Locate System Improvements

Ryan Quesnel, MCPM, C.Tech.
Chair, NCHCA Locates Committee
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Opening Remarks

- The NCHCA Locate Committee was initially formed to address the critical issue of late locates
- We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with our locate system partners
- We are pleased to see meaningful improvements including those implemented by Bill 93, Getting Ontario Connected Act
 - the ability to share locates
 - 60 day minimum validity periods
 - the ability to seek compensation directly from utility owners
 - the recent development of administrative penalties to be enforced by Ontario One Call to promote compliance with timelines in the act

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Ongoing Challenges

- Despite significant efforts, late locates continue to be a problem
- In the past this was a difficult issue to quantify
- The new legislation requires that ON1Call make information about locate performance, including the number of locate requests received and when these locate requests were completed available to the public
- Significant step in promoting transparency
- Clearly outlines the extent and scope of the late locate challenge we're facing

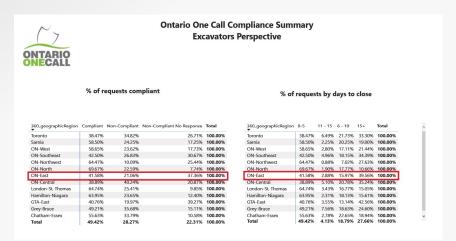
https://www.ontarioonecall.ca/compliance-reports/

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Compliance Reports



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Compliance Reports for ON-East

Percent of requests by days to close

Month	0 to 5 days	6 to 10 days	11 to 15 days	over 15 days
December 2022	41.58%	15.97%	2.88%	39.56%
November 2022	29.78%	9.46%	1.27%	59.49%
October 2022	39.78%	16.35%	2.41%	41.46%
September 2022	28.16%	22.92%	7.57%	41.34%
August 2022	32.42%	27.57%	7.71%	32.30%
July 2022	22.35%	23.61%	13.43%	40.61%

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Impacts of Late Locates

- Delays in project start-up
- Unpredictable timelines create complications for obtaining timeconstrained permits and scheduling sub trades
- Additional project management resources spent cancelling and rebooking activities and potential demobilization
- Late locates can force the contractor to change the desired work-flow creating inefficiencies
- Lost and unrecoverable working days
- Staff time spent applying for extensions of time on contracts and potentially deferring work for the season

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Industry Questions

- 1. Will the efforts by utility owners and locate service providers result in better compliance in 2023?
- 2. Have steps been taken to mitigate the labour shortage/lack of locators?
- 3. Will there be a mechanism for excavators to more widely utilize a dedicated locator model?
- 4. Will training and/or certification be developed and made available?

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Application of Penalties

- 1. How will administrative penalties be applied?
- 2. When will alternative methods such warnings and cautions be used instead?
- 3. Who will make this decision?
- 4. How and when will assessors be appointed?

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Suggestions for Excavators

- Ensure staff calling in locates have completed the Professional Locate Administrator Course (PLAC)
- Oversight by more experienced staff
- Plan to share locates with sub-contractors whenever possible
- Open and ongoing discussions with locate service providers to confirm if there are best practices that excavators can follow to ensure tickets are generated in a way that allows for the most efficient fulfillment
- Do not "ticket dump"
- Limit the boundaries of the locate ticket where possible

NCHCA!

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Thank you!

Ryan Quesnel, MCPM, C.Tech. Chair, NCHCA Locates Committee February 22, 2023



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