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1	SOUTH DAKOTA ONE CALL BOARD OFFICE OF HEARING EXAMINERS
2	PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA
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4	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OC20-082
5	FILED BY MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES, RAPID CITY, SD, AGAINST OHE 21-03
6	DARWIN TOOF, RAPID CITY, SD, FOR AN INCIDENT OCCURRING ON
7	OCTOBER 15, 2020, AT 815 EAST NEW YORK STREET, LOT 29,
8	RAPID CITY, SD
9	
10	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
11	HEARD BEFORE
12	HEARING EXAMINER CATHERINE WILLIAMSON
13	Tuesday, May 4, 2021
14	
15	
16	APPEARANCES
17	LINDSEY RITER-RAPP, Riter Rogers, LLP, PO Box 280, Pierre,
18	SD 57501, appearing on behalf of Montana Dakota Utilities.
19	DARWIN TOOF, 1515 East St. Patrick Street, Rapid City, SD
20	57703, appearing Pro Se.
21	appearing fio se.
22	
23	
24	Reported by Carla A. Bachand, RMR, CRR, Capital Reporting
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TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

HEARING EXAMINER: We will be on the record in the matter of the complaint filed by Montana Dakota Utilities of Rapid City against Darwin Toof of Rapid City, South Dakota, for an incident occurring on October 15th of 2020 at 815 East New York Street, Lot 29, of Rapid City, South Dakota. The 811 enforcement panel assessed a penalty if the respondent -- and suspended part of it, if the respondent met conditions as set out by the panel.

The issue for this hearing today is whether Mr. Toof violated the law when he struck an underground facility, whether he had an obligation to notify 911, and if Mr. Toof had some violations or responsibilities or obligations, whether penalties shall be imposed by the board, and if so, what those penalties shall be.

The 811 board is present, a quorum is present today. We have been in recess for a couple hours, but a quorum is now present. I am Catherine Williamson. I am a hearing officer with the Office of Hearing Examiners, and I'll be conducting the hearing today. Codi Gregg from the 811 board is also present. She will be helping with this video conferencing and some of the evidence she will put up. Lindsey Riter-Rapp is here present today and she's representing MDU. She will be presenting MDU's case in this matter. And she has present as a witness a Marcus Christensen.

1	With that, I am going to have Ms. Riter-Rapp go first,
2	have her present her case, and then, Mr. Toof, I will have you
3	then go and present your case and your evidence, if you have
4	any, or tell us what your situation is in regards to this
5	matter. And do either of the parties have any questions? Ms.
6	Riter-Rapp, do you have any questions for me?
7	MS. RITER-RAPP: No, Your Honor.
8	HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Toof, do you have any questions
9	on how the procedure will be today?
10	MR. TOOF: No, I'm fine with it, ma'am.
11	HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, then we will go ahead with
12	that, and Ms. Riter-Rapp, you may present your case.
13	MS. RITER-RAPP: Thank you, Your Honor. At this time
14	we would call our first witness, Marcus Christensen.
15	HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Christensen, I've heard from
16	you a couple times today in other cases, but I am going to
17	swear you in again.
18	Thereupon,
19	MARCUS CHRISTENSEN,
20	called as a witness, being first duly sworn as hereinafter
21	certified, testified as follows:
22	HEARING EXAMINER: The record shall reflect the
23	witness is sworn.
24	DIRECT EXAMINATION
25	BY MS. RITER-RAPP:

- 1 Q. Could you please introduce yourself to the board.
- A. Marcus Christensen, I'm an FOC for Montana Dakota

 Utilities, also damage prevention coordinator for the Black

 Hills area for Montana Dakota Utilities.
- 5 Q. And what is an FOC?
 - A. In short, a project manager.
- Q. And what are your duties as a project manager with MDU?
- 9 A. Facilitating the installation of our gas system and 10 project work.
- 11 Q. And you indicated part of your duties is also damage 12 control; is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes.

