick J. (Retired, Specially Assigned), JJ. Opinion by Eyler, Deborah, S., J. Filed: October 22, 2015

^{*}This is an unreported opinion and therefore may not be cited either as precedent or as persuasive authority in any paper, brief, motion, or other document filed in this Court or any other Maryland court. Md. Rule 1-104.

2023 Accomplishments

Statutory Requirements - The Authority met five (5) times during the 2023 calendar year. Four meetings were conducted via Zoom and one (1) was an in-person meeting. The Authority has now adopted post Covid-19 plans for meeting in person and resuming public hearings for CY 2024. Of the C/Y 2023 meetings, four (4) were the Quarterly business meetings which are required by statute and are open to the public.

Breakdown of 2023 Offenses – In 2023, the Authority received forty-one (41) NPVs of which fifteen (15) were investigated and reviewed by the Authority. Additionally, of those forty-one NPVs, seventeen (17) are currently under investigation and slated for review in 2024. There were another fifteen (15) NPVs, holdovers from CY 2022 that were reviewed by the Authority. It should be noted that five (5) NPVs were withdrawn by the complainant, two (2) NPVs were rejected by the Authority for insufficient or incorrect information and two (2) were rejected due to non-payment of the required filing fee of \$200.00. Tracking these types of offenses is an important tool the Authority uses to address deficiencies in our training program, and damage trends in the field so that we may put more emphasis on these issues. Of the NPVs reviewed there were:

Locating Violations – In 2023 there were 6 (six) marking violations, which in each case was due to the failure of the contract locator to mark the underground facilities within the required two (2) business days.

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- No Miss Utility Ticket In addition, there were thirteen (13) instances reported, where the violator had not obtained a valid ticket for the work they intended to do. These NPV's were all first time offenses, which will require Damage Prevention training.
- Failure to Test Pit There was one (1) instance of excavation near an underground facility without "Test Pitting". This is required in order to verify that the location marks are correct by exposing the utility before commencing exaction.
- Using Mechanical Equipment within 18" of an Exposed Facility -There were four (4) NPVs filed against companies that utilized mechanical equipment within the tolerance zone which is 18" from the outermost edge of the markings of an exposed facility.

Civil Penalties - Fines collected from NPVs in 2023 totaled \$22,466.00¹. Some of this total was carried over from C/Y2022. The Authority also recommended Title XII Damage Prevention Safety training to all companies in violation of the statute or required written policy statements in order to mitigate internal shortfalls to those company's damage prevention programs (the Authority provides Damage Prevention Training via the MD/DC DPC at no charge to the violator).

Filing Fees - The Authority collected \$2,600.00 on non-subscriber filing fees in 2023. Filing fees are set at \$200. This fee doesn't begin to cover the true cost of conducting a full investigation and review. To take an NPV through the entire process including an appeal is estimated to cost approximately \$10,000, provided the Authority is not challenged at the Circuit Court level. Subscribers (facility owners) pay into a sinking fund on an annual basis via micro grants. These funds are reserved for the owners' filing fees and cannot be used for any other purpose.

MD Continues to be a Low Damage State - Despite an uptick nationwide in underground facility damages, and a dynamic increase in ticket volumes, Maryland remains a state with the lowest "hit rates" in the nation. The Authority attributes this statistic to a very successful Education and Outreach program. C/Y 2023 damages per 1000 Miss Utility tickets were 0.93.

¹ All fines collected by the Authority are deposited in the Education and Outreach Fund which is dedicated for those stated purposes (§12-117 &§12-135 – Public Utilities Statute)

Education & Outreach - The Authority's main focus continues to be Education and Outreach. The Authority once again contributed \$20,000 to the "Miss Utility" regional radio campaigns during Maryland's Safe Digging Month (April). These radio PSA's highlight the importance of calling 811 before digging or disturbing the earth and the demolishing of old buildings. These spots are also produced in Spanish and aired on traditional Latino radio stations. The Authority also provides materials for Damage Prevention training and other awareness activities. During C/Y 2023, one thousand seven hundred forty one (1,741) industry workers were trained in underground safety and damage prevention practices in both languages.

