

PROBABLE VIOLATION: AGLC failed to perform post-accident alcohol testing of their covered employees whose performance either contributed to the accident or could not be completely discounted as a contributing factor to the accident.

LETTER OF CONCERN

During this investigation, Staff noted issues with the number of “3N – Unmarked – Late” responses provided to the GA-811 Positive Response Information System (PRIS) by AGLC’s contract locator, USIC, for their locate requests.

1. Staff requested, and was provided data by GA-811 which indicated that for the month of August, 2018, there were 63,920, 3N responses to PRIS; and that 59,398 of these responses (92.9%) were submitted by USIC. Staff determined that 15,019 of these responses were for AGLC locate requests. AGLC’s member codes represented 28 of the 88 member codes which were responded to by USIC during this time frame.
2. Staff also requested, and was provided data by GA-811 which indicated that for the month of December 2018, there were 52,688 3N responses to PRIS; and that 47,633 of these responses (90%) were submitted by USIC. Staff determined that 12,330 of these responses were for AGLC locate requests. AGLC’s member codes represented 29 of the 87 member codes which were responded to by USIC during this time frame.

STAFF’S CONCERN:

- 1) Staff is concerned that AGLC’s contract locator, USIC, is using the “3N – Unmarked – Late” PRIS response code to mask a critical staffing issue. Staff did not pursue this issue under this investigation, however, they have recommended to the Director that both the Pipeline Safety Office, and the GUFPA enforcement unit review this issue to determine if further enforcement action is warranted.
- 2) As demonstrated by the examples cited above, USIC is repeatedly failing to perform locates in the required time frame, as required by both AGLC’s procedures, and the state dig law; however, there is no indication that AGLC is aware of this issue, or, if they are aware that they have taken any action to address it.
- 3) During this investigation, Staff determined that the failure investigation performed by USIC, and which was used by AGLC for both their initial and 30-day report to the National Response Center, was fundamentally flawed. The USIC investigators claim that the excavator “was boring outside the scope of all locate requests called in for the area” has no basis in fact, and demonstrates a failure to properly investigate the damage which led to this explosion. Staff is concerned that the obvious failure to properly perform this investigation also calls into question any other investigations this individual has performed. Staff has no knowledge that the Commission, or the NRC have been provided with any updates concerning the apparent cause of the explosion, so they are also concerned that AGLC has taken no apparent action to address this issue.