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- Q. And what specifically do you do under that title or that role?
 - A. When damages occur, I review the incidents that are presented and go through the case and review them and make determinations if a One Call violation has occurred.
- 19 Q. And how long have you been with MDU, Mr. Christensen?
- A. For three years.
- Q. And have you been in the position of the field operations coordinator and the damage control specialist that entire time?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And then just very briefly, what is your educational

1 background?

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- 2 A. I have an engineering degree from South Dakota State.
- Q. And do you have any additional training beyond that?
- 4 A. Attended Southeast Tech.
- 5 Q. Pardon me?
 - A. Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls.
- Q. And what specifically, what training did you receive from them?
- 9 A. An associate's in mechanical engineering.
 - Q. Does part of your duties as the field operations coordinator and damage specialist include investigating possible One Call violations?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. And are you specifically tasked with that area?
- 15 A. Specifically investigating them in person?
- 16 Q. Yeah, I mean, you are the primary contact for MDU as
 17 it relates to those?
- 18 A. Yep.
- Q. And what is your involvement, if you would just go through in a little bit more detail what your involvement is when these events occur.
 - A. I receive a damage investigation from ELM, after the damage has occurred, ELM shows up on site, does their investigation, taking pictures and gathering some on-site information, putting it into a report that they then turn in to

- 1 | me for review to go through and determine if a One Call
- 2 | violation has occurred, along with reviewing our internal
- 3 documentation that our service techs provide and submit when
- 4 | they respond with the hit lines.
- 5 Q. And who is ELM?
- A. A contract -- they are a locating company that works
- 7 for MDU.
- Q. Okay, but they also respond to One Call complaints on
- 9 behalf of MDU?
- 10 A. Yeah, they respond to damages, yep.
- 11 Q. So any time there is damage, then ELM would be
- 12 dispatched to do the investigation on behalf of MDU?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, I want to draw your attention to the complaint
- 15 at issue in this case. Can you please tell me when MDU was
- 16 | first notified of a possible One Call violation?
- 17 A. On October 15th at 1:30.
- 18 O. October 15th of 2020?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And what information specifically was MDU provided at
- 21 | that time?
- 22 A. We were provided with an incident investigation from
- 23 | ELM, well, after the damage happened, then ELM turned in an
- 24 investigation report.
- Q. And so immediately after the incident, that

- 1 | information or that damage is reported as part of the 811
- 2 process; is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You received that information then or your office?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And then are you who forwards that information to ELM
- 7 for the investigation or is there someone else?
- 8 A. No, when it gets called in, it goes through the 811,
- 9 ELM gets the damage ticket, they respond, our guys are notified
- 10 | within the office and our guys respond to the damage as well,
- 11 | because the hit ticket is submitted through 811.
- 12 Q. So both ELM as well as MDU's team responds to the
- 13 incident?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. And so when was ELM -- excuse me, let me back up.
- 16 What was the location of the possible violation as it relates
- 17 | to this case?
- 18 A. 815 New York Street in Rapid.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. Lot 29, I believe. Yes.
- Q. When was ELM then dispatched on site to conduct the
- 22 investigation?
- 23 A. They appear to have arrived within the hour of the
- 24 damage.
- Q. Okay, and when was the alleged damage?

- 1 A. At 1:30, and ELM arrived at 2 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2 o'clock.
- Q. So ELM was dispatched not more than a half hour after the damage?
- 5 A. Yep.
- Q. Okay, and is this standard operating procedure for MDU to have ELM conduct these investigations on your behalf?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And in addition to the investigation by ELM, you also
 10 review the report, you review the damage report, any
 11 information submitted to 811. Is there anything else I missed?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. I want to draw your attention to what has been marked as MDU's Exhibit No. 2. Thank you. Mr. Christensen, have you seen this document before?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And what is this document?
- 18 A. This is the incident report that we get from ELM after
 19 they are done investigating a hit line.
- Q. And once you receive this report from ELM, is that included in your file then as it relates to that particular damage event?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And is this document then held by MDU in the regular course of business?

