

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA
ONE CALL NOTIFICATION BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT
FILED BY MONTANA DAKOTA
UTILITIES, RAPID CITY, SD AGAINST
RCS CONSTRUCTION, RAPID CITY, SD,
FOR AN INCIDENT OCCURRING ON
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 AT MILL STREET
AND CEMETERY STREET, LEAD, SD.

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

OC20-066

On September 18, 2020, the South Dakota One Call Board received a Complaint filed by Montana Dakota Utilities Co. (herein “Claimant”), against R.C.S. Construction, Inc. (herein “Respondent”), for an incident occurring on September 12, 2020, at Mill Street and Cemetery Street, Lead, SD. The Complaint alleges violations of SDCL 49-7A-5 and 49-7A-8 when Respondent was installing a new water line. Claimant alleges Respondent hit the 4” steel main with the excavator and tore the main in half. Claimant alleges the Respondent’s locate ticket had expired the previous day and that there were some visible marks left from previous locates accurately locating the gas line. Claimant alleges both 911 and 811 were notified and gas was blowing.

A copy of the Complaint was sent to Respondent on September 22, 2020. The deadline to respond was October 15, 2020. Respondent has answered the Complaint as of October 6, 2020 and does dispute that a violation of South Dakota One Call law occurred. Respondent alleges Claimant did not provide locates to their locate ticket #2023284922 and that the flag found outside of the work area were old. Respondent alleges they take safety around utilities very seriously and are very careful. Respondent does not dispute the allegation that their locate ticket was expired.

On October 29, 2020, the Enforcement Panel (herein “Panel”) convened pursuant the authority present in SDCL 49-7A. The Panel does find probable cause that an intentional violation of SDCL 49-7A-5 occurred. The Panel does not find probable cause that a violation SDCL 49-7A-8 occurred. Therefore, the Panel recommends the violation of SDCL 49-7A-8 be dismissed.

Based upon the evidence presented in the filings, the Panel recommends a penalty of \$1,500 with \$750 suspended for the violation of SDCL 49-7A-5 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 **\$750** 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.