

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA  
ONE CALL NOTIFICATION BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT  
FILED BY MONTANA DAKOTA  
UTILITIES, RAPID CITY, SD AGAINST  
TOBY KARN, RAPID CITY, SD, FOR AN  
INCIDENT OCCURRING ON AUGUST 2,  
2020, AT 3117 CONSERVATION WAY,  
RAPID CITY, SD.

**ORDER ADOPTING ENFORCEMENT  
PANEL RECOMMENDATION TO THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA ONE CALL BOARD**

OC20-051

On August 5, 2020, the South Dakota One Call Board received a Complaint filed by Montana Dakota Utilities Co. (herein "Claimant"), against Toby Karn (herein "Respondent"), for an incident occurring on August 2, 2020, at 3117 Conservation Way, Rapid City, SD. The Complaint alleges violations of SDCL 49-7A-5 and 49-7A-8 when Respondent was installing a sprinkler system for a home owner and working off the home owner's expired locate ticket. Claimant alleges Respondent hit the gas service line in multiple spots while trenching directly on top of the gas line. Gas was not blowing due to an Excess Flow Valve.

A copy of the Complaint was sent to Respondent on August 12, 2020. The deadline to respond was September 2, 2020. Respondent has answered the Complaint as of September 22, 2020 and does dispute that a violation of South Dakota One Call law occurred. Respondent alleges performing the trenching according to the MDU flags that were placed in the yard. Respondent also believed the trencher was far enough away from the flags. Respondent stated the respect for the danger of natural gas.

On September 24, 2020, the Enforcement Panel (herein "Panel") convened pursuant the authority present in SDCL 49-7A. The Panel does find probable cause that unintentional violations of SDCL 49-7A-5 and SDCL 49-7A-8 occurred.

Based upon the evidence presented in the filings, the Panel recommends a penalty of \$1,000 with \$750 suspended for the violation of SDCL 49-7A-5 and a penalty of \$1,000 with \$750 suspended for the violation of SDCL 49-7A-8 for a total penalty of \$2,000 with \$1,500 suspended upon the conditions listed below. The conditions for the suspended penalty are as follows:

1. Respondent must not be found guilty of a One-Call violation within 12 months of the Board Order,

2. The penalty payment of **\$500** must be made to **P.O. Box 187, Rapid City, SD 57709.**
3. Respondent must attend a Damage Prevention meeting in 2021.
4. Respondent must conduct an in-house safety meeting to discuss South Dakota One Call laws. Detail of the discussion material, date, and length of the meeting along with printed and signed names of attendees will be submitted to the Executive Director of South Dakota One Call within thirty (30) days of the Board Order being issued.
5. Respondent will arrange a face-to-face meeting with Claimant to review the damage, dangers while working around utilities, and safe practices. This meeting is to take place within thirty (30) days of the Board Order being issued.

If any of the above conditions are not met, the suspended penalty (**\$1,500**) becomes immediately due and payable to **P.O. Box 187, Rapid City, SD 57709.**

On October 26, 2020, the Panel's recommendation was sent to the parties to this action. The parties did not request an evidentiary hearing. The Board reviewed the Panel's recommendations at its November 17, 2020 meeting pursuant to SDCL 49-7A-27. The Panel's recommendation was approved by the Board. It is now, therefore:

**ORDERED**, that the South Dakota One Call Board adopts the recommendations of the Panel as a final resolution of this Complaint. The Panel's findings are attached hereto and shall be considered fully incorporated herein.

**ORDERED**, that if the penalty is not paid, that the Board shall pursue any rights it has under the law regarding collections.

The South Dakota One Call Notification Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26 and 49-7A and ARSD Article 20:25, specifically SDCL 49-7A-5, 49-7A-18, 49-7A-20, 49-7A-22, and 49-7A-26.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.

BY ORDER OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA  
ONE CALL NOTIFICATION BOARD:

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