- 1 A. Yep. Yes.
- Q. And is this a true and correct copy of the report that was prepared by ELM as it relates to this incident?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 MS. RITER-RAPP: Your Honor, I would move to admit
- 6 Exhibit No. 2 at this time.
- 7 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Toof, any objection to
- 8 document number 2?
- 9 MR. TOOF: No.
- 10 HEARING EXAMINER: No. 2 is admitted.
- 11 EXHIBITS:
- 12 (MDU Exhibit No. 2 received into evidence.)
- MS. RITER-RAPP: Thank you.
- Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) Mr. Christensen, at this time I
- 15 | want to review the report with you and walk through the
- 16 | findings of the investigation. Who is the contractor that was
- 17 involved in this particular incident?
- 18 A. Darwin Toof.
- 19 Q. Okay. And what was the nature of the activities that
- 20 | the contractor was conducting at the time of the incident?
- 21 A. He was working on repairing a sewer line in the
- 22 trailer park.
- 23 Q. And was MDU advised of the activities that would be
- 24 | conducted by Mr. Toof?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 And were MDU's facilities then marked in preparation Q. 2 for the repair?
- 3 Α. Yes.
- And who marked them for MDU? 4 Q.

Correct.

- 5 Α. ELM.
- You indicated that the location of the incident was 6 Q. 815 East New York in Rapid City. MDU has facilities at this 7 location?
- Α.

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- 10 Okay, and where are the facilities located on this Q. 11 property?
- 12 They are located -- I guess I would say from the map, Α. 13 I would say that they are located in the rear of the property.
- 14 Okay, and we can go through that more when we look at Ο. 15 the pictures. But what facilities then were impacted by this 16 incident?
- 17 The service line to the trailer. Α.
- 18 Okay. And what information did the investigation Q. 19 reveal regarding the nature of the excavation that the 20 contractor was engaged in at the time of the incident?
 - Α. It revealed that the contractor was digging to make a sewer line repair and while digging, he hit the gas line with the excavator.
- 24 And did the investigation reveal what steps Mr. Toof 25 took after the line was hit?

- 1 A. It reveals that he notified 811 after the line was
- 2 hit.
- 3 Q. Okay, and did he notify 911?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Were any photographs taken by ELM as part of their
- 6 investigation?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Okay, and were these photographs taken at the time
- 9 they were dispatched to the site?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. And are these the photographs that are
- 12 reflected on pages five through nine, I believe, of Exhibit No.
- 13 | 2?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. At this time I would like to walk through the
- 16 | photographs with you, and if you could just refer to the page
- 17 | number and then either top or bottom and describe what's
- 18 reflected in each picture. We will start on the first page,
- 19 which is page five.
- 20 A. Okay. The top picture there is the picture taken at
- 21 | the time of the locate; so that's just the locator saying here
- 22 | is the gas line, taking a picture of it. The picture below
- 23 | it --
- Q. Can I back up?
- 25 A. Yep.

- Q. On that top photograph, help me understand then what is reflected in there in terms of the markings.
- A. Looks like we have some gas and some communication

 lines located there at this time. I see some paint and orange

 flags and you see, it's faint, but you see kind of a yellow

 circle and a line that kind of goes up and swoops over to that

 meter set in the background.
- Q. Okay. And so what coloring on that picture would reflect the markings for the gas line?
- 10 A. Yellow.
- 11 Q. Okay, and are there any flags or is it just the 12 markings?
- A. Doesn't appear to be flags in the picture.
- Q. So it's the yellow markings on the photograph on the top on page five?
- 16 A. Yep.
- Q. And that was the locate then that was conducted by ELM?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Moving to the picture below it then.
- 21 A. Yep.
- Q. What's reflected in that picture?
- A. So there you see you got this is where the damage occurred.
- Q. If you could just describe in those photographs what

you are seeing and what they are identified by.

