



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Utilities Protection Center of Georgia
March 20th, 2007**

Official Utilities Protection Center, Inc. Business

Duluth, GA – March 20th, 2007 – Utilities Protection Center, Inc. alerts Member Utilities to upcoming new Locate Request Notification Type – Large Projects.

On May 16th, 2006 the Georgia Public Service Commission approved new Utility Rule 515-9-4-.02, as well as amended Utility Rule 515-9-4-.13 pertaining to the creation of a new Locate Request Notification type for projects that meet or exceed one (1) linear mile or will take ninety (90) + days to complete.

The purpose of this new Locate Request Type is to enhance the process for locating the two aforementioned excavation project types by granting the Utility Owner/Operator and Excavator the ability to agree on terms for marking the proposed excavation site outside the time frame required within the “GA Dig Law”.

The new Large Project Notification removes the burden of locating the entire proposed excavation site within the normal 48 hour response time for the Utility Owner/Operators, while at the same time removing the 21 day notice expiration for Excavators.

The additional Locate Request Type will present several new steps to the locate request notification process for UPC and its Member Utilities. Each Member should take time to become more familiar with the PSC rule (docket # 22199-U) available on UPC’s website (www.gaupc.com), along with additional information on the process and procedures for Large Projects. The following is a high level overview of the new process:

1. The Excavator will notify the UPC of a possible Large Project Excavation site. UPC will then transmit a *Large Project Meeting Notification* request with a proposed onsite meeting date and time to all of the affected Member Utilities.
2. Members Utilities are required to respond to PRIS indicating agreement of the proposed meeting date/time.
3. After the onsite meeting occurs, Members are required to respond to PRIS indicating their agreement or disagreement to treat the request as a *Large Project*.
4. In the event that 60% or greater of the Member Utilities agree to treat the request as a Large Project – the Excavator will then notify UPC and have the request changed to a *Large Project Excavation Notification* request. Member Utilities who do not agree to treat the project as a Large Project will receive a Normal Locate Request, which shall be located within the normal 48 hour time frame in accordance with the “GA Dig Law”.
5. Member Utilities are required to locate the site in accordance to the agreed upon marking plan.

In addition to the process change for Member Utilities, there will also be numerous changes to the delivery and response structures. The greatest of which are two (2) new locate request output formats, as well as a separate PRIS system to respond to. The new output formats documentation is attached for your review and implementation. If your system parses incoming notices it will have to be updated with the new LP formats before you will be able to correctly parse the new LP notices. Please see the attached information or website for more information.

UPC will be available to test the new changes with each Member Utility on an individual basis beginning March 22nd. Each Member will be responsible for contacting UPC to request testing – testing contact information is listed below

Please visit our website for more information – www.gaupc.com. Including, overview PowerPoint presentation, Process and Procedure Flowchart and documentation, PRIS system documentation, Large Project Notification output formats, etc...As well, you can also find the contact information for your regional Liaison Manager if you have any further questions.

Testing Contact:

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Available Monday – Friday (7am – 4pm)