Many of the participants were required to attend due to their company's recent violations. These training activities are conducted in coordination with the MD/DC Damage Prevention Committee. At these trainings, paid and volunteer industry experts address the many facets of damage prevention, best practices and safety. The Authority also had a direct presence at both the Maryland Municipal league (MML) and Maryland Association of Counties (MACO). At both events the Authority partnered with "Miss Utility" and were located side-by-side. This gave conference attendees a fuller picture of how the "811" system works, from ticket to compliance. The Authority was also a gold sponsor of the Upper Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference, which is the largest regional damage prevention conference east of the Mississippi.

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Home Owner Awareness Campaign – In June of 2023 the Maryland Authority mounted a Homeowner Awareness Campaign, utilizing funds from its 2022 PHMSA State Damage Prevention Program Grant award. Homeowner kits were put together to stress the importance of calling 811 before beginning home garden projects. The Authority invested approximately \$10,000.00 in materials etc. to publicize the changes to the Title XII Statute regarding homeowner requirements. In particular the six (6) inch restriction.

\$12-103. - This subtitle does not apply to an excavation not more than 6 inches in depth or demolition performed or to be performed by an owner or lessee of a private residence when the excavation or demolition is performed or to be performed:

(1) entirely on the land on which the private residence of the owner or lessee is located; and

(2) without the use of machinery.

The Authority feels it is prudent for any homeowner in Maryland to be aware of what lies below their property, this applies to renters as well. Calling 811 for a utility locate is a simple, free service provided by the owners of public facilities.

National Homeowner Data Provided by the Common Ground Alliance...

..."Four in 10 U.S. homeowners who are planning to dig on their property this year will not contact 811 at least a few days in advance. That's more than 49 million Americans who are putting themselves at serious risk of personal injury and utility service interruptions. It is important that anyone who plans to dig, regardless of how shallow the project is, contacts 811 beforehand to have their buried utilities marked so they can safely dig away from buried lines."

The most popular planned projects cited among surveyed homeowners who plan to dig this year include:

- Planting a tree or shrub: 74%
- Building a fence: 28%
- Building a deck or patio: 24%
- Installing a mailbox: 20%
- Something else: 8%

In addition to working on projects themselves, 79.1% of homeowners said they would consider hiring a contractor to complete digging projects on their property. Of those, **82% said it was important to them that the contractor contacts 811 before digging** to have underground utilities marked with paint or flags." (*Source: Common Ground Alliance, 2023 Safe Digging April Campaign*)

Charitable Work -The Authority is a regular contributor and volunteer to "Construction Angels"; which is a national organization whose sole purpose to give financial aid to the families in Maryland and around the country who have lost loved ones to construction related accidents. In 2023 the Authority supported the Maryland/DC Chapter of Construction Angels by being a \$583.00 sponsor of its Annual Golf Outing fundraiser. In addition, the Authority authorized a \$6,000.00 contribution to the fund for the families of the six (6) Concrete General workers who lost their loved one in the tragic March 22, 2023 on the Baltimore Beltway.



www.constructionangels.us

Federal Oversight - The Authority is overseen by the U.S. Department of Transportation's office of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the federal rules governing the state-based compliance programs (Rule 9), known as State Damage Prevention Programs, of which the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority is such a program.

Annual PHMSA Audit - PHMSA conducts an annual review or audit in all 50 states and the territories to see if enforcement of the federal rules are being applied properly, equitably and effectively. The Authority was evaluated in 2023 for the fifth (5) time since the audits began. This year's audit was for C/Y 2022 (the federal government's evaluations run oneyear behind real time). The goal of the review was to determine whether the Maryland Damage Prevention Program is "Adequate" or "Inadequate" (federal government terminology). Once again, the Authority was deemed "Adequate", receiving a score of 258 out of 258 points. The Authority has strived to gain a full score since the inception of the program review. (see Appendix 1)