- A. Okay. So in that picture you see the yellow marker post with the white sticker. That is the marker where they are saying the damage is at in the hole, and then you have a ruler to show a rough distance from the damage to where the locate marker post is just in front of the excavator to try to show you the distance or line it up between the locate and the damage.
- Q. Okay, and so the locate marker, that's I guess the black kind of marker that's in the back of the picture?
 - A. Yeah, black and orange one, yep.
 - Q. And so the photograph is attempting to reflect essentially the damage in relation to the markings?
 - A. Correct.

- Q. Okay. If we could move to the next photograph or set of photographs on page six. And Mr. Christensen, the top photograph on page six, what is reflected in that picture?
- A. It's the same picture as -- it's the time of the locate when the locate happened, it's just a different angle, standing by the meter set taking the picture going the other direction towards where the service line ties in; so it's just a different view of that first picture that we discussed on page five.
- Q. Okay, and what's reflected in that picture then? Help me understand where the locate marks are on that picture.

- A. It's faint, it's just to the left of where the gas
 riser is, there's some yellow paint going out towards and
 swoops around to the left and you can see the yellow circle
 from the previous picture out there.
 - Q. Okay. And then the picture on the bottom of page six, what is reflected in that photograph?
 - A. Similar picture as to page five, just showing the damage with the marker posts -- the damage in relationship to the locate.
- Q. Okay. And so in that photograph, I see kind of a yellow line that's in the hole on kind of the left-hand side in the middle. What is that?
- 13 A. That's the service line going to the meter set in the 14 picture here.
- 15 Q. That's the service line that was hit?
- 16 A. Yep.

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- Q. And the equipment that we see on site, whose equipment that?
- 19 A. I believe it to be Darwin Toof's.
- Q. And what do we see? What type of equipment is that that we see?
- 22 A. Mini excavator.
- Q. And if we could move to the next page, page seven, and
 I know some of these photographs maybe are similar, but
 specifically what do we see in this top photograph on page

- 1 seven?
- 2 A. You can see where that service line ties in to the gas
- 3 | line coming into the property and going over to where the
- 4 damage occurred.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- A. Along with the marker posts indicating the damage and
- 7 | where the locate was.
- Q. And so there are some coloring kind of on the bottom
- 9 of the page. What is that?
- 10 A. That's the location of the gas line that the locate
- 11 put down.
- 12 Q. So when you referenced earlier in one of the
- 13 | photographs the circle, that's the circle that you were talking
- 14 about?
- 15 A. Yep.
- Q. And so this is just a closer up picture of that,
- 17 | correct?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And then the photograph on the bottom of that same
- 20 page.
- 21 A. I believe that's just showing the damage to the gas
- 22 line, yeah. Yep.
- Q. And so obviously you have a measurement tool there,
- 24 and so in terms of the review that you completed, where was the
- 25 damage in relationship to the markings?

- 1 A. I would say just under 12 inches from the locate to 2 where the gas line is.
 - Q. Okay. And again in that picture in the middle of the picture, we see kind of a yellow line, that is the service line at issue?
- 6 A. Yes.

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- Q. And then if we could go to page eight, and if you would just describe these photographs. I know similar in nature.
- 10 A. Just a close up picture of the previous, getting a
 11 little closer to the gas line.
- 12 Q. And we are talking about the top picture on page 13 eight?
- 14 A. Yes. Just a close up view of the damage.
- Q. And then moving on to the picture below that, same page.
- 17 A. Yep. Just reshowing the damage in relation to where 18 the locates were.
- 19 Q. Just a little bit different angle?
- 20 A. Yep.
- Q. And then finally the last set of pictures on page nine.
- A. That's right above the damage to the gas line.
- Q. Pardon me?
- 25 A. I said it's just up close shots.

- 1 Q. Again of the damage in relationship to the markings?
- 2 A. Yep.

