Division of Citizens Energy Group

Speaker: Richard A. Miller Jr.

Designing Near Utilities

Good Afternoon Everyone

- I have been with Citizens Gas for 32 years, the last 12 years as the utility representative for all public improvement projects involving natural gas facilities.

- Citizens Gas is a division of Citizens Energy Group which provides natural gas to all of Indianapolis and the City of Westfield, Indiana.

Citizens Energy Group

- It has been more than a year since the August, 2011 purchase of Indianapolis Water and Waste Water from the City of Indianapolis.
- Citizens Energy Group has five Divisions:
- Citizens Gas
- Citizens Water
- Citizens Thermal
- Citizens Resources
- Citizens Oil

Utility Coordination

- Citizens Energy Group realizes that we are a guest in the public right-of-way and are required to relocate our facilities to accommodate public improvement projects.

- All of the divisions at Citizens Energy Group are excited about the new INDOT initiative to coordinate with utility companies earlier in the design process to eliminate as much conflict as possible. In order for this process to work, all utilities need to provide the engineering design firm with existing facility information at the start of each project.

- Kenny Franklin spent time with various utility companies in 2012 to introduce the new plan which could save all of us money in the long run. Design firms are now spending more time coordinating with utilities up front to insure a smoother process from start to finish. This new process is more of a partnership between utilities and the Indiana Department of Transportation, which can be a great benefit for everyone concerned.

- Revisions are being made to the current work plan template to allow a quicker response when a utility has no conflict with an INDOT project. The quarterly Team Indiana meetings with Kenny Franklin and Staff provide an opportunity to discuss issues about projects or current forms.

- When designing near natural gas facilities there should be a minimum of 36” horizontal clearance and 12” vertical clearance in relation to other existing or proposed facilities, so please keep clearances in mind during the design process.

- According to the “INDOT Utility Accommodation Policy” all utility main lines need to have a minimum of 48” of cover under proposed pavement. Utility companies need to consider all fittings and service line taps that come off the top of a main line when calculating the 48” of cover.

Construction Delays can be Prevented if we all work together.

Thoughts for INDOT:

- When acquiring right-of-way, avoid special agreements with property owners that will negatively affect the utilities. When possible please consider right-of-way needs of all utilities as you set right-of-way limits.

- When an existing right-of-way changes to limited access it can cause problems for all utilities. If there is not a corridor created for utilities we are forced to purchase easements, which can be costly and time consuming. If INDOT plans to change an existing right-of-way to limited access, please consider corridors with adequate room for all utility facilities.

- All utility companies try to accommodate accelerated projects. Please remember it costs us more money to accelerate our relocation design and construction.

- Contractors working for INDOT must be aware of service lines. They are often hit during construction

- It’s very important that the clear zone is labeled clearly on the design drawings for above ground utility companies.

- **Water Company Concerns:**
- 10 state standards – Sanitary Sewer separation from water lines of 10 feet horizontal and 18 inches vertical if crossing.

- **Power Company Concerns:**
- Consider horizontal and vertical clearance issues when designing around existing electric facilities will save lives and costly delays.

- **Telecommunication Companies:**
- They may need to connect from one manhole to another or from one station to another. This is very important if projects are broken into multiple phases or if one large project is split into two projects. Typically telecomm companies are the last ones to relocate during a project due to shared poles or longer construction time frames. Consider these things during your design process. Consider also that one utility company may require another to relocate first. Example-Electric, communication and cable lines all may share a utility pole.