Agenda Date: 7/18/12 Agenda Item: 6A

RELIABILITY & SECURITY



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/

IN THE MATTER OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE UNDERGROUND FACILITY PROTECTION ACT, N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 ET SEQ.))))	ORDER ACCEPTING SETTLEMENTS Docket Nos. GS12050391K, et al. (see attached appendix)
)	

Parties of Record:

James Glozzy Vice President & General Manager, United Water New Jersey Mr. Falusi, Falusi Electric Craig Lynch, Vice President, New Jersey Natural Gas Company Gerard Cipriano, RCF Enterprises Sean Cashman, Cashman Landscape Management Ricky Harding, Elizabethtown Gas Co. Christopher La Rossa, Public Service Electric and Gas Joseph Gaccione, G. Frank LLC

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.

¹ Commissioner Joseph L. Fiordaliso did not participate.

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 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..." N.J.S.A. 48:2-75. The One-Call Damage Prevention System ("the System") coordinates communication and responsive action between these two groups of persons. N.J.S.A. 48:2-80, -82.

The Act subjects violators of its provisions to civil penalties of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$2,500.00 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 \$100,000.00 per violation per day and not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 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 these 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.

NO FURTHER ACTION BY THE RESPONDENTS IS REQUIRED

This Order shall be effective on July 27, 2012.

DATED: 7/18/12

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

ROBERT M. HANNA

PRESIDENT

JEANNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

WARY-ANNA HOLDEN
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, N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 ET.SEQ. ORDER ACCEPTING SETTLEMENTS DOCKET NO. GS12050391K et al. (see attached appendix)

SERVICE LIST

Parties of Record

James Glozzy Vice President & General Manager United Water New Jersey 60 DeVoe Place Hackensack NJ 07601

Mr. Falusi Falusi Electric 1511 Roller Rd. Ocean NJ 07712

Craig Lynch, Vice President New Jersey Natural Gas Company 1415 Wyckoff Rd. Box 1464 Wall NJ 07719

Gerard Cipriano RCF Enterprises Box 796 Franklin Lakes NJ 07417

Sean Cashman Cashman Landscape Management 30a Ridgedale Ave E. Hanover NJ 07936

Ricky Harding
Elizabethtown Gas Co.
520 Green Lane
Union NJ 07083

Christopher La Rossa Public Service Electric and Gas 80 Park Plaza Mail Code T14 Newark NJ 07101

Joseph Gaccione G. Frank LLC 790 Bloomfield Ave. Clifton NJ 07011 James Giuliano, Director Division of Reliability & Security Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Douglas Ziemba, Chief Engineer Division of Reliability & Security Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

James P Kane Esq. Counsel's Office Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Geoffrey Gersten, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street 5th floor Newark NJ 0710

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-July 2012
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