- Q. And then finally the last picture on the bottom of page nine.
 - A. Really, I think they are just trying to show the gas line in relation to the locate was accurate, within looks to be maybe eight inches or so, six to eight inches within the locate. So that's what they are trying to show here, is the accuracy of the locate.
 - Q. What other information was gathered by ELM as part of their analysis or their investigation?
 - A. Whether or not the contractor had a valid locate ticket at the time of the damage, gather some contact information, the type of work they were doing, yeah.
 - Q. Okay. As part of the analysis, do they identify possible root causes of the incident?
- 17 A. They do.
 - Q. And what was the root cause identified here?
- 19 A. Insufficient excavation practices.
 - Q. Okay. And explain that further.
 - A. Meaning that they had a valid locate ticket, but they should have, you know, pot holed and put eyes on the service line prior to digging across it and maintaining that 18 inches of separation from the underground facility with mechanical equipment.

- Q. Okay. And so from their investigation, it revealed that they had not maintained the proper clearance; is that fair?
- 4 A. Yep. They were within the 18-inch tolerance zone.
 - Q. And it's your understanding that they were using an excavator to do the digging?
- 7 A. Yes.

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- Q. After MDU received the final report from ELM, what
 9 steps were taken after that by you?
- 10 A. I review the ELM report from ELM, I review our first
 11 responder or the service tech who responded to the damage,
 12 review the order that they -- their paperwork they submit with
 13 it, review the locate tickets, make sure it was valid at the
 14 time of the damage.
 - Q. And based upon the review of those items, did you ultimately elect to file a complaint regarding this incident?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. And I want to hand you what's been marked as MDU

 Exhibit No. 1. Mr. Christensen, would you please identify this
 document.
- 21 A. The complaint submitted to the 811 board.
- Q. Okay, and you indicated that you personally submitted the complaint?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And is it a true and correct copy of the complaint

- 1 that was filed by you with South Dakota One Call?
 2 A. Yes.
- MS. RITER-RAPP: Your Honor, I would move to admit
 Exhibit No. 1 at this time.

5 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection, Mr. Toof?

MR. TOOF: Well, I object, the only I think I object to is nobody -- I told everybody I work for another company, and I was digging for that other company, and everything just relates to my name. It has the name of the company, it's not Darwin Toof. I was digging for the trailer park, the owner of the trailer park. I mean, I'm the maintenance man, I just want to -- that's the only thing that's wrong in that exhibit is what I'm saying.

HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

MR. TOOF: I don't know if anybody wants to know the name of that company or not, I don't know.

HEARING EXAMINER: You know what, we are going to take that into account and --

MR. TOOF: I'm just saying --

HEARING EXAMINER: We will leave that in the record and we will ask a few questions about that in a minute.

MR. TOOF: Okay.

HEARING EXAMINER: I'm going to mark -- or MDU 1 will be admitted.

25 EXHIBITS:

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1 (MDU Exhibit No. 1 received into evidence.)

- Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) Mr. Christensen, when was the complaint filed in relationship to this incident with One Call?
- A. October 30th of 2020.
- Q. Okay, and what information did you provide in your complaint with the One Call Board?
- 7 A. I provided the ELM investigation report and I believe 8 a locate ticket.
- 9 Q. And there are obviously a series of questions that are
 10 kind of generated as part of the complaint that you are tasked
 11 with responding or that you responded to?
- 12 A. Yep.

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- Q. And so included in the complaint, it says name of
 excavator/facility operator, and it says Darwin Toof. Do you
 see that?
- 16 A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. And so --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. How is that information generated?
- 20 A. I input that information.
- Q. No, I know, but how do you determine who the excavator was?
- 23 A. By the locate ticket and the ELM investigation.
- Q. Okay. So when you say by the locate ticket, so help
 me understand the process then when a locate ticket is issued.