PHMSA Grant – In 2023 the Authority put together an awareness campaign for homeowners regarding the new "6 inch rule". Part of the \$10,000 campaign was funded by a 2022 PHMSA grant for \$4,701which was requested in the application to help underwrite a "Homeowner Awareness" program. During the 2021 Title Twelve rewrite, at the Urging of PHMSA, the exemption for homeowners was modified in order to encourage more homeowners to call 811 to receive vital utility locates prior to beginning their projects. How the Authority is Funded - The Authority is an independent, quasigovernmental, quasi-judicial agency of the Executive Branch of Maryland. The Authority does not receive any taxpayer dollars or grants from the State of Maryland. Funding for the Authority comes from four (4) sources, which are not consistent from year to year. A \$0.05 cent per outgoing ticket constitutes the largest portion of the Authority's funding. These funds are paid by the subscribers of the One-Call system who in turn provide locating services to anyone who files a for "ticket" through the One- Call system (811). The Facility Owner micro grants pay into a dedicated account to defray the cost of filing fees for its members. PHMSA State Damage Prevention Program grants can range from \$1.00 to \$100,000.00 and are granted based on a PHMSA appointed review panel's determination that the proposed projects meet the principles of the nine (9) elements (from their perspective) in the federal rules. In the early years of the awarding process, PHMSA allowed grants for office expenses and salaries. The criteria for the grants have narrowed over time and competition has become fierce as more states become "Adequate". In addition, PHMSA changed part of its awarding criteria to focus on non-compliant states in order to assist them with their failing programs.

C/Y 2023 Income:

- Facility owner micro grants. \$10,000.00
- \$0.05 cent/outgoing ticket revenue. -In 2023, the Authority has received \$191,773.15 in ticket surcharge revenues, which is \$7,771,55 less the CY 2022 income of \$199,544.70; and, \$96,332.75 less than the C/Y 2021 income of \$288,105.90.
- PHMSA State Damage Prevention Program Grant.- \$4701.00
- NPV filing fees. \$2600.00

The NPV Process

Operating Practicesof the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority

NPV Procedures 4.0 (Adopted 2022)

- 1. Upon receipt of a Notice of Probable Violation (NPV) from the plaintiff, the Authority verifies the contact and incident information contained in the on-line submittal for sufficiency and accuracy and then notifies the probable violator via Notice of Investigation (NOI) and the plaintiff via Notice of Receipt (NOR) by regular USPS mail. The probable violator is encouraged to contact the Authority upon receiving the NOI letter, in order to provide additional information.
- 2. The Executive Director shall complete a thorough and comprehensive investigation of the facts surrounding the NPV. The Executive Director shall determine whether they believe a violation of Subtitle 1 of Title 12 of the Maryland Public Utilities Article has occurred and a penalty is due based on such investigation. In its March 28, 2016, decision in *Reliable Contracting v. Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority* upholding the constitutionality of the Authority.

The Maryland Court of Appeals directed the Authority to use the following three factors to determine the amount of any penalty assessed by the Authority:

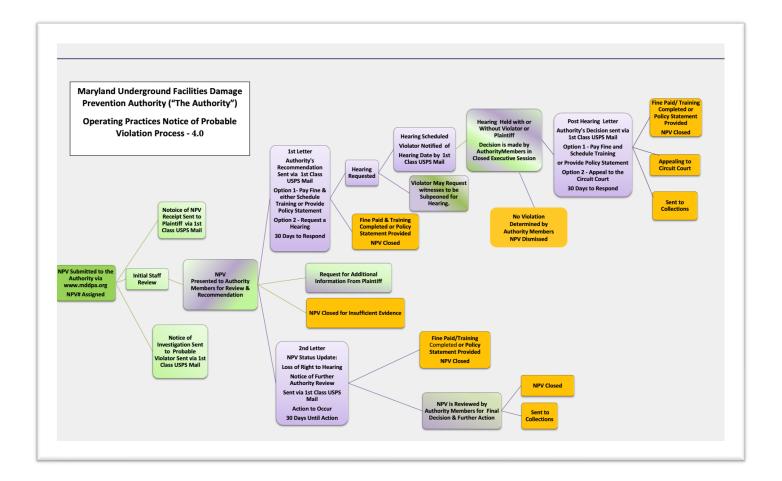
a) seriousness of the violation:b) intent ("good faith") of the violator,c) past history of violations.

The Authority used these factors to create a Standardized Fining Matrix ("SFM"). The Executive Director shall use the SFM to determine the amount of the penalty to recommend to the Authority.

3. The Executive Director shall then present the entire review of the NPV together with all supporting documentation and the SFM calculations to the Authority at its next regularly scheduled closed Executive Session. At that meeting, the Authority will decide whether a civil penalty and/or training should be imposed, or any other type of requirement that is indicated. Or the Authority may: (a) request additional investigation to acquire more information and documentation for further review of the NPV before making a decision, or (b) dismiss the NPV for (i) lack of documented violation, (ii) lack of documented probable violator, (iii) lack of sufficient evidence and documentation to proceed with any further investigation or (c) any reason the Authority may deem reasonable for not proceeding with anyfurther investigation or review of the NPV.

