



Agenda Date: 10/22/14
Agenda Item: VIA-2

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

RELIABILITY & SECURITY

IN THE MATTER OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE)
UNDERGROUND FACILITY PROTECTION ACT)
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 ET SEQ.)

ORDER ACCEPTING)
SETTLEMENTS)

) DOCKET NOs.GS14090980K
) and GS14090998K

Party of Record:

Tom Shroba, Manager, NJ American Water

BY THE BOARD¹:

The Board of Public Utilities ("Board") has jurisdiction to oversee and enforce the provisions of the Underground Facility Protection Act ("the Act") pursuant to the provisions set forth in N.J.S.A. 48:2-73, et seq. The primary purpose of the Act is to establish the One-Call Damage Prevention System for the protection of underground facilities that are used for the conveyance of water, forced sewage, telecommunications, cable television, electricity, oil, petroleum products, gas, optical signals, traffic control, or for the transportation of a hazardous liquid. In declaring its findings and the purpose of the Act, the Legislature stated, in pertinent part:

That damage to underground facilities caused by excavation and the discharge of explosives poses a significant risk to the public safety; that such damage to underground natural gas facilities poses a substantial risk to the public safety; and that the implementation of a comprehensive One-Call Damage Prevention System can substantially reduce the frequency of damage caused by these activities.

The Legislature therefore determines that it is in the public interest for the State to require all operators of underground facilities to participate in a One-Call Damage

¹ President Richard S. Mroz and Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula recused themselves due to a potential conflict of interest and as such took no part in the discussion or deliberation of this matter.

Prevention System and to require all excavators to notify the One-Call Damage Prevention System prior to excavation or demolition.

N.J.S.A. 48:2-74. The Act defines "excavator" as "any person performing excavation or demolition," and "operator" as "a person owning or operating, or controlling the operation of, an underground facility..."

The Act subjects violators of its provisions to civil penalties of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$2,500 per violation per day, not to exceed \$25,000 for any related series of violations. N.J.S.A. 48:2-88(a). Violations relating to natural gas or hazardous liquid underground pipelines or distribution facilities shall subject the violator to civil penalties not to exceed \$100,000 per violation per day and not to exceed \$1,000,000 for any related series of violations. In addition, a violator may be assessed the cost of any Board investigation, inspection or monitoring survey which leads to the establishment of a violation and for the reasonable costs of preparing and litigating the matter. N.J.S.A. 48:2-86(b)(2).

Following reports of failure to call the System prior to commencing excavation or demolition activities, failure to hand dig and locate facilities, failure to use reasonable care, or reports of failure to mark out underground facilities or properly mark them, Board Staff contacted the entities listed on the attached Appendix and informed them of the date and location of the alleged violations, also listed on the Appendix.

In an attempt to resolve these matters, each excavator or operator listed on the Appendix has submitted an Offer of Settlement to the Board for its consideration. Each such Offer of Settlement is summarized in the Appendix. The Offers of Settlement were made available to the Board for its review. After consideration of the matters, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** these Offers of Settlement to be reasonable and in the public interest, and **HEREBY ACCEPTS** these Offers of Settlement in full satisfaction of the above referenced alleged violations of the Act.

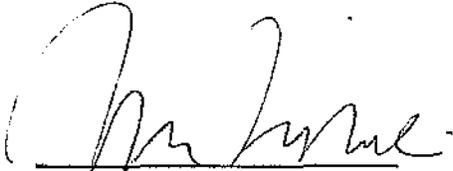
By acceptance of the various Offers of Settlement and the timely payment thereof, the excavator or operator has waived any rights to a hearing, and the Board has waived any rights to bring an action for civil penalties as permitted by the Underground Facility Protection Act in connection with the above-referenced alleged violations of the Act. It must also be noted that the acceptance of the Offers of Settlement are for settlement purposes only, and apply strictly to the specific incidents described in the Appendix. This acceptance is without prejudice as to the position of the State of New Jersey or any agency or subdivision thereof if other violations are present, now or in the future.

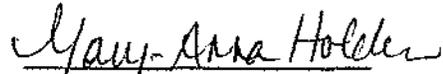
This Order shall be effective on October 31, 2014.

NO FURTHER ACTION BY THE RESPONDENTS IS REQUIRED

DATED: 10/22/14

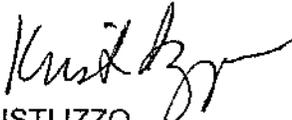
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER

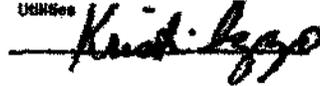

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER


DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public
Utilities



**IN THE MATTER OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE UNDERGROUND FACILITY
PROTECTION ACT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 ET, SEQ.
DOCKET NOs. GS14090980K and GS14090998K (see attached appendix)**

SERVICE LIST

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IN THE MATTER OF:
 ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE UNDERGROUND FACILITY PROTECTION ACT,
 N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 ET.SEQ. ORDER ACCEPTING SETTLEMENTS
 Bureau of One Call - Settlements -APPENDIX-October VIA-2 2014

Damage Type	BPU Dkt No.	One Call Case No.	Type of Violation	Penalty	Operator	Excavator	Violation Date	Description/Location	Payment Received
Damage, Gas	GS14090980K	GOC2011-0003	Failure to use reasonable care	\$3,000		NJ American Water	1/13/2011	Werah Place, Ocean Port	8/14/2014
Damage, Gas	GS14090998K	GOC2014-0046	Failure to contact 911 after gas damage	\$1,000		NJ American Water	1/12/2014	Decatur Ave, Somers Point	8/12/2014
Total	2			\$4,000					