- A. When the excavator submits a locate ticket, it will have all their contact information in a sense, name, number,
- 3 email if they provide it, an address.
- 4 Q. So the contractor is responsible for completing that 5 form?
- 6 A. Calling in a locate, yes.
- Q. Right, but then the information that's included in it, that is generated by the contractor in the information they provide?
- 10 A. In the locate ticket, yes.
- Q. Yeah, I mean, that's what I'm trying to establish, is how that locate ticket is generated. How do we know who the contractor is?
- 14 A. Sure, yep. The contractor provides all that
 15 information in the locate ticket.
- Q. Okay. So then the locate ticket is issued to the contractor that applied for it essentially?
- 18 A. Yep, who submitted it.
- Q. And so one of the pieces of information that you would review to determine who the excavator was was who the locate ticket was issued to?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. As part of the complaint process, were you directed to provide information regarding possible violations of the law that had occurred?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. And in this particular instance, what violations of the law did you allege occurred? I'd like to go through them separately.
- 5 A. Okay.

- Q. If you would discuss the first one.
- A. The location of underground facilities, not pot holing and working within the 18-inch tolerance zone.
- 9 Q. So what specifically did MDU allege as it related to the minimum clearance?
- 11 A. Hit the gas line with mechanical means, digging within 12 the 18-inch tolerance zone.
- Q. And did Mr. Toof expose the facility with hand or noninvasive equipment prior to the excavation?
- 15 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. And I believe you indicated that the investigation revealed that he used a mini excavator to expose the line?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. Is that correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And then as part of the complaint, there was a second violation of the law that you allege had occurred, and what was that?
- A. An escape, escape of flammable gas, meaning the gas
 was blowing -- gas was blowing when the line got hit.

- Q. So the line was damaged, gas escaped, and who did he notify?
 - A. He notified 811 and MDU. He did not notify 911, when an escape of gas is reported.
 - Q. And do you know if 911 was ultimately contacted?
- 6 A. I do not.

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- Q. Was there any other information that you included in the report or in the complaint to support your position?
 - A. I guess just a brief summary of what I think happened.
- 10 Q. What was that brief summary?
- 11 A. Just contractor responding to an emergency sewer leak,
 12 that he called in emergency locates, we showed up, located our
 13 facility, started to dig, and while crossing the gas line
 14 digging with his excavator, damaged the gas service line.
- Q. And how long was that gas line out of service for?
- 16 A. Maybe two hours tops maybe.
- Q. And I'm looking at your report, and it looks like
 there's a notation on the last page that says one customer, one
 hour, does that sound right?
- 20 A. Yeah, okay. Yeah. It wasn't very long.
- Q. Okay. You mentioned that after an incident like this occurs, that there's a damage ticket generated; is that correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And I want to hand you or show you MDU's

- 1 | Exhibit No. 3. Have you seen this document before, Mr.
- 2 Christensen?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And what is this document?
- 5 A. This is the damage ticket that was called in.
- 6 Q. Okay. Go ahead.
- 7 A. This is the ticket that was called in after the gas
- 8 | line was hit.
- 9 MS. RITER-RAPP: Your Honor, I would move to admit
- 10 Exhibit No. 3 at this time.
- 11 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection, Mr. Toof?
- MR. TOOF: No.
- HEARING EXAMINER: No. 3 is admitted.
- 14 EXHIBITS:
- 15 (MDU Exhibit No. 3 received into evidence.)
- Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) And so who called in the damage
- 17 | ticket? I mean, it has information on here, but who is it that
- 18 your understanding was that called it in?
- 19 A. Darwin Toof.
- 20 Q. So Mr. Toof ultimately, as you indicated, contacted
- 21 811 to advise of the damage?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, and what information or what all information is
- 24 | included in the damage ticket?
- 25 A. The location of the damage and a brief description of