- 4. If the Authority determines that a civil penalty and/or training or other requirement should be imposed after the official review, the Executive Director shall notify the probable violator of the Authority's determination by 1st class USPS mail using the best possible address information. The "Post Review Recommendation" letter shall include the possible effects of §12-135 of the Maryland Public Utilities Article, which include the probable violator's rights, remedies and options, and the Maryland's Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and how it impacts the Authority's hearing process. The notice shall request that the probable violator contact the Authority within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice and offer the violator the opportunity to pay their fine and undertake damage prevention training; and/or pay their fine and provide a company policy statement which contains remedies to mitigate any future violations. The probable violator may choose to request a formal hearing before the Authority members, in order to defend their case.
- 5. If the probable violator does not respond to the Authority's Post Review Recommendation letter, the Executive Director will send a "Final Action" letter via 1st class USPS mail, indicating that the probable violator has lost the right to request a formal hearing before the Authority members. In addition, the NPV will then be put before within the next thirty (30) days for further evaluation and a final decision. This action can result in a collection action by a third party. Once placed into collections, the probable violator will no longer have the opportunity to negotiate with the Authority.
- 6. If a hearing is requested within the allotted time period, the Executive Director shall notify the plaintiff and probable violator of the date and time of the hearing via 1st class USPS mail. At the hearing, the Executive Director will present the official evidence regarding the probable violation. The probable violator shall have the opportunity to submit evidence and present a defense. The Executive Director, the probable violator, plaintiff and any witnesses shall be sworn in by the Chairman of the Authority, prior to the proceedings. All testimony shall be given under oath and the proceedings shall be recorded. If the plaintiff or probable violator fail to appear, that fact shall be noted, and the hearing shall proceed. The Authority may assess a fine of \$200 for failure to appear.
- Once the hearing is concluded, the Authority shall meet in closed Executive Session in order to determine whether: A) a penalty should be assessed against the probable violator and, B) if the penalty should be assessed, the amount of such penalty, using the SFM. The Authority may determine that instead of or in addition to a penalty, it will require the probable violator to participate in Damage Prevention training. The Authority shall issue a decision in writing, stating the reason for its decision.
- 8. The Executive Director will send a copy of the written decision of the Authority to the probable violator by 1st class USPS mail and shall notify the probable violator of the right of any person aggrieved by a decision of the Authority to request a judicial review by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland within thirty (30) days after receiving the decision. (Note: If at any time during these time frames, the Authority receives payment for the civil fine and notification of participation in Title XII training and/or receipt of a signed policy statement, the case will be closed).

9. Any probable violator who does not fulfill each of the requirements set down by the Authority, will be placed in a Closed/Incomplete Status. The Authority has the ability to use the information contained in that Closed/Incomplete NPV as evidence when applying SFM standards in any future probable violations committed by this person up to three (3) years after the original violation. In addition, any company placed in the Closed/Incomplete status will have the name of their company, county of their business and the reason for being placed in the Closed/Incomplete status. This information will be posted as a company "Not in Good Standing" with the Authority on the Authority website for a period of three (3) years.



2023 Damage Data

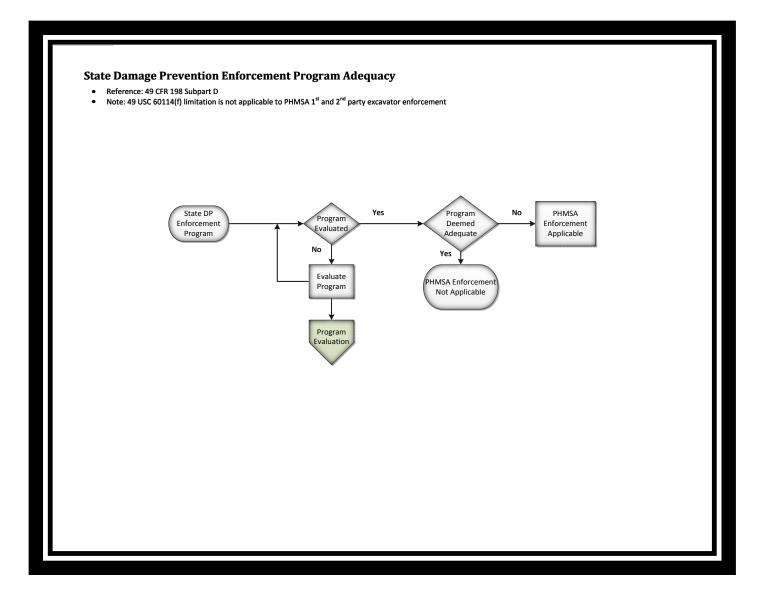
2023 MD/DC Subscribers Voluntary Damage Report

