New Jersey Department of Transportation
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY

CAPITAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

Director: Richard Jaffe, PE Telephone: (609) 530-5367

QIA No.: 56

Approved: Richard Jaffe
Date: April 25, 2016

Subject: Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)

Process Affected:

☐Scope ☒Design ☐Right of Way ☒Utilities ☐Environmental ☐Historic ☐Construction

Bureaus Affected:	**Procedure(s) Affected:**
Design	Utilities

Nature of Issue(s):

Years of observation have revealed that Utility companies have not been reliably providing the Department with accurate plans depicting their utility locations. The costs associated with "unexpected" utilities during construction includes both time and money affecting the designer, the contractor and the public. The utilization of Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) allows designers to design projects with a better knowledge of the subsurface utilities that may be encountered in a project by providing utility information regarding their location, type and depth.

Recommendation(s):

In recent years, SUE technology has improved and SUE costs have become more affordable making the use of SUE a more viable tool on applicable NJDOT projects.

Therefore, it is encouraged that for NJDOT projects where underground work will occur and it can reasonably be expected that existing utilities will be encountered during construction, SUE services should be utilized early in the design process to determine the location of existing underground utilities.

It is expected that the mapping of these utilities during design will reduce the likelihood and risks associated with encountering "unexpected" utilities during construction.

Impact Assessment:	**Cost Impact:**
☐Schedule ☒Quality ☐Cost ☐Scope	**None**

Implementation: Immediate