- 1 | what the damage is in regards to, which it says broken gas
- 2 line.
- 3 Q. Okay. And I see -- I'm sorry, go ahead.
- 4 A. Nope. I was just saying in the remarks it tells, it
- 5 describes what the damage ticket is for.
- 6 Q. Okay. And it looks like, as you indicated, that the
- 7 line was hit in the back of Lot 29.
- 8 A. Uh-huh. Yes.
- 9 Q. And on the damage ticket, it appears that there is
- 10 also information regarding the entity, it says company
- 11 | information on it; do you see that?
- 12 A. Oh, yes.
- Q. And again there it also references Mr. Toof; is that
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. Correct.
- Q. And finally, Mr. Christensen, I just want to walk
- 17 | through the other documents that have been filed in this case.
- 18 | If we could go to MDU Exhibit No. 4. And have you seen this
- 19 document before, Mr. Christensen?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And did you also receive a copy of this?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And when did you receive a copy of it?
- 24 A. Around that November, November 2nd.
- 25 MS. RITER-RAPP: Your Honor, I would move to admit

- 1 | Exhibit No. 4 at this time.
- 2 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection?
- 3 MR. TOOF: No.
- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: No. 4 is admitted.
- 5 EXHIBITS:
- 6 (MDU Exhibit No. 4 received into evidence.)
- 7 Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) Mr. Christensen, did you or
- 8 anyone from MDU ever receive a response from Mr. Toof in
- 9 relationship to this notice?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. And then again moving forward to MDU's Exhibit
- 12 No. 5, did you also receive a copy of this correspondence?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And did you receive it on or about the time
- frame on the date of the letter, which is January 11th of 2021?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And did you receive any response from Mr. Toof
- 18 | in relationship to this, anything, any information from him
- 19 relative to his objection regarding the complaint against him?
- 20 A. No.
- MS. RITER-RAPP: Okay. Your Honor, if I didn't
- 22 | already, did I move to admit 5?
- 23 | HEARING EXAMINER: No, you have not.
- MS. RITER-RAPP: I would do that at this time.
- 25 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection to No. 5?

- 1 MR. TOOF: That's fine.
- 2 HEARING EXAMINER: No. 5 is admitted.

3 EXHIBITS:

- 4 (MDU Exhibit No. 5 received into evidence.)
- Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) And then it appears that sometime after that Mr. Toof did request a hearing; is that correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And that's reflected in Exhibit No. 6?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And did you also receive a copy of it?
- 11 A. Yes.
- MS. RITER-RAPP: Okay. Your Honor, I would move to
- 13 | admit Exhibit No. 6 at this time.
- 14 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection? Mr. Toof, any
- 15 objection to No. 6?
- MR. TOOF: No, no objection.
- 17 HEARING EXAMINER: No. 6 is admitted.
- 18 <u>EXHIBITS</u>:
- 19 (MDU Exhibit No. 6 received into evidence.)
- Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) And then also as part of the
- 21 | complaint process, Mr. Christensen, did you receive a copy of
- 22 some recommendations of the South Dakota One Call Board as it
- 23 | related to the allegations in your complaint?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 O. And is that reflected in MDU's Exhibit No. 7?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you also received a copy of that in the mail?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 MS. RITER-RAPP: I would move to admit MDU Exhibit No.
- 5 7 at this time.
- 6 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection, Mr. Toof, on No. 7?
- 7 MR. TOOF: No, that's fine.
- 8 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, that's marked then as No. 7.
- 9 <u>EXHIBITS</u>:
- 10 (MDU Exhibit No. 7 received into evidence.)
- 11 Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) Mr. Christensen, what was your
- 12 understanding then of the results of the review that was
- 13 | conducted by the enforcement panel?
- 14 A. That they have reviewed it and reviewed the
- 15 | allegations of 811 violations and have determined a penalty.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. Enforced.
- 18 Q. And so the review panel had determined that certain
- 19 violations occurred and that a penalty would be imposed for
- 20 those violations?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. And then lastly, we see MDU's Exhibit No. 8. Do you
- 23 recognize that document?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 O. And what is that document?

