

Michigan Damage Prevention Board

Best Practice 2014-02

Requirements for Detection of New Facilities for Purposes of Locating

MDPB Best Practice

All facilities must be constructed so that they can be located by one of the following methods:

- For electrically conductive facilities - copper, steel, ductile iron, galvanized- a locator can be attached to the facility to place a low voltage charge and then locate the facility, therefore the facility itself allows for detection when in use.
- Facilities made of inert materials- concrete, fiber and plastic , which comes in many forms PVC (sewer and water), ABS (storm and waste water), PP (chemical waste and brine), PE (Natural Gas lines), PVDF (waste water to gas)- require some form of assistance to allow detection when in use, such as a tracer wire or even marker balls.
- Survey data, referenced to a USGS Coordinate system or direct survey grade GPS points, and recorded within the standards of professional care by a licensed surveyor at the time of construction. The data can be used to define the location of the facility through use of same method used to capture the data.

PA174 Reference

Section 7 (8)

New facilities built after the effective date of this act shall be constructed in a manner that allows their detection when in use.

Discussion

PA174 states that the facility must be "constructed in a manner that allows their detection when in use." The definition of "detection" is "the act of discovering or the fact of being discovered." The definition does not include the requirement that the approximate location of the facility can be determined, only that it exists.

The MDPB position is that the intent of PA174 is to require that the facility be constructed in a manner so that its location can be determined. This will allow the staker to locate the facility in order to meet the requirements of PA174 section 7, (1).

Use of the "manhole to manhole" method or use of maps (other than data from licensed surveyor) is not adequate to meet PA174 requirements.

References

None

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The MDPB Best Practices are presented as a general guide. The MDPB encourages all users to consult and consider not only the MDPB Best Practices, but also (i) employer practices, (ii) industry practices, (iii) federal and state statutes and regulations, (iv) building and fire codes, and (v) local laws, regulations, and ordinances.