



# Abandoned Facilities Guide

Per MDOT Road Design Manual 9.03.03 Utilities on Plans:

*“Michigan DOT does not allow abandonment of facilities within the ROW. We only allow a utility to place a utility line out of service. This is intended to indicate that the utility company is still the owner of the facility and is still required to maintain records for future transportation improvements and remove the line at their cost if necessary”*

## The Issue

Abandoned facilities have become a point of concern due to:

- An increase in burying underground utilities.
- The decreased cost of using directional drilling to bury facilities.
- The vagueness of many ordinances when addressing abandoned facility requirements.

## The Solution

To assist in the facilitation of MDPB Best Practices, MISS DIG 811 encourages the use of our abandoned facilities station (ABAN) by members who have abandoned or placed facilities out of service. This station communicates to the excavators that there is an abandoned line in the area that may not be marked. This reduces project delays if they know they are looking at an abandoned line rather than a "mystery" line that they keep placing tickets for. It also provides historical reference if another organization purchases the line down the road.

An ABAN station has an automatic Positive Response, requiring no response from the facility owner/operator. ABAN stations are free, as they are for the benefit of the contractor and integrity of the process. However, if the member facility owner/operator elects to receive tickets transmitted to the ABAN station and/or requests access through any DamagePreventionPortal user accounts, standard fees apply as the ABAN station would be another asset on the System.

## Features

- Free for the benefit of contractors
  - As mentioned, the facility owner/operator can elect to receive copies of these requests through the abandoned station for a fee.
- Automated Positive Response code applied: **POSSIBLE ABANDONED FACILITY**
- Provides underground facility type: GAS, WTR, PL, BRNE, SWR, etc.
- Contains contact and historical information, allowing MISS DIG 811 to assist in answering ownership questions



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## How It Works

1. Each time a member submits a mapping request, the Member Services Department inquires whether the change reflects the abandoning of any lines. Members can also directly notify us of abandoned facilities.
2. We then determine whether a separate file of the abandoned lines is available. If not, we will isolate the differences between the current and proposed areas of notification. The file of the abandoned facilities will be uploading into an ABAN station.
  - a. If the member wishes to be notified when work is occurring near the abandoned facilities, subscription information will be confirmed.
  - b. If the member does not wish to receive tickets for work occurring near the abandoned facilities, no subscription information will be added to the station.
3. When a locate request is placed, the ABAN station will appear on the ticket, making the excavator aware that there is a possible abandoned facility in the area of their dig site. The excavator can then contact the Member Services Department for any available historical information.

Contact the Member Services Department at [membersupport@missdig811.org](mailto:membersupport@missdig811.org) or (800) 482-7161 to create an ABAN station for existing abandoned facilities or if you have any questions.