

Michigan Damage Prevention Board
Best Practice 2015-04

Abandoned/Idle Facilities

MDPB Best Practice

When a facility owner or facility operator (FOO) has records of an abandoned or idle facility within a ticket scope, information should be provided to the excavator regarding characteristics of the live facility (i.e. type, size, color, material, location). This is intended to help the excavator distinguish abandoned or idle facilities from live facilities. For large projects, the FOO should provide the excavator with any relevant information about abandoned or idle facilities within the project scope.

In the event that an abandoned or idle facility is located and marked, or exposed during excavation, the facility is to be treated as active. If an excavator has reason to suspect the presence of an unmarked facility they are required by law to provide immediate additional notice to the notification system and stop excavation in the immediate vicinity. The FOO is required to provide additional assistance to the excavator.

It is recommended that FOO's maintain a database with the location information of the abandoned or idle facility that is exposed during excavation. The database should be updated as necessary if portions of facilities are permanently removed.

Definitions

Abandoned facility: A permanently out-of-service underground facility which the facility owner or facility operator has no intention of placing into service in the future.

Idle facility: (a) That portion of an underground facility that is not in use but is still connected to the facility, or to any other facility, that is in use or still carries service. (b) A new underground facility that has not been connected to any portion of an existing facility.

PA174 Reference

PA 174 Sect. 3 (o) "Facility" or "underground facility" means an underground or submerged conductor, pipe, or structure, including, but not limited to a conduit, duct, line, pipe, wire, or other device and its appurtenances used to produce, store, transmit, or distribute a utility service, including communications, data, cable television, electricity, heat, natural or manufactured gas, oil, petroleum products, steam, sewage, video, water, and other similar substances, including environmental contaminates or hazardous waste.

PA 174 Sect. 3 (u) "Mark", "marks", or "marking" means the temporary identification on the surface grade of the location of a facility in response to a ticket described in section 7.

The MDPB Best Practices are presented as a general guide. The MDPB encourages all users to consult and consider not only the MDPB Best Practices, but also (i) employer practices, (ii) industry practices, (iii) federal and state statutes and regulations, (iv) building and fire codes, and (v) local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

PA 174 Sect. 5 (9) An excavator shall provide immediate additional notice to the notification system and stop excavation in the immediate vicinity if the excavator has reason to suspect the present of an unmarked facility due to(a) Visible evidence of a facility with no marks visible.

PA 174 Sect. 5 (10) If an excavator contacts or damages a facility, the excavator shall provide immediate notice to the facility owner or facility operator.

References

MISS DIG 811 Abandoned Member Codes – see MISS DIG 811 website

CGA Best Practice Reference: CGA Version 12.0 Best Practice 4-11: Abandoned Facilities

R 460.20501(2)(a):

(2) An operator shall maintain all of the following additional records:

(a) Maps and records showing the locations of pipelines and service lines, including lines that have been abandoned but not removed.

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Revision 3 Date 3/27/2025

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