



Lipan Distribution Complex
1123 West Third Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80223

South Dakota One Call Notification Board
1012 N. Sycamore Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110-5747

March 31, 2005

RE: South Dakota Complaint # OC05-002
Notice Of Complaint
Response of Xcel Energy

To:
South Dakota One Call Notification Board,

Attached is the response of Xcel Energy to the above referenced case.

If you need further information or clarification regarding this matter, please contact Mark Nolan at (303) 571-3931 or myself at (303) 571-3988.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Campbell', written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl Campbell
Director, Gas Asset Strategy

Cc:
Brad Vitale, Manager
Damage Prevention

Donna Johnson, Supervisor
Electric Operations, SD

Ed Traut, Coordinator
Damage Prevention

TCA

Notice of Complaint;

In the matter of the complaint OC05-002 filed by Elliott Construction, Inc. against Xcel Energy, regarding a failure to accurately mark the location of an underground facility as required by SDCL 49-7A-8

Failure to mark the location of an underground facility on an emergency locate request #0432909242 on November 24th, 2004 at the intersection of 57th Street and Marion Road in Sioux Falls, SD.

Response;

On November 24, 2004 locate ticket # 043290242 was received by Xcel Energy and dispatched to United Locating Services (ULS) to perform emergency locates as a representative of Xcel Energy. The request had been initiated by Elliot Construction and was the result of required excavation to repair a damaged communication facility.

After reviewing the issues as described in complaint # OC05-002 and following discussion with ULS it remains the position of Xcel Energy the locator had not completed the locate request when damage to an Xcel Energy buried electric facility occurred.

The circumstances surrounding this damage were a result of the excavator beginning work prior to the completion of the locate. The ULS locator determined that upon evaluation of the original locate signal within the scope of the locate requested, he was not comfortable with the initial signal he had received. He then proceeded to verify the locate by accessing a hook-up location west of the excavation point to verify or receive improved signals while coming back to the original area located.

Prior to completing this verification process the excavator proceeded to dig and damaged an Xcel Energy buried electric facility.

Immediately following the damage the locator questioned the excavator as to why they had proceeded to dig prior to completion of the locate. The locator also stated "he was sorry the facility was damaged and thankful nobody was injured" however, this was not a statement of responsibility as suggested by the excavator but a statement of concern for the personnel on-site.

It should be noted that Xcel Energy has a policy in place to provide the excavator with a sketch upon completion of each locate. The locate sketch confirms the completion of the job and verifies all buried facilities identified by the locator within the area of the excavation. This circumstance would not have occurred had the excavator waited for the identification and verification of the line by the locator.

Xcel Energy promotes and encourages consistent communication between the excavator and locators whenever possible to prevent these type of occurrences. As part of our on-going damage prevention efforts we will reiterate this expectation with all of our employees and contractors.



