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ATTORNEY GENERAL



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Environmental Law Division

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October 29, 2019

Thomas Scharnweber
President
SCHARNWEBER WATER
CONDITIONING, INC.
701 South County Road
Toledo, IA 52342

RE: One Call Violations – Marshall County

Dear Mr. Sharnweber:

It has come to our attention that on or about May 4, 2018, Scharnweber Water Conditioning, Inc. (“Scharnweber”), conducted excavations to install a sewer line at 407 S. Dubuque Street, Albion, Iowa, without providing 48-hours notice of the planned excavation to the owners and operators of underground facilities. As a result, underground facilities on the property, potentially including fiber optic cable lines, telephone lines, electrical lines, and natural gas transmission lines, were not located and marked prior to the excavations.

During the May 4, 2018 excavation, Scharnweber hit and damaged a 1/2-inch diameter natural gas pipeline under 30 pounds per square inch of pressure, resulting in remediation costs to the pipeline company. As I am sure you are well aware, striking and damaging underground facilities can have tragic results. You are fortunate that this incident did not result in injury, or worse, to any of your employees, underground facility employees, or first responders.

Failure to provide 48-hours notice of the excavation constitutes violation of Iowa Code sections 480.1A, 480.4(1)(a), and 480.4(1)(b)(1)-(8). Iowa Code section 480.6(1)(a) authorizes the Attorney General to seek civil penalties up to a maximum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) per day of each such violation involving natural gas pipelines. Iowa Code section 480.6(1)(b) authorizes the Attorney General to seek civil penalties up to a maximum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per day of each such violation to all other underground facilities. Injunctive relief is also authorized pursuant to Iowa Code section 480.7.

Notice of a planned excavation must be given by either filing a ticket online at www.iowaonecall.com or calling the One Call Notification Center at 1-800-292-8989 or 811 at least 48 hours prior to the excavation.

The purpose of this letter is to advise that the Iowa One Call statute must be strictly complied with. Failure to comply may result in judicial enforcement proceedings initiated by our office pursuant to Iowa Code sections 480.6 and 480.7.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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