



ALP Town Hall May 2, 2024 – Q&A Summary

Introduction

Because there is a possibility of further changes to the current Alternate Locate Provider (ALP) Program, the full recording of the Town Hall will not be posted. This document is a summary of answers to common questions posed by attendees at the May 2 ALP Town Hall meeting. It is not a verbatim record.

How is the new TELUS Policy related to the ALP?

The new TELUS policy is NOT related to the ALP or part of the ALP process and it applies only to traditional/mainstream ticket requests.

When the excavator does NOT opt in to the ALP program on a ticket the process remains unchanged from the current one: all members respond according to their own internal process (providing a clearance, sending out a locator, etc). In TELUS's case, that means they will now respond to traditional/mainstream requests according to their new policy. Details about TELUS's policy can be found [HERE](#) and questions about their new response policy should be directed to TELUS at: infrastructure.protection@telus.com

TELUS is part of the Consortium participating in the ALP program, and when an excavator opts in to the ALP on a ticket, TELUS lines will be marked by the Alternate Locate Service Provider (ALSP) hired by the excavator.

How will the ALP impact timelines for mainstream/regular locate requests?

The evidence from pilots and other jurisdictions with an ALP points to increased efficiency, as the ALP will add more locators that are able to complete requests.

Contract locators providing mainstream locates for the Consortium will still be obligated to respond to locates on time. The Consortium closely monitors the activity of its contract locators and indications that timelines are negatively impacted or that a contract locator is prioritizing ALSP work over mainstream obligations will be addressed quickly.

Is using the ALP program mandatory for projects? Is it going to become mandatory for excavators to pay for their own locates?

The traditional or "mainstream" method of requesting and receiving locates remains unchanged. Excavators may choose "yes" to the ALP option or leave the option at its default "no" and receive locates from affected asset owners in the same manner as they do right now.

The ALP program is strictly voluntary and is offered as an **option** for excavators who are looking for more control over the timing of locate delivery. There are currently no plans to make the ALP mandatory. Regulations governing some asset-owners require them to provide locates.



ALP Town Hall May 2, 2024 – Q&A Summary

Will the ALSP I hire mark all lines in my work area?

ALSPs are only authorized to mark for the participating Consortium members. Consortium members do represent the notified members on a high percentage of tickets. However, if you have other non-Consortium members notified on your ticket, you must still wait for their response or locates prior to starting excavation.

It is up to the excavator and ALSP to determine if they will be paid to locate any private or secondary lines.

As an excavator, if I choose to hire and pay an ALSP, does that ALSP also have contractual obligations to the Consortium?

Approved ALSP's will have an agreement in place with the Consortium that identifies minimum standards, safety protocols, provides contact information to the members for assistance with locates when necessary, and provides the ALSP access to Consortium members' asset location through a GIS viewer log in.

ALSP registration requires proof of an internal audit process, and Consortium members will also perform audits as required to monitor locate quality.

How is liability handled if an ALSP inaccurately marks a line due to incorrect Utility Owner documentation or locator error?

Liability will remain the same as it currently is and would be determined by an investigation.

How will ALP costs be distributed between Consortium members in the case that a specific utility requires more troubleshooting or attention?

It is recommended that the ticket requester and the ALSP have adequate provisions in place in their contractual relationship to handle such instances. The Consortium cannot control the timing or response required to every field scenario, nor is the Consortium privy to the contractual relationship between ALP parties.



ALP Town Hall May 2, 2024 – Q&A Summary

How much processing time is expected between the Ticket submission date and being in contact with the ALSP?

In practice, Excavators should have dates arranged with their chosen ALSP prior to placing the locate requests. Excavators choosing the ALP option will be required to work directly with their preferred ALSP on response timelines.

Note that if a non-Consortium member is notified on the USP ticket, you will still be required to wait for their responses prior to beginning excavation - even if the ALSP has already marked or cleared your work area for Consortium members.

Why use an ALSP over a Private Locator?

The ALSP will have been approved and vetted to ensure they are meeting Consortium requirements, and the ALSP will have direct access to Consortium prints, and the most up-to-date plant information.

What's the benefit to Excavators using the ALP?

Individually, Excavators can enjoy more direct control over the timing of their locates, and save costs by not having crews and/or equipment sit on site while waiting for a regular Consortium locator to respond. Increased safety is a likelihood as well due to a more direct 1-on-1 relationship with a contracted ALSP. Having a direct line relationship that does not rely on third-party communication can help in many situations that arise in the field.

When the Excavator selects the ALP, will USP send the Locate Service Provider the ticket information?

No, USP will transmit the ticket information to the Excavator, who is responsible for providing it to their ALSP.

Once ALP is selected by the excavator, they would be required to contact (or have previously contacted) an ALSP to work out the locate schedule for the ALP-covered utilities.

Will Utility Owners that belong to the Consortium still receive a ticket notification of the Locate Request if the Excavator opts to use the ALSP?

All notified members will receive a copy of the ticket for record purposes, but ALP Consortium members will remove ALP tickets from their mainstream process and will not respond to the excavator or schedule a locate.



ALP Town Hall May 2, 2024 – Q&A Summary

Will other asset owners be joining the Consortium or be participating in the ALP program?

One benefit of using USP as program administrator is that other USP members are informed about the ALP and have the option to join as well. For now, only Consortium members are participating. The list of participating members will be kept current [HERE](#).

Is there a full list of currently approved ALSPs?

Not yet, as several ALSPs are still currently going through the approval process. Once completed, any approved ALSP will be added to list on USPs website located [HERE](#).

Will all the employees of an ALSP company be required to go through a full audit?

Only the ALSP employees that will be handling ALP requests on behalf of the Consortium will. If an ALSP chooses to partition their employees they can do so.

Can Excavators and Asset Owners get ALSP approval and perform their own locates on behalf of the Consortium?

Excavators and Asset Owners can apply to become an approved ALSP and register employees as ALSP locators. Any ALSP approved locator will have demonstrated that they meet the Consortium's minimum requirements and have met the standards already in place. They will have the added benefit of more precise and up-to-date information and the ALPs QA process.

Any group who is approved to be an ALSP can operate internally and has no obligation to make their services available to other excavators.

Do ALSPs get to pick and choose who they locate for?

Yes. ALSPs are not obligated to take on all projects or jobs offered to them and may choose work based on available resources or type of locates required (for example).

What are the insurance requirements for an ALSP?

The individual details are included in the ALSP Registration Checklist and Applicant Information documents on the [USP website](#). Insurance requirements are the same as for any Locate Service Provider currently contracted to the Consortium (general Commercial Liability, Automobile Liability, WCB coverage, etc). There is no required bond.



ALP Town Hall May 2, 2024 – Q&A Summary

What are the costs of training for an ALSP?

All fee schedules can be found on the USP site [HERE](#)

Is the Consortium concerned that Excavators will opt-in to the ALP but excavate without having the locates performed?

It's always a concern when Excavators perform a ground disturbance without the proper locates in place, with or without the ALP program in place. Excavators who dig before locates are completed take all the same risks and liabilities associated with digging without locates, neither of which are condoned by the Consortium.

Are Relocate requests still required for ongoing excavations if the locates are being handled by an ALSP?

Yes. The process for submitting and requesting locates is unchanged, so a ticket that is expired or expiring will still require a Relocate to be submitted through USP following normal procedures (but with the ALP selected).

More information can be found online at UtilitySafety.ca or by emailing specific questions to info@UtilitySafety.ca