

Utility Coordination

White Lining Focus Group

9/4/2025

10:00am

Attendance: Jaime Gillen, Jason Broyles, Jim Wooten, Kevin Campbell, Jessica Burlett, Jim Collins, Alex McCann, Don Huck, Chris Russ, Collin Crigger, James Mandera, Jana Bruen, Dave Coniglio, Lori Wade, Michael Lambdin, Deron Large, Dave Coniglio

Meeting opened at 10:03am by Jim Wooten

Review of previous meetings minutes

Jim Wooten made a motion to accept the minutes, Jim Mandera seconded

Minutes approved unanimously

Jim Wooten had the group review the current law, and then reviewed the proposed language

Concern over the language of the pre-markings must align with the work area description.

James Mandera- Concerned about language because the area called in (front of property, sides, rear, etc.) and then the description gets more specific, and then the pre-markings have to align with the work area description which could cause confusion.

Jana Bruen- Agree with Jim Mandera, have seen this in other states. Either clearly define the area in the description, or Pre-mark the area. Excavator must accurately state the number of pre-marked locations on the site in the description.

James Mandera- still concerned about the confusion with the area called in, the description, and the pre-marked area. As of now, the locator has to mark the entire area called in regardless of pre-marks.

Jana Bruen- unless it's a project, most tickets encompass a property. Thinks multiple signs as James Mandera stated, it should be separate notifications.

Jason Broyles- If the new language goes through at the statehouse, then those would end up having to be separate requests.

Jana Bruen- Likes the size and scope requirements proposed, thinks the white lining portion should maybe be two paragraphs if we can.

Lori Wade- a couple of things have already been touched on, but with what we are trying to do is to try and take some of the burden off of the locate industry and give a more exact location of where marks are needed. Jason touched on size and scope, defining what supersedes what in her opinion. What takes priority, the white marks, or the ticket language. Thinks that the pre-markings need to take precedence, with the buffer zone that is decided on. (10 ft, 25 ft)

Jim Wooten- Agree with Lori, that was our intent/goal. Want to get clarification on it. Right now, not everyone agrees on what you go off on to mark, the description or the pre-markings.

Lori Wade- Fine with 25' buffer unless it is a pole or something like that where it isn't moving and it's a single point excavation. The 25' gives the excavator some wiggle room to move their excavation in the case of an area being crowded.

Alex McCann- Had some confusion on the pre-marking the description, and that the pre-marks supersede. With this would you have to do both as far as accurately describe the area and Premark?

Jason Broyles- As of now you have to do both accurately describe, and Premark the area.

Jim Wooten- wanting to help define the area that needs marked. If replacing a mailbox, entire property doesn't need to be called in, it needs to be more specific along with the pre-markings.

Dave Coniglio- Have had some questions answered already through this conversation. Thoughts on this coming from the excavator side, agrees that descriptions should be accurate. The ticket is the official document, and with that, the white lining shouldn't supersede the ticket. Should focus on helping make the ticket itself more accurate.

Jim Wooten- You are correct, problem is, if a guy has a 100-acre farm, and calls in to install tile, and is only digging 50 ft, the locator is responsible for marking that entire property at this point. Want to try to eliminate that type of wasted time so the locators can get more jobs done.

Dave Coniglio- Makes sense and I get that. When giving examples and saying that it may be an extreme example, how often do those things happen?

Jim Wooten- Those types of things happen a lot, and really are bogging things down.

Michael Lambdin- When white lining is put in the description, it should dictate the scope of the area that needs to be located.

Jim Wooten- The way we are trying to word this, that would be the case.

Jana Bruen- Agree that the ticket is the document of record, but if we say in the ticket that it is pre-marked, unless we get to the point we can do digital white lining,

Jason Broyles- Once we start using CenterLogix, there will be the capability to be able to do virtual white lining.

Jana Bruen- Was nervous about that at first, have had large tickets with the digital white lining available and has been narrowed down quite a bit, and the contractors area loving the ability to do that. With the ticket being the document of record, if the excavator doesn't Premark correctly, it could cause some issues and confusion. Could put mark a certain area around the defined Premark, and that has worked really well.

Jaime Gillen- If you look in the green #1, some concern on the language that is being used "locate request", should be notification. Want to make sure we are consistent on the language being used.

Jim Wooten- Good conversation there, had a lot of discussion with Jason on the exact language to use instead of supersede. Does anyone have any better language to use here?

