

CHAPTER 7560
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY
EXCAVATION NOTICE SYSTEM

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7560.0100 DEFINITIONS.

Subpart 1. **Scope.** The terms used in this chapter have the meanings given them. Terms not defined have the meanings given them in Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.01.

Subp. 1a. **Abandoned facility.** “Abandoned facility” means an underground facility that is no longer in service and is physically disconnected from a portion of the operating facility that is in use or still carries service. An abandoned facility has been deemed abandoned by the operator.

Subp. 2. **Director.** “Director” means the director of the Office of Pipeline Safety of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Subp. 3. **Good cause to believe.** “Good cause to believe” means grounds put forth in good faith that are not arbitrary, irrational, unreasonable, or irrelevant and that are based on at least one of the following sources:

- A. information from a person;
- B. facts supplied by the notification center defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.01, subdivision 8;
- C. facts of which the director or an agent of the director has personal knowledge; and
- D. information provided by excavators or operators.

Subp. 4. **Locate.** “Locate” means an operator’s markings of an underground facility.

Subp. 5. **Office.** “Office” means the Office of Pipeline Safety of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Subp. 5a. **Out-of-service facility.** “Out-of-service facility” means an underground facility that is no longer maintained and is not intended for future use, but has not been deemed abandoned. An out-of-service facility may still be connected to a portion of the operating facility that is in use or still carries service.

Subp. 6. **Remuneration.** “Remuneration” means direct or indirect compensation or consideration paid to the person or the person’s agent, employer, employee, subcontractor, or contractor. A person who excavates as part of the person’s duties as an employee, employer, agent, subcontractor, or contractor is considered to be acting for remuneration.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299F.56; 299F.60; 299F.641; 299J.04*

History: *16 SR 135; 24 SR 448*

7560.0125 ABANDONED AND OUT-OF-SERVICE FACILITIES.

Subpart 1. **Duty of operators to provide readily available information.** Operators shall provide readily available information, as shown on maps, drawings, diagrams, or other records used in the normal course of business, on the approximate location of abandoned and out-of-service facilities to an excavator by the excavation date and time noted on the excavation or location notice unless otherwise agreed between the

excavator and the operator. An operator fulfills an obligation to provide information on these facilities by doing one or more of the following:

A. locating and marking the approximate location of the facility according to the current color code standard used by the American Public Works Association, as required in Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.04, subdivision 3, with an abandoned or out-of-service facility identified by an uppercase A surrounded by a circle;

B. providing informational flags at the area of proposed excavation;

C. communicating information verbally; or

D. providing copies of maps, diagrams, or records.

Subp. 2. Duty to notify operator. An excavator shall notify the operator:

A. before moving, removing, or otherwise altering a facility that is thought to be abandoned or out of service; or

B. if damage to the facility occurs, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.01, subdivision 2.

Subp. 3. Verification of abandoned or out-of-service facility. Upon receipt of notification by an excavator pursuant to subpart 2, an operator shall verify that an underground facility is abandoned or out of service, by either reference to installation records, testing, or other comparable standard of verification, before an excavator is allowed to move, remove, or otherwise alter an underground facility.

Subp. 4. Liability. An operator providing information pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.04, subdivision 3, is not responsible to any person for any costs, claims, or damages for information provided in good faith regarding abandoned and out-of-service underground facilities.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299J.04; 299F.60*

History: *24 SR 448*

7560.0200 [Repealed, 24 SR 448]

7560.0225 EXCAVATOR RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING A LOCATE.

Subpart 1. Excavation within 96 hours. The excavation or location notice is valid if the excavator commences excavating within 96 hours of the excavation commencement time stated on the excavation or location notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays.

Subp. 2. Responsibility to protect and preserve. The excavator is responsible for reasonably protecting and preserving a locate until no longer required for proper and safe excavation near the underground facility. If the excavator has reason to believe a locate is obliterated, obscured, missing, or incorrect, the excavator shall notify the facility operator or notification center in order to have an operator verify, refresh, or re-mark the locate.

Subp. 3. Use of locate. A locate is valid for ten working days from the excavation commencement time stated on the excavation or location notice, unless the excavator has made previous arrangements with the operators affected to periodically verify, refresh, or re-mark the locate.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299J.04; 299F.60*

History: *24 SR 448*

7560.0300 OPERATOR PARTICIPATES AND SHARES COSTS.

An operator shall participate in and share the costs of the one call excavation notice system by:

A. submitting the information required by the notification center to allow the center to notify the operator of excavation activity;

B. updating the information provided to the notification center on a timely basis;

C. installing and paying for equipment reasonably requested by the notification center to facilitate receipt of notice of excavation from the center;

D. paying the costs charged by the notification center on a timely basis; and

E. receiving and responding to excavation notices, including emergency notices, as required by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216D.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299F.56; 299F.641*

History: *16 SR 135*

7560.0400 CITATIONS.

Subpart 1. **Notice of violation.** The office shall issue a notice of probable violation when the office has good cause to believe a violation of Minnesota Statutes, sections 216D.01 to 216D.09 or this chapter has occurred.

