



Public Service Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release, Contact:

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North Dakotans Reminded to Call Before You Dig on National 8/11 Day

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) is hoping the date on the calendar, 8/11, will serve as a reminder for anyone doing a digging project to click or call 811 to have underground utility lines located and marked before beginning their excavation.

“Before you put a shovel in the ground, know what’s below. Every digging project – large or small – requires a call to 811 at least a few days before work begins,” said Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, who holds the Damage Prevention portfolio. “A simple call can prevent serious injuries, costly damage, and service disruptions. Protect yourself, your neighbors, and your community by making safety your first step.”

The process is simple and can be done online or by phone in just a few minutes. North Dakota law requires notification to 811 at least two business days in advance of digging. Utility personnel and representatives will be sent to mark the locations of the underground facilities within the locate period. The markings are valid for 21 days from the planned excavation date. This process is coordinated through North Dakota One Call. The PSC’s role is to enforce the requirements of the state’s damage prevention laws by investigating complaints submitted to the PSC and to take action when violations are identified. The PSC can levy a fine up to \$25,000 per violation depending on severity.

Each year North Dakota’s underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage from those who fail to call 811 before digging. The consequences of striking an underground utility can be very damaging, including loss of telecommunications services, electricity interruptions, or in the most severe cases accidents resulting in injury, permanent disability, or death.

Please note, if there are private underground facilities (i.e., sprinkler systems, electrical cables or gas lines branching off after the meter, invisible pet fences, agriculture tiling, etc.) located on the property, it is up to the individual submitting the locate request to ensure these facilities are identified and marked. For more information about 811 and to submit an excavation notice, visit the North Dakota One-Call Board’s website at www.ndonecall.com.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

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