

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA  
MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 25, 2016

**TO:** The Commission  
Stephanie Mullen, Executive Director  
Via: Anne-Marie Cuneo, DRO *AMC*

**FROM:** Paul Maguire, Engineering Manager *PM/MCO*  
Neil Pascual, Senior Pipeline Safety Engineer *NP/MCO*  
Craig Rogers, Gas Pipeline Safety Engineer *CR/MCO*

**SUBJECT:** Report on National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives, Report on Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance, and Report on National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety, from January 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016.

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**National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives**

The National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) is a non-profit organization comprised of state pipeline safety personnel who serve to promote pipeline safety in the United States. NAPSR supports the safe delivery of pipeline products and fosters the federal/state partnership through state agencies, whose mission is to strengthen state pipeline safety programs by promoting improved pipeline safety standards, education, training, and technology. NAPSR is comprised of five regions; Nevada belongs to the Western Region. Senior Gas Pipeline Engineer, Neil Pascual, and Engineering Manager, Paul Maguire are Nevada's current representatives.

NAPSR holds annual meetings in each region, as well as a national meeting once all of the regional meetings have concluded. Paul Maguire and Neil Pascual attended the Western Regional meeting held in St. George, UT, during the week of May 9, 2016. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has now made it mandatory that a pipeline safety representative from each state attend both the regional meeting as well as the national meeting.

Main topics discussed at the Western Regional meeting were:

- Reports on incidents and issues from each state;
- PHMSA provided discussions on the new federal One-Call law, 49 CFR 198, which became effective on January 1, 2016. The new law allows PHMSA to take action against entities for One-Call violations if the state will not and/or cannot act under its current State One-Call law;
- The new reauthorization bill was discussed, which includes language regarding the regulation of underground storage facilities (of which Nevada does not have any).

- The new Gas Transmission Notice of Proposed Rule Making, which proposes to significantly increase the transmission integrity management requirements on operators, including removing the grandfather clause contained in 49 CFR 192,619(c) which allowed pre-1971 pipelines from having to be pressure tested with appropriate safety margins.

The 2016 National meeting will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana during the week of September 26, 2016. Pipeline Safety Program evaluation points and federal funding are dependent on PUCN representatives attending both of this meeting. Neil Pascual has already submitted travel to attend this National meeting.

### **Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance**

The Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance (NRCGA) partnership is a non-profit organization comprised of excavation damage prevention/One-Call program stakeholders in the state of Nevada. The NRCGA supports the efforts of the national Common Ground Alliance (“CGA”), which is heavily supported by the United States Department of Transportation. The NRCGA was formed in 2003 and has rapidly evolved over the past twelve years. Craig Rogers of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada’s (PUCN) Pipeline Safety Program (“PSP”) rotates between the primary and secondary regulator voting positions, and the other PSP engineers are also active participants in NRCGA functions. Additionally, the PUCN’s Consumer Outreach Coordinator (Dawn Rivard) routinely attends the NRCGA meetings and is part of the Public Awareness and Website Subcommittees.

The main topic of interest that occurred during this reporting period is that the NRCGA held its line locator training in three regions: Elko, Las Vegas, and Reno. The line locator training was held with the assistance of a grant that the NRGGGA received from the Department of Transportation. Craig Rogers and Dawn Rivard were on the committee that arranged the training, and new Pipeline Safety Engineer Danial Adesina attended the 2-day training session held in Reno (See flyer to follow).

# Introduction to Damage Prevention

*A FREE, hands-on training covering various aspects of underground damage prevention*

The **Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance** is proud to offer this hands-on, 2-day training **FREE** to line locating professionals. The training will provide an introduction to industry best practices, including basic locate theory, print/map reading and hands-on experience with electronic locate equipment. Students are encouraged to bring their own equipment to learn how to use it to its maximum potential.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Line locating professionals from electric, water, sewer, gas, telecommunication and cable utilities, and government traffic signal agencies.

## WHEN & WHERE?

**Eiko** April 25 & April 26, 2016  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
NV Energy Office

**Reno** April 28 & April 29, 2016  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
NV Energy Office

**Las Vegas** May 2 & May 3, 2016  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
NV Energy Operations Center

## HOW TO REGISTER

Contact Dawn Rivard at (702) 466-7214 or [drivard@puc.nv.gov](mailto:drivard@puc.nv.gov) for more information and to register.

## CLASSROOM SIZES

Space is limited to 8 to 10 students in order to provide hands-on experience with a certified training professional and use of locate equipment.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

If unable to attend, please contact Dawn Rivard 48 hours in advance. A \$100 fee will be charged to anyone who does not cancel 48 hours in advance and doesn't show.

## DAY 1 - CLASSROOM

- Introduction/Opening Comments
- Nevada Dig Law Overview
- Safety Discussion
- Basic Locating Theory
- Map and Print Reading Theory
- Electronic Locate Equipment Theory
- Utility Theory (Gas, Electric Communications, Water/Sewer)
- Onsite Observation & Survey Theory
- Troubleshooting Theory
- Recap of Day's Topics
- Questions

## DAY 2 - FIELD

- Opening Comments/Review of Prior Day Topics
- Hands-on - Electronic Locate Equipment
  - o Operation
  - o Testing
  - o Troubleshooting
- Hands-on - Print/Map Reading
  - o Specific to Site of Training
- Hands-on - Onsite Observation & Survey
- Hands-on - Hook up & Isolation
- Hands-on - Performing & Verifying the Locate
- Recap
- Questions
- Presentation of Certificate of Completion



[www.nrcga.org](http://www.nrcga.org)

Finally, the annual CGA conference was held in Las Vegas in March 2016; the NRCGA is an active participant in organizing the conference and setting up certain break-out sessions. Craig Rogers and Gas Pipeline Safety Engineer Kelly Everson attended the conference, which held information and training sessions on the following topics:

- PHMSA's new Damage Prevention Back-Stop Law;
- New line locating technologies;
- Industry trends in damage causes and best practices;
- Etc.

**National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety**

Mr. Maguire was named to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety in November 2012. However, due to workload and other issues, he was not able to attend the annual NARUC winter meeting held in Washington D.C. in February 2016. However, Hearing Officer Don Lomoljo attended the meeting and the topics discussed were:

- Pipeline Incidents that occurred in 2015, including the oil leak in Santa Barbara, CA;
- Rulemaking updates; and
- Reauthorization which was in process.

The NARUC summer meeting is currently scheduled for July 24, 2016, however, Mr. Maguire will be unable to attend due to a conflict. He has requested that Hearing Officer Don Lomoljo and Director of Regulatory Operations Staff, Anne-Marie Cuneo attend the Pipeline Safety Subcommittee meeting and take notes on the topics discussed.