

THOMAS J. MILLER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Environmental Law Division

1305 E. WALNUT ST.  
DES MOINES, IA 50319  
Main: 515-281-5164 • Direct: 515-281-5341  
Email: [jacob.larson@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:jacob.larson@ag.iowa.gov)  
[www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov)

April 24, 2018

Terry Schulz  
Agent for  
SCHULZ FARM ENTERPRISES, INC.  
2581 220<sup>th</sup> Street  
New Hampton, Iowa 50659

RE: One Call Violations – Chickasaw County

Dear Mr. Schulz:

It has come to our attention that on or about November 29, 2017, Schulz Farm Enterprises, Inc. (“Schulz Farm”) conducted excavations repair drainage tile in rural Chickasaw County, near the intersection of 230<sup>th</sup> Street and Newell Avenue, without providing 48-hours notice of the planned excavation to the owners and operators of underground facilities. 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. Your equipment came within 1,000 feet of a 22-inch diameter natural gas pipeline under 520 pounds per square inch of pressure. As I am sure you are well aware, striking and damaging natural gas pipelines can have tragic results. You are fortunate that this incident did not result in injury, or worse, to any of your employees, pipeline employees, or first responders.

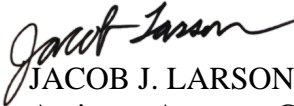
Failure to provide 48-hours notice of the excavation constitutes violation of Iowa Code sections 480.1A, 480.4(1)(a), and 480.4(1)(c)(1)-(8). Iowa Code section 480.6(1)(a) authorizes the Attorney General to seek civil penalties up to a maximum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) per day of each such violation 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](http://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,



JACOB J. LARSON

Assistant Attorney General

Office of Iowa Attorney General

Environmental Law Division

Phone: (515) 281-5341

E-mail: [jacob.larson@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:jacob.larson@ag.iowa.gov)