

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA
ONE CALL NOTIFICATION BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY ASKLAND DITCHING, RAPID CITY, SD AGAINST MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES, RAPID CITY, SD, FOR AN INCIDENT OCCURRING ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 AT 3402 IVY AVENUE, RAPID CITY, SD.	ENFORCEMENT PANEL RECOMMENDATION TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA ONE CALL BOARD OC20-067
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On September 24, 2020, the South Dakota One Call Board received a Complaint filed by Askland Ditching (herein “Claimant”), against Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (herein “Respondent”), for an incident occurring on September 11, 2020, at 3402 Ivy Avenue, Rapid City, SD. The Complaint alleges a violation SDCL 49-7A-9 when Claimant was doing a walkthrough and did not find any markings for the gas line in or around the house. Claimant found a gas meter/line with no locate marks on the other side of the house. Therefore, Claimant alleges Respondent did not provide locates.

A copy of the Complaint was sent to Respondent on September 28, 2020. The deadline to respond was October 21, 2020. Respondent has answered the Complaint as of October 8, 2020 and does dispute that a violation of South Dakota One Call law occurred. Respondent alleges the locator located the address next door to the work area on the ticket due to misreading the address. Respondent alleges Claimant correctly evaluated the situation by calling in a verification ticket.

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 unintentional violation of SDCL 49-7A-9 occurred.

Based upon the evidence presented in the filings, the Panel recommends a penalty of \$1,500 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 **\$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.