				REPORTED PROBLEM					
			TYPE	TYPE OF LINE		REI	PORTED CA		
Month	Member Reported	Servi ce	Main			Hit Marked Line	Line Marked Wrong	Other	County Ratio Damages per 1000 Locates
JANUARY	94,395	37 7, S 6 6		50	21	20	16	6	0.67
FEBRUARY	1	361,192		85		36		22	0.87
MARCH	/	458,390	29	79		36		9	0.70
APRIL	/	401,444	22	72		37	27	3	0.70
MAY	/	450,939	34	77		37	43	1	0.78
JUNE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	415,715	33	101		55	36	12	0.94
	/	402,650	8	11	7	3	7	2	0.50
AUGUST	/	453,529		96	29	36	47	13	0.83
SEPTEMBER		395,073	29	107	32	44	48	12	1.03
OCTOBER	141,227	427,296	30	108	27	45	51	15	0.98
NOVEMBER	124,417	375,714	20	76	21	25	38	12	0.77
DECEMBER	123,656	345,447	21	62	16	26	29	12	0.67
Yearly County Ratio									0.81
Member Reported	1 1	4,864,815		924	292	400	-	119	1212
	4,864,815			Damages			entage by Cau		
Reporting %	30.84%			212	24.09	33.00%	33.09%	9.82%	
l _			# Tickets		Damages per 10,000 Tickets Received				
	Member Reported		1,500,135	1.95		2.67	2.67		3.08
CC Transmitted Tickets 4,8			4,864,815	0.60	J	0.82	0.82	0.24 2	2.49

	# Tickets	Damages	s per 1,000 T	Fickets Reco	eived	
Member Reported Tickets	1,500,135	0.19	0.27	0.27	0.08	0.81
CC Transmitted Tickets	4,864,815	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.02	0.25

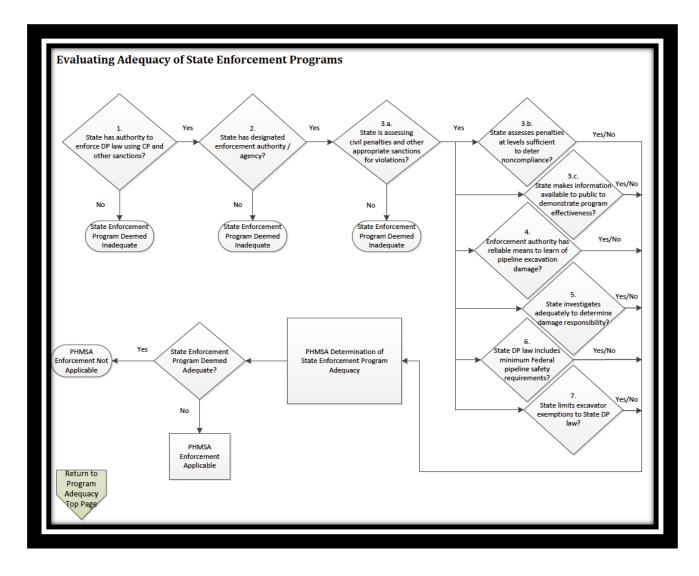
Federal Oversight

2021 PHMSA Federal Enforcement Programs Audit*



* Source: USDOT – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

PHMSA's Evaluation System*



* Source: USDOT – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)



U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

October 13, 2023 Via Email

Mr. James A. Barron Executive Director Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority 7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100 Hanover, MD 21076 Dear

Mr. Barron:

On October 12, 2023, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority's enforcement of the Maryland excavation damage prevention law. PHMSA conducted this evaluation pursuant to 49 United States Code (USC) § 60114 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 198, Subpart D—State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. Based on this evaluation, PHMSA has determined that the enforcement of the Maryland excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."

