Definitions

- **"Abandoned facility"** shall mean any underground utility line or underground utility facilities no longer used in the conduct of the owner/operator’s business and are not intended to be used in the future. Disconnected from system.

- **"Out-of-service facility"** means an underground facility that has not been declared permanently abandoned and may still be connected to a portion of an operating facility that is in service.

- **“Unknown Utility”** means a possible utility structure for which there is no ownership or function information available.
How do you know they are there?

- Visual Evidence
- One –Call Marks
- Utility Records or Communications
- Newly Abandoned during a Project
- ASCE 38 QLB Investigation
Visual Evidence

- Broken Structures
- Empty Conduits may be Out of Service, not abandoned
One-Call

• States’ statutes that address abandoned facilities
  – AZ, AR, CO, CT, GA, ID, ME, MN, MS, ND, OR, PA, RI, WI

  – All have caveats such as “if known,” “if records exist,” “notify if known
to be in the area,” Etc.
    • Specific Example: An operator shall mark any abandoned underground
facility that is known to it with a capital letter "A" inside of a circle, using the
appropriate operator color and identification.

• For more details, type in your browser
  – PHMSA State One-Call Law Summary
Utility Owners Communication

• Unlikely Sources:
  – Records Clerks
  – Damage Prevention Contacts
  – GIS technicians

• Highest Probability of Success
  – Engineering Department
  – Requires robust examination / interpretation of records
Newly Abandoned During Projects

- High % of cases because its in conflict
  - Therefore will be cut / damaged in places if it remains
  - Or ...

VDOT Northern VA RFID Program for Tracking
QLB Search

- Highest probability of finding abandoned facilities
- Highest probability of identifying utility as abandoned
Questions?

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Abandoned Facility Management

2014 AASHTO Subcommittee on Right of Way, Utilities and Outdoor Advertising Control Conference

Larry Ditty
PennDOT
PennDOT’s Abandoned Utility Facility Regulation

PA Code, Chapter 459

Occupancy of Highways By Utilities
PennDOT’s Abandoned Utility Facility Regulation

- Section 7.14 (*Maintaining structure or facility*) states:

  “As long as the permittee operates and leaves in place structures or facilities, in, upon or along the right-of-way, the permittee shall maintain and keep them in good order and repair.”
PennDOT’s Abandoned Utility Facility Regulation

- Section 7.15 *(Damaged structure or facility to be repaired)* states:

  “If a structure or facility becomes damaged, the permittee shall promptly have it removed, repaired or otherwise made safe.”
PennDOT’s Abandoned Utility Facility Regulation

• Section 7.15 (continued):

“The permittee is responsible for repair or restoration of the portion of the highway damaged by a structure or facility.”
PennDOT’s Abandoned Utility Facility Regulation

• Section 7.17 (*Future highway changes*):

“If in the future the highway is altered for public convenience or necessity, the permittee shall at its own cost and expense, change or relocate all or a part of the structures or facilities authorized by the permit…”
Design Manual Part 5

Utility Relocation
PennDOT’s Abandoned Utility Facility Policy

Pipelines with:

- a 8 inches inside diameter or greater and
- less than 3 feet in depth from finished roadway and shoulder grades

must be purged of all product, backfilled with a flowable fill, capped and sealed.
The requirement may be waived when:

- the pipeline is 8 inches in diameter or greater,
- the depth from finished roadway and shoulder grades are in excess of 3 feet and
- approval is obtained from appropriate District.
PennDOT’s Systems

• Utility Permits
  ○ Epermitting
  ○ UREDMS
  ○ MPMS IQ
Abandoned Utility Facility

Questions
Abandoned Facility Management

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Kenny Franklin
INDOT
Director of Utility and Railroad
Utility’s Definition of “Abandon”

- The utility will not need the facility at any point in the future, so they leave it.
- The utility does not need the facility right now, but may or may not need it in the future.
- The utility does not need it and they relieve themselves of any accountability of the line or facility - tracking, marking, inspection, and future removal/clean up of that facility or area.
Obstacles to those definitions

- Gives the impression the utility has no accountability for that facility or anything that happens to the property if there is an issue during a project - e.g. future relocation surprises, asbestos abatement

- Counterproductive to our initiative: “everyone knows where everyone goes” this requires utilities to know their existing locations as stated in the UAP, allows for flexibility in Practical Design/delivery

- Counterproductive to our initiative: “No surprises to our teammates” to limit costs and meet aggressive project timelines; uncovering an unknown facility can cause delays-the utility is accountable for ALL facilities
Inactive facilities fall into two categories. Facilities that are no longer in use and will be restored to service are called out of service facilities. Facilities that are no longer in use and will not be restored to service are called “retired in place” facilities.
“Retired in Place” - lines no longer in use and not to be used in the future. They remain the responsibility of the utility until such is removed from State highway ROW.

This provides a training opportunity for us each time we relocate a utility, teaching them their long term responsibility. All of the utility’s facilities must be shown in the work plans.
“Inactive Facilities

a. ...INDOT does not allow a utility to absolve themselves of accountability and responsibility for their facilities by abandoning those facilities on public property. The utility shall maintain accurate, complete, and understandable records of all inactive facilities

b. The utility will remove all above ground inactive facilities within sixty days of the facility becoming inactive”
Inactive Facilities

c. INDOT prefers that underground facilities that are out of service be removed from right of way when reasonable. The utility will remove underground out of service facilities that may impair the safety or integrity of the highway or adversely impact the environment.

d. A utility may leave retired in place pipe of any material that are 12 inch or less in diameter provided the ends are sealed. pipes of greater than 12 inches in diameter provided they are filled with flowable fill and the ends are sealed.”
During Construction

- Understand that there will be unknowns due to the business practices of the past—we just don’t know what was buried everywhere!

- Due Diligence must be demonstrated: Timely and solutions oriented action must happen to address an unknown or abandoned line

- On Point Attitude of our Utility Coordinators
  - Single point of contact for all utility related concerns
  - Responsible to address all matters
  - Required to manage utility related change orders <1% of project costs
Final Thoughts

- Treat the Utilities as true business partners with mutual responsibility, opportunity, and accountability

- Take advantage of these opportunities to learn from each other to become a more consistent national partner

- Questions?