Subp. 2. **Contents of notice of violation.** A notice of violation must include:

A. a statement of the statute or rule allegedly violated by the person and a description of the evidence on which the allegation is based;

B. notice of response options available to the person cited;

C. notice that the person has 30 days in which to respond;

D. notice that failure to respond within 30 days precludes administrative review under this chapter; and

E. if a civil penalty is proposed, the amount of the proposed civil penalty and the maximum civil penalty applicable under law.

Subp. 3. **Receipt of notice.** The notice of violation is deemed received three days after mailing to the person's last known address.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299F.56; 299F.60; 299F.641; 299J.04*

History: *16 SR 135; 24 SR 448*

7560.0500 RESPONSE OPTIONS.

The person shall respond to the notice of violation in the following way:

A. When the notice contains a proposed compliance order, the person shall:

(1) agree to the proposed compliance order;

(2) request the execution of a consent order;

(3) object to the proposed compliance order and submit written explanations, information, or other materials in answer to the allegations in the notice; or

(4) request the office to initiate a hearing under Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.50 to 14.69.

B. When the notice contains a proposed civil penalty, the person shall:

(1) pay the penalty and close the case;

(2) submit an offer in compromise of the proposed civil penalty;

(3) submit a written explanation, information, or other material in answer to the allegations or in mitigation of the proposed civil penalty; or

(4) request the office to initiate a hearing under Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.50 to 14.69.

C. Failure to respond in writing within 30 days precludes administrative review under this chapter. A final order will be issued and penalties will be forwarded for collection.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299F.56; 299F.60; 299F.641; 299J.04*

History: *16 SR 135; 24 SR 448*

7560.0600 DIRECTOR REVIEW.

If the person objects to the proposed civil penalty or compliance order and submits written explanations, information, or other materials in response to a notice of

violation, within the time specified in part 7560.0500, the director shall review the submissions and determine whether to negotiate further, to change or withdraw the notice of violation, or to initiate a hearing under Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.50 to 14.69.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299F.56; 299F.60; 299F.641; 299J.04*

History: *16 SR 135; 24 SR 448*

7560.0700 CONSENT ORDER.

An executed consent order must contain:

- A. an admission by the person of the jurisdictional facts;
- B. a waiver of further procedural steps and the right to seek judicial or administrative review or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of the consent order; and
- C. an agreement that the notice of violation may be used to construe the terms of the consent order.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299F.56; 299F.641*

History: *16 SR 135*

7560.0800 CIVIL PENALTIES.

Subpart 1. Proceedings against excavators. When the office has good cause to believe that an excavator is engaging or has engaged in conduct that violates Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.04, subdivision 1, 2, or 3; 216D.05, clause (1), (2), (3), or (4); or 216D.06, subdivision 1, or a rule adopted under Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.08, subdivision 4, the office, if appropriate, shall negotiate a civil penalty under Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.08, subdivision 2. A penalty imposed under Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.08, is subject to the contested case and judicial review provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14. An operator who engages or has engaged in excavation that violates Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216D, is subject to the proceedings specified in subpart 2 and is subject to the penalties specified in subpart 4, item B or C.

Subp. 2. Proceedings against underground facility operators. The office may negotiate a civil penalty under item A or B.

A. When the office has good cause to believe that an underground facility operator, other than an operator set forth in item B, is engaging or has engaged in conduct that violates Minnesota Statutes, sections 216D.01 to 216D.07, or a rule adopted under Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.08, subdivision 4, the office, if appropriate, shall negotiate a civil penalty under Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.08, subdivision 2. A penalty imposed under Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.08, is subject to the contested case and judicial review provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14.

B. When the office has good cause to believe that an operator who engages in the transportation of gas or hazardous liquids or who owns or operates a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility is engaging or has engaged in conduct that violates Minnesota Statutes, sections 299F.56 to 299F.641, or a rule adopted under Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.60, subdivision 5, the office, if appropriate, shall negotiate a civil penalty under Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.60, subdivision 2. A penalty imposed under Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.60, is subject to the contested case and judicial review provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14.

Subp. 3. Assessment considerations. In assessing a civil penalty under this part, the office shall consider the following factors:

- A. the nature, circumstances, and gravity of the violation;
- B. the degree of the person's culpability;
- C. the person's history of previous offenses;
- D. the person's ability to pay;
- E. good faith on the part of the person in attempting to remedy the cause of the violation;

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- F. the effect of the penalty on the person's ability to continue in business; and
- G. past reports of damage to an underground facility by a person.

Subp. 4. **Maximum penalties.** For the purposes of this part, penalties imposed under this part must not exceed the limits in items A to C.

A. Penalties imposed against excavators must not exceed \$1,000 for each violation per day of violation.

B. Penalties imposed against underground facility operators, other than an operator set forth in item C, must not exceed \$1,000 for each violation per day of violation.

C. Penalties imposed against an operator who engages in the transportation of gas or hazardous liquids or who owns or operates a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility must not exceed \$10,000 for each violation for each day that the violation persists, except that the maximum civil penalty must not exceed \$500,000 for a related series of violations.

Subp. 5. **Payment procedure.** The person shall pay a civil penalty that has been proposed, assessed, or compromised by submitting to the office a check or money order in the correct amount, payable to the commissioner of public safety.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 14.06; 216D.08; 299F.56; 299F.60; 299F.641; 299J.04*

History: *16 SR 135; 24 SR 448*