

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA
ONE CALL NOTIFICATION BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT
FILED BY MONTANA DAKOTA
UTILITIES, RAPID CITY, SD AGAINST
OFTEDAL CONSTRUCTION, CASPER,
WY, FOR AN INCIDENT OCCURRING
ON AUGUST 21, 2020 AT SHERIDAN
LAKE ROAD AND SPRING CANYON
TRAIL, RAPID CITY, SD.

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

OC20-057

On September 1, 2020, the South Dakota One Call Board received a Complaint filed by Montana Dakota Utilities Co. (herein “Claimant”), against Oftedal Construction, Inc., a Montana corporation (herein “Respondent”), for an incident occurring on August 21, 2020, at Sheridan Lake Road and Spring Canyon Trail, Rapid City, SD. The Complaint alleges a violation SDCL 49-7A-8 when Respondent was installing a storm drain and dug through the 2” gas main. Claimant also alleges that locate marks were faded out and not clear due to weather and work being done and that a re-spot of locates should have been called in.

A copy of the Complaint was sent to Respondent on September 1, 2020. The deadline to respond was September 21, 2020. Respondent has answered the Complaint as of September 18, 2020 and does not dispute that a violation of South Dakota One Call law occurred. Respondent alleges that employees were hand digging around the buried gas line and using an excavator to move some of the loose soil that had been hand dug. During this process, the excavator bucket contacted a rock that then came into contact with the gas line and damaging it.

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 an unintentional violation of SDCL 49-7A-8 occurred.

Based upon the evidence presented in the filings, the Panel recommends a penalty of \$1,000 with \$750 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 **\$250** 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 (**\$750**) becomes immediately due and payable to **P.O. Box 187, Rapid City, SD 57709**.

The Panel recommends the South Dakota One Call Board accept its findings and recommendations herein. If either party to this Complaint disagrees or objects to the recommendations or findings herein, a hearing may be requested. To request a hearing, a party must reply within twenty (20) days from the date of service of this notice. Failure to request a hearing is considered acceptance of the recommendations and findings herein.

The South Dakota One Call Notification Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-7A and ARSD 20:25.