

Background

At the November 2020 Utility Safety Partners (USP, formerly Alberta One-Call) Board meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to include overhead powerlines into the USP mandate effective January 2021. This decision effectively combined the Joint Utility Safety Team’s (JUST) overhead powerline awareness and USP’s buried utility damage prevention campaigns virtually eliminating JUST’s historical annual costs.

The purpose of this project is to create a new operational process whereby Overhead Assets can be registered in the Notification Centre software, and excavators can be notified of the presence of overhead assets in the proximity of the work area. The purpose of the notification is to increase awareness of overhead assets prior to the start of excavation, to educate the excavator about required steps that must be taken to account for the presence of overhead assets, and to decrease the number of overhead asset contacts by equipment in work areas.

Rather than increase the burden on members who own overhead assets by increasing the number of requests that require a response, this project proposes to incorporate an auto-response to excavators that puts critical safety information in the hands of the excavator whose work is imminent. The intent is to move passive awareness campaigns to a more proactive, targeted message to those who place a locate request in the system for planned work that could impact an overhead asset. Ideally, this process will result in more excavators making a safety plan regarding overhead assets and reaching out directly to the asset-owners for assistance prior to starting work.

The participating asset owners have agreed to a one-year pilot of the auto-response process to study the impact (if any) on reducing the number of contacts. Pelican Corp has agreed to partner with USP in providing a low-cost solution to transmit the auto-responses.

Pilot Duration: 12 months: November 2023 to October 2024

First 3 months volume report:

Month	Total Excavator Responses Transmitted
Nov	4158
Dec	2442
Jan	3014

Overhead Asset Notification Process

1. Overhead Asset Owner submits a database indicating where they want to be notified of potential contact with overhead assets.
2. When a locate request is processed where the dig site map overlaps an overhead asset notification database:

The processed locate request would indicate there is an overhead asset notified.

Example:

Utility Owner Details		
The public utility owners listed below with a Status of "Notification Sent" have been requested to respond to your request. They may contact you directly for clarification of your request details.		
Station Code	Authority Name	Status
CRDMITSUE	CARDINAL ENERGY LTD. (CRDMITSUE)	Notification Sent
ATCOOH	OVERHEAD- ATCO ELECTRIC LTD (AB)	Notification Sent
PMCRBII	PLAINS MIDSTREAM CANADA ULC (PMCRBII)	Notification Sent
PMCRNBW	PLAINS MIDSTREAM CANADA ULC (PMCRNBW)	Notification Sent
RNGELND	RANGELAND MIDSTREAM CANADA LTD.	Notification Sent
TCAURORA	TRANSCANADA PIPELINES LTD. (TCAURORA)	Notification Sent

END OF UTILITIES LIST

4. USP receives the notification on behalf of the overhead asset owner and processes it through TicketAccess (PelicanCorp’s Ticket Management Software). Asset owner is not billed for the notification.

5. TicketAccess automatically returns a response to excavator based on:

- Which facility owner is affected
- Facility owner business rules, which could include:
 - Generic Response to all requests
 - Response tailored to work type
 - Response tailored to type of facility affected

TicketAccess may also send either a copy of the ticket or a copy of the response to the facility owner for tracking purposes.

For the pilot, only a single informational response is sent to the excavator for all participants. Asset owners are billed \$1.00 per response. See sample response on next page.

Excavator Response for Overhead Asset Notification

NOTICE: OVERHEAD ASSET IN WORK AREA

Ticket Number:	20240123811
Utility Owner:	ATCO ELECTRIC LTD

PLAN FOR SAFETY. LOOK UP AND LIVE


Your worksite is in proximity to an **overhead** power line, and we are providing the following directions for your safety. Contact with a power line can seriously injure or kill you.

If your work is within 7 metres of the overhead power line, call the utility owner named above prior to starting work. You may require a pre-work orientation with a utility representative on site before and/or during work.

OVERHEAD UTILITY CONTACTS

<u>ATCO Electric</u>	1-800-668-2248	<u>FortisAlberta</u>	310-WIRE (9473)
<u>ENMAX</u>	403-514-6100 (opt.2)	<u>City of Lethbridge</u>	403-320-4071
<u>EPCOR</u>	780-412-4500	<u>City of Medicine Hat</u>	403-529-8257

While operating equipment, stay 7 metres safe.



UTILITY SAFETY PARTNERS

Where's the LINE?