PHMSA appreciates your dedication to safety. As you are aware, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of pipeline failures, some of which have resulted in fatalities, serious injuries, and environmental damage. Nationwide statistics show that effective enforcement of state damage prevention laws reduces excavation damage and pipeline incidents, resulting in enhanced public safety.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact David Appelbaum, PHMSA State Evaluator, at (202) 617-6329 or by email at david.appelbaum@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

ochos

Zach Barrett Director, State Programs

cc: Mr. John Clementson, Assistant Chief Engineer, Maryland Public Service Commission Ms. Susan A. M. Stroud, Deputy Director, MDDPA

Authority General Information

2023-24

MARYLAND UNDERGROUND FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION AUTHORITY

MEMBERS

(Appointed by Governor Wes Moore)

James Dudley Exp. 9/30/2025 (2 nd Term)	General Public (Carroll County)	U.S. Army Ret'd/Construction Supr.
David Gaines <i>Chairman</i> Exp. 09/30/2024 (2 nd Term)	Assoc. Utility Contractors of Maryland	Gaines and Company
Bahareh Inanloo Exp. 9/30/2025 (1 st Term)	Maryland Association of Counties	Montgomery County, MD
Mickey Beall Exp. 9/30/2024 (1 st Term)	Maryland Municipal League	University Park, MD
David Wilkins Exp. 9/30/2024 (1 st Term)	Underground Facility Owner	WSSC/Water Division
Marc Haines Exp. 9/30/2025 (1 st Term)	Underground Facilities Owner	Baltimore Gas & Electric
Jimmy Jennings Exp. 9/30/2025 (1 st Term)	Underground Facilities Locator	One Call Locating Systems
Jennifer Arroyo Exp 9/30/2024 (1 st Term)	One Call Centers	One Call Concepts, Inc.
Keith Dill Exp. 9/30/2025 (1 st Term)	Public Works Contractors Assn.	David A. Bramble, Inc.

Public Utilities Article §12-107. Membership – All Authority members are appointed by the Governor of Maryland and must represent specific entities and organizations. The Authority strives for diversity in its membership (geographically, racially and sexual orientation) in order to best represent the State of Maryland and its people.

2024 Authority Meeting Calendar

Miss Utility Conference Center 7223 Parkway Drive Hanover, Maryland

ALL OPEN SESSIONS BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M. Meetings will be conducted via ZOOM unless otherwise indicated. (Hearings on NPVs are held during the Open portion of the meetings)

Wednesday	January 10th	Open Session & Closed Executive Session (1 st Quarter Business Mtg & Election of Officers)
General Assembly	January 10th - April 8 th	State Capitol Complex, Annapolis, MD
Wednesday	February 14th	Public Hearings & Closed Executive Session
Wednesday	March 13th	Closed Executive Session
Wednesday	April 10th	Open Session & Closed Executive Session (2 nd Quarter Business Mtg)
CGA Conference	April 14 th – 18th	The Broadmore Resort, Colorado Springs, CO
Wednesday	May 8th	Public Hearings & Closed Executive Session
Wednesday	June 12th	Closed Executive Session
MML Conference	June 23rd – 26th	OC Convention Center, Ocean City, MD
Wednesday	July 10 th	Open Session &Closed Executive Session (3 rd Quarter Business mtg.)
Wednesday	August 14th	No Meetings/Office Closed
MACo Conference	August 14 th – 17th	OC Convention Center, Ocean City, MD
Wednesday	September 11th	Public Hearings & Closed Executive Session
Millard Tawes Annual Crab Feast	September 25th	Crisfield, MD
Wednesday	October 9th	Open Session & Closed Executive Session (4 th Quarter Business Mtg.)
GCDPC	October	Ashore Resort, Ocean City, MD
Wednesday	November 13th	Public Hearings & Closed Executive Session
Wednesday	December 11th	Closed Executive Session

Authority Staff

James A. Barron Executive Director Phone: 410-782-2102 Email: jim.barron@mddpa.org

Susan Ann Mary Stroud Deputy Director Phone: 410-782-2103 Email: <u>susan.stroud@mddpa.org</u>

Bruce C. Bereano Consultant Phone: 410-267-0410 Email: lobbyannapolis@verizon.net

The Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority 7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100 Hanover, Maryland 21076 Phone: 410-782-2102 web address: <u>www.mddpa.org</u> email: info@mddpa.org





Know what's **below. Call before you dig.**