Jason Broyles- would the term precedence be better?

Jim Wooten- Yes I think so, trying to save time for the locators to keep from marking areas that no excavation will be taking place. When things get busy, there is no wiggle room for wasted time.

Dave Coniglio- From an excavator standpoint, thinks that if you have something in there, if you are utilizing white lining, it takes precedence. Thinks that contractors would be more ok with that because you are giving them the choice. Has a safety committee meeting shortly and could talk to them about it and get their feelings on it as well.

Jim Wooten- You are 100% right, and I agree. Would be surprised how many times a day there are notifications for entire properties and large areas, and the area that was dug was only 6ft long. Its easy for contractors to call in the larger area just to cover their liability and know they get the area marked even though its much larger than the area that they need.

Dave Coniglio- thought the confusion and the issue was when the locator showed up and only had white markings for 100 ft and the ticket is for 2000ft. Not sure that there is much that can be done about contractors calling in larger areas than needed.

Jim Wooten- As of now that larger ticket, the locate company/utility is responsible for marking that entire description.

Dave Coniglio- Agree, and think if going with the language Jason said, it would fix some of that problem.

Lori Wade- from the experience on my side, seeing both sides of this, utility owners are sometimes the worst at calling in larger areas than what is needed. Would like to see everyone get better at the descriptions. Back to the language, instead of supersede, maybe say "take the place of" in order to keep it simple. Thinks that makes it clear that the white lined area is what needs to be located.

Deron Large- commenting on what was just said, playing the devils advocate, if worst case scenario, there is a damage, what keeps someone from putting white paint down after they hit something to try to take liability off of them.

James Mandera- Usually locators would be taking pictures of the area. It's a valid point, but if the locator documents properly it should help alleviate that.

Deron Large- If we are to go that route and it is preselected that they white lined.

Jason Broyles- we do have that now, the proposed part too where they have to accurately describe the pre-marks would help alleviate that as well.

Jim Wooten- Has had some of the same concerns as Deron with contractors.

Kevin Campbell- Would have some concerns with the pre-marking going outside the area called in and causing some confusion that way.

James Mandera- Valid concern, if the white lining is going to take precedence, we can't have it both ways though.

Jana Bruen- can't rely on integrity of someone when there are damages.

James Mandera- Having the choice of doing either/or, concern over what would be specific enough, someone may think an area is descriptive enough, and someone else may not.

Jim Wooten- Thinks the size and scope language would help with this as well.

James Mandera- If we can get with the excavators and let them know what precise is, then that will help.

Dave Coniglio- Precise, could be tied to paragraph (F). that could define what precise means. So if you do either or, you must meet the requirements in paragraph (F), or pre mark.

Jason Broyles- Looking at the totality of our conversation today, starting at the beginning, subsection D, everyone good with removing when possible and put shall.

(everyone is good with that)

When utilizing pre-markings, they take the place of, everyone good with that?

Deron Large- I think we are going to have problems with this, if someone hits something, and there were pre-marks on the ground, the locator takes pictures of the area that was marked, and then the damage is outside the pre-marked area, and there are no pictures there, it will cause some problems.

Jim Wooten- I don't think we can ever build something around folks who don't want to be honest. The whole intent is to make the scope smaller so the locators can try to stay caught up. Agree with you though.

Deron Large- The reason we must be precise with this is because of the liability issues.

James Mandera- Agree with Jim, have had excavators call in tickets, hit something, then wipe out all the paint in hopes of getting away with it.

Deron Large- I agree with that. Need to make them decide ahead of time whether they are white lining or not.

Jason Broyles- Currently, that is a question, a box they have to check as to whether or not they have pre-marked the area. Could look at it and see if we need to make a change to help with this. Have seen notifications come through saying that it is pre-marked, and then there are no pre-marks on site. Hard to catch dishonesty unless you catch them red handed. Contractors putting "bogus" white linings after a damage does happen, also have issues with locators putting down new paint and destroying old paint when a line is mismarked, so there are bad players on both ends.

Jim Wooten- Would everyone on the call want to do another meeting in a couple weeks, need some more discussion.

Jason Broyles- Full utility coordination subcommittee meeting in a couple weeks, could do a quick review of the LSC draft, and could continue this conversation then as well.

Jim Wooten- Lets do that, thank you for being on the call.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am