

MaineDOT Utility Task Force Meeting
March 26, 2015
MaineDOT Conference Room 216
Chair: Mike Moreau

Attendees: See list at end of document.

Agenda: *NEW* - 2015 Project Advertise Schedule and 2016-2017 Project Info. – Questions? Finding Information?; Update from Gas Expansion Impacts “Best Practices” Sub-committee- Legislative Initiative; Update of MPUC Notice of Inquiry Regarding Facilities Separation Requirements; Utility Betterment/Construction Plans – Request available Plan Information; Letter 1’s – more timely responses. *RECURRING ITEMS*- Construction Lessons Learned (Manhole Ring Inserts for Raising Grade – MDOT Policy); Open Forum/Other

Mike Moreau opened the meeting by welcoming all to the meeting and asking for introductions to be done; including welcoming

2015 Project Advertise Schedule and 2016-2017 Project Info. –Questions? Finding Information

- No comments from the group. If you have any questions with the information shared, please ask.

Update from Gas Expansion Impacts “Best Practices” Sub-Committee- Legislative Initiative – Jeff McNelly, Maine Water Utility Association

- Jeff was not able to make it today as he is at the Legislature
- A summary of the initiative (handout) was discussed based on the information provided by Jeff. MaineDOT is simply sharing the information with utilities – you can look up LD1124 for further updates.
- The initiative would establish notification, offset and construction requirements for gas utilities adjacent to water-sewer utilities.
 - 6’ horizontal offset with utility and gas
 - 2’ offset vertical offset from any other utility
 - angle of crossing as close to 90° as possible
 - Non-conductive marking tape and tracer wire
 - Notification of when current is applied to avoid sacrificial corrosion of other facilities in the vicinity
 - More collaboration - Utilities need to be working together.
- #1 focus is Underground – Water/Sewer – includes poles or not? Not at this time but could change.
 - Aerial utilities may want to address also – still a work in process.

Update of MPUC Notice of Inquiry Regarding Facilities Separation Requirements – Gary Kenny

- Document shared for comment in October 2014 – many comments were received including the submittal of plans.

- Findings of comments were being compiled Mid-March and information Order should be available soon
- Chapter 420 Safety Standards Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Operators Rulemaking Docket # 2015-00061 on-going
- Some areas of concern are not in PUCs area of control (e.g. offsets from other utilities). Title 35-A, Chapter 45 is overall Maine law regarding Natural Gas Pipeline Utilities
- Maine PUC Chapter 420 Rules, needs clarification and technology revision to conform to law and address current issues:
 - All documents submitted to PUC need to be signed by PE
 - Language on 'Accommodating' and notifications
 - Operator Quals etc

Utility Betterment/Construction Plans – Request Available Plan Information

- This will become a regular feature of each Task Force meeting
- The sooner the Department knows about betterment plans, the easier it is to accommodate in our design if we have a project in the betterment area.
- Betterment/construction plan information will be shared with MaineDOT capital projects committee – checking for any early overlapping project areas
- Road design will take Utility upgrades into consideration to avoid conflicts: what kind? where? etc

SO: Are there any Betterment Plans in the pipeline? If so, please share with MaineDOT. None presented today

Recent Examples:

- Bangor Gas shared – Detail Program in Lincoln Area – facilitated coordination with our project
- Received Woodard & Curran Plans recently (Lincolnville) which will be share with Planning. The Department has an active project over essentially all of the betterment area

Letter 1's – Need More Timely Responses

- Request from Utility Coordinator – the earlier we receive information back from the Utilities the better chance to reduce impacts to the Utilities.
- Your contact information – if not correct, please update with us; helps others within MaineDOT make contact with you reducing any delays.
- Contact person needs to have knowledge of system; R/W person may know where the facilities are but may not know the flexibility or restrictions of impacting it during construction
- We need the questions answered – what is involved? Underground utilities? Above ground utilities? Underground conflicts may need to be addressed sooner than above ground issues.
- Project Design can accommodate Utility upgrades during our work if we know early enough in the process.
- Personnel changes need to be relayed to MaineDOT to keep the Utility Database current.

- MDOT makes several attempts to receive your comments- if we receive no comments we have to assume you are OK with what has been shared and we continue with the design shared.
- If late or no response, the utility may have to move their facilities and may be responsible for schedule or delay claims

Q – LAP Projects – do they have access to the database? No. The Utility web page has a pdf report of all Database contacts by Town; updated periodically. Consultants handling LAP Project may sometimes work with Derrick and Rick with Utility concerns.

- Project list are available on the Web Page – data pulled from the Utility Database
- LAP Training Sessions are conducted every 6 months. Utility Coordination is part of the training.
- Consultants have less experience with the process so questions may be wide ranging
 - Comment – Utility Coordinators do good job communicating with the Consultants/ Designers/Utilities.

Recurring Items: Construction lessons Learned:

- Manhole Ring Inserts – issue material composite/not holding up over the construction season or a winter season, causing the potential for the covers to open.
- MaineDOT is working on Developing a Policy on “Criteria for Raising Manholes for Paving Projects”.
 - Depending on depth of paving, may require all manholes to be adjusted on some Projects and none on others
 - Standard Specifications do not allow for the composite material being used but the Department has been allowing. You may see this change.

Q – Once Policy is approved – will it be optional? Still use brick and mortar? The policy will not be optional, but, brick and mortar supporting metal frame is always best option. See policy (when shared) for otherwise.

Open Forum/Other Business

- Believe we/Utilities are ready for the coming season and hoping for the best.
- No other comments

Hard copies of **Utility Accommodations Rules** are available back table – please help yourselves.

Thank you for coming and being involved. Meeting Adjourned

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 Attendance List**

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