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SC811 Dig Policy Notice

Background

Each SCBBO ARPA grant agreement for all ARPA grant programs to date (including SLFRF 1.0, ADGP, CPF, and SLFRF 3.0) includes provisions that require all Grantees to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Among the laws and regulations referenced includes compliance with the South Carolina Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act.

Objective

The objective of this policy notice is to streamline to the greatest extent practicable the manner in which SC811 dig locate tickets are tracked and reported under SCBBO administered ARPA grants. Grantees are encouraged to contact the SCBBO at broadband@ors.sc.gov if there are any questions upon review of this policy notice. It is also highly recommended all contractors, subcontractors, and locators are or will be properly trained utilizing the SC811 online learning system available at no cost. More information is available at: https://sc811.com/education-outreach/online-training/.

Purpose and Need

Grantees are required to report to the SCBBO, on a quarterly basis, all 811 Dig Locate Tickets obtained for awarded projects throughout the state where Broadband facilities are being deployed either underground or through aerial facilities if such facilities require excavation. This information must be provided to the SCBBO under the Compliance Reporting tab of the template quarterly report (Exhibit J – See page 2).
The SCBBO estimates just under 30,000 Dig Locate Tickets will need to be submitted pertaining to ARPA grant awards alone which are tracked and managed through the SC811 portal. By all accounts, it is a significant burden on time and resources to transcribe information from Exactix (SC811's Application Portal) into the SCBBO quarterly report template. What is more, it has proven difficult for the SCBBO to cross reference data provided by Grantees with SC811 data from a compliance check perspective due to the manner in which excavators are submitting tickets to SC811 and an inability to obtain an accurate accounting regarding which ticket they submitted to SC811 relates to a given SCBBO awarded project.

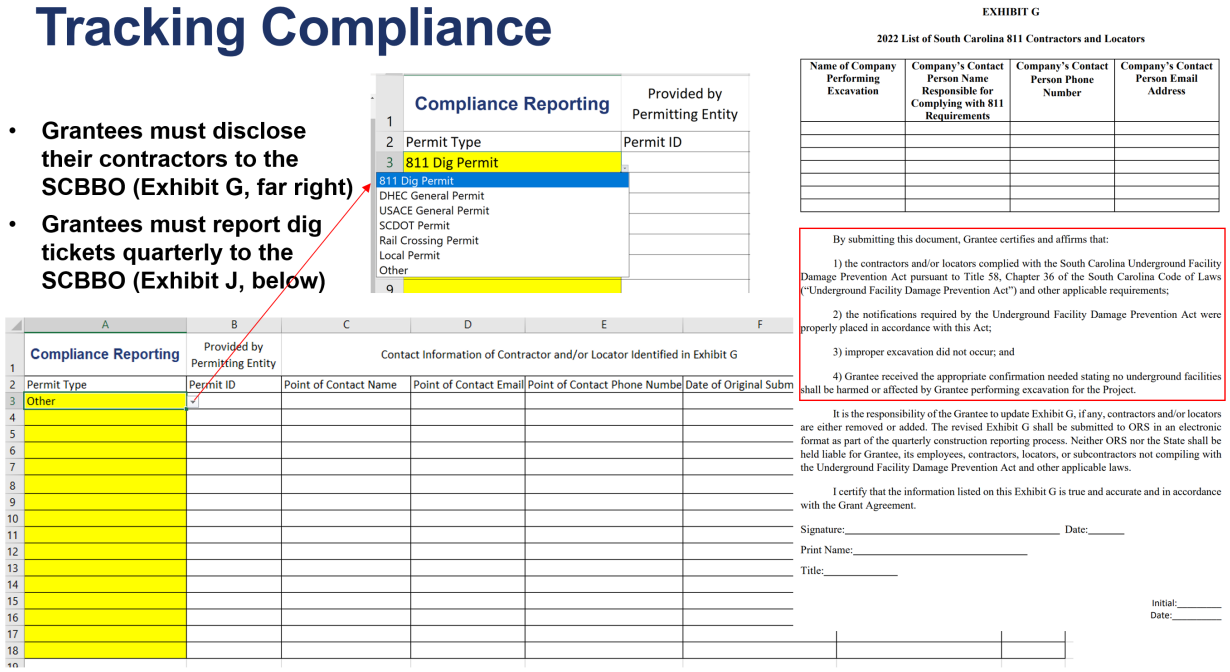
ARPA Projects			

Challenges and Barriers

Below represents a list of challenges and barriers uncovered through discussions with SC811 in addition to coordination with ARPA Grantees. While all of the items listed below are of priority to address, for purposes

of this Policy Notice, the SCBBO will focus on addressing those items highlighted in **bold**.

- **SCBBO's ability to verify compliance for ARPA projects from SC811 database**
  - **Not all Contractors use the SC811 online system, some still call tickets in**
  - **Overall lack of use of the "subcontractor" field in cases where primes are requiring subs to enter notices to SC811**
  - **Contractors not keying or 'tagging' dig tickets correctly making it nearly impossible to query their system for the tickets pertaining to a given awarded project, this includes:**
    - **Ensuring the proper work type category is chosen**
    - **Completing the "Done for" category with ISP name**
    - **No direct linkage to an ARPA project number**
- **Some tickets reported to SCBBO were not part of the project – Excavators are typically the entity that submits the ticket, not the ARPA Grantee**
- Providers not updating their mapping records and sharing with SC811
- Members not marking their facilities (non-responses)
- Excavators/Contractors not reporting damages



Grantee Requirements *(Sourced from ARPA Grant Agreements)*

South Carolina Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act. Grantees must comply with and require its employees, contractors, and subcontractors to comply with the applicable requirements in the South Carolina Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act pursuant to Title 58, Chapter 36 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended ("Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act"). If Grantee, its employees, contractors, or subcontractors engage in grossly negligent, willful, or intentional misconduct that results in a violation of the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act or noncompliance with the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act, Grantee's Project may be subject to being defunded up to 25%, and a complaint may be filed with the Attorney General, which may result in a fine pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-36-120.

SC811 Quarterly Reporting Options

Option 1 - Grantees may continue to coordinate with their contractors to transcribe dig locate tickets specific to the quarter into the template quarterly report (Exhibit J), or
Option 2 – **(Recommended Approach)** Grantee contractors may use the SC811 online system and query for the dig locate tickets that pertain to a given project and the specific quarter, ensuring key data fields are filled in properly, including:

Work Type: <add in "Fiber Federal or State Grant" here>
Done For: <include ISP name here>
Job ID: <include ARPA Project Number here>

Grantees that choose Option 2 may have their contractors log into the SC811 online system and query by Job ID, downloading the summary report for a given project which may be provided to the SCBBO in CSV format **instead of** transcribing dig locate tickets into the template quarterly report (exhibit J).

