Agenda Date: 1/23/13 Agenda Item: 6A



#### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

		DIVISIONS OF AUDITS & RELIABILITY & SECURITY
IN THE MATTER OF THE RATE CHARGED BY ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. FOR OPERATION OF THE NEW JERSEY ONE-CALL DAMAGE PREVENTION SYSTEM	) ) )	ORDER  DOCKET NO. AA09020127

Parties of Record:

Thomas Hoff, President One Call Concepts, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:

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 ("the 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.

Through the Department of Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property, a Request for Proposal was issued to designate a System Operator for the System. On September 16, 2009, after reviewing the report and recommendations of the Evaluation Committee, the Board selected One Call Concepts, Inc. ("OCC" or "the Vendor"), of Hanover, Maryland, as System Operator of the System for a period beginning February 17, 2010 and ending February 16, 2015. Accordingly, the Department of Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property ("Treasury"), entered into Contract No. A75304 ("Contract") with OCC, on behalf of the Board, for the five-year period effective February 17, 2010 through February 16, 2015

As System Operator, the Vendor's primary responsibility is to process incoming messages from excavators of planned excavation or demolition activity and send notifications ("Tickets") to underground facility operators with facilities in the area of the proposed activity. The Contract provides that OCC will be compensated for each request for mark-out ("Message") that it receives and that it will collect this compensation through a per-Ticket charge to underground facility operators. The exact amount of this charge is calculated based upon an estimate, made at the beginning of each contract year, of the average number of Tickets that will be sent for each Message received ("the Ratio"). The Ratio is established to ensure that the charges for Tickets will provide sufficient revenue to pay OCC at the current contract year per message rate.

OCC's first year contract rate effective February 17, 2010 through February 16, 2011 was \$6.90. OCC's second year contract rate effective February 17, 2011 was \$7.01 per Message. The third year contract rate effective February 17, 2012 is \$7.13 per Message. The fourth year contact rate effective February 17, 2013 will be \$7.24 per Message. Because the estimated ratio for any given year may result in either over or under compensation of the System Operator, the Contract also provides that OCC shall, at the request of NJBPU staff, set a lower or higher charge per Ticket. On November 27, 2012, OCC filed with the Board seeking approval of a revised per Ticket rate. The proposed rate takes into account prior recoveries, charges for other permissible services as well as the fourth year contract rate of \$7.24 per message.

In addition to the Contract rate, the Tariff sets forth rates for other permissible services provided by OCC under the Contract. Any revenue from these charges shall be included by OCC when calculating the annual reconciliation as well as any subsequent rate changes and true-ups.

Following a review of the letter and supporting documents, as well as discussions with OCC, Staff recommends that the Board adopt the Tariff pages and lower the current Ticket Rate of \$1.18 to the Ticket Rate of \$1.14 effective February 1, 2013.

The Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the change in the Ticket Rate is necessary to ensure appropriate recovery to fund the Contract Rate. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u> that the rate per Ticket will be lowered to \$1.14 and that OCC's tariff be approved to be effective on February 1, 2013. <sup>1</sup>

The Board reserves the right to order an increase and/or decrease at a future point in the contract year if warranted. The information presented by OCC and a review of the proper collection and calculation of rates and ratios is subject to audit, including a review of collection activities, proper expenditure of money under the Contract and any additional over/under collections.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This Order does not change the contract message Rate. Pursuant to the Contract, OCC will continue to receive \$7.13 for all messages up to and including February 16, 2013 and will receive \$7.24 for all messages from February 17, 2013 through February 16, 2014.

This Order shall be effective on February 1, 2013.

DATED: 1/23/13

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

BY:

**PRESIDENT** 

**COMMISSIONER** 

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

**SECRETARY** 

CÓMMISSIONER

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within

IN THE MATTER OF THE RATE CHARGED BY ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. FOR OPERATION OF THE NEW JERSEY ONE-CALL DAMAGE PREVENTION SYSTEM DOCKET NO. AA09020127

## **SERVICE LIST**

## <u>Petitioner</u>

Thomas Hoff, President
One Call Concepts, Inc.
7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 210
Hanover, MD 21076

# **Board Staff**

Dennis Moran, Director Division of Audits Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

James P. Giuliano, Director Division of Reliability & Security Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

#### **Deputy Attorney General**

Geoffrey Gersten, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey St. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, N.J. 07102