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ATTORNEY GENERAL



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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DIVISION

November 2, 2018

Curtis Sindergard
President
Sindergard Excavating
407 Garfield St.
Rolfe, IA 50581

Re: One Call Violations – Humboldt County, Iowa

Dear Mr. Sindergard:

It has come to our attention that on or about June 5, 2017, Sindergard Excavating was excavating broken drain tile in Humboldt County near the intersection of Colorado Ave and Three Rivers Trail, 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. Your equipment came within 90 feet of a hazardous liquid pipeline containing anhydrous ammonia. 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, 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 or calling the One Call Notification Center at 1-800-292-8989 or 811 at least 48 hours prior to the excavation.

Curtis Sindergard
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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Steward", with a stylized, cursive script.

DAVID S. STEWARD
Assistant Attorney General