- A. This is our order that's dispatched to our service techs when they go out to a hit line.
 - Q. So this report was generated by MDU?
- 4 A. Yep, when we are notified of the hit line.
- Q. Okay, so after the line is hit, MDU responds and then they gather information as part of that process?
 - A. Yes.

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- 8 Q. Just generally, what information is included in the 9 hit line report?
- 10 A. Location, look at the pipe, pipe conditions, if
 11 there's any gas leaks or orders in or around the meter, they do
 12 their little investigation, mar testing, gather any contact
 13 information from the contractor that's involved, if need be,
 14 they kind of -- supposed to conduct their own little
 15 investigation themselves.
 - Q. Okay, and so are they, I mean the service techs, are they usually out there around the same time as ELM conducts their investigation?
- 19 A. Yes.
 - Q. And so as part of the repair process, then, they are gathering information as well?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And would this be a true and correct copy of the report that was generated as it relates to this incident?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 MS. RITER-RAPP: Your Honor, I would move to admit
- 2 MDU's Exhibit No. 8 at this time.
- 3 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection?
- 4 MR. TOOF: That's fine.
- 5 HEARING EXAMINER: No. 8 is admitted.
- 6 EXHIBITS:
- 7 (MDU Exhibit No. 8 received into evidence.)
- Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) And Mr. Christensen, was there
 any notations here on this report relative to what had occurred
- 10 in this instance?
- 11 A. Just that a gas line had been hit, you know,
- 12 excavator -- it indicates that a gas line was hit with a mini
- 13 excavator.
- Q. Okay. Anything further as it relates to this incident
- 15 | that you haven't testified to that you believe the board should
- 16 know?
- 17 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- MS. RITER-RAPP: Thank you, that's all the questions I
- 19 have.
- 20 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Toof, do you have any
- 21 questions for Mr. Christensen?
- 22 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 23 BY MR. TOOF:
- Q. Yeah, it's my understanding that ELM works for MDU,
- 25 correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, and they also investigate themselves?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. So in other words, that's kind of a conflict of interest, isn't it?
- 6 A. Yes.

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- If we -- yes. If we go back and review these photos, 7 Q. if you look real hard, them round circled one at a different 8 9 angle, it's about two feet over, not one foot like you said, 10 it's almost two feet over there because if you look at the 11 first photo, there's a shadow on it, and then you look at the 12 other photo where your circle is enlarged, it's like two feet 13 over from where the angle is. So I'm just wondering why, and 14 then it was only like, once we were in the ground, we did dig 15 by hand too.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: I'll let you testify here in a minute, Mr. Toof. Right now it's questions for Mr.
- 18 Christensen, if you have any.
- Q. (BY MR. TOOF) Could that photograph be off by that
 two feet, according to the way, the angle would be set? Is it
 possible?
 - A. It's possible, but the damage in the picture of the locate, the line isn't a straight shot to that, is not a straight shot to where the meter set is. It kind of goes up and over and around or it looks to be like a clean out in that

- 1 first picture.
- 2 Q. Yeah.

- A. It goes around that, I guess --
- 4 Q. Two feet --

HEARING EXAMINER: Hang on, hang on, hang on. The court reporter can only take down one person at a time; so you can't talk over each other. You can't talk over me either.

MR. TOOF: Okay.

HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Christensen, you can respond to his question.

- A. I guess when I was reviewing the pictures, looking at the different angles of the pictures taken, even in that first picture, it does show a shadow, but then the picture on page six, the top picture on page six of the pictures, ELM report, you can see the gas line sweeping over to where that circle was.
 - Q. (BY MR. TOOF) I don't see no yellow line there.
- A. It's faint. You have to zoom in on it.
- Q. Right, I did that. Because where it was marked and where it was, and you said it could have been up to a foot, and I'm thinking it was more like two feet. As you testified prior to this, you said about a foot, and I asked you if it could have been two feet, and you said, well, it could have been possible. That's all I'm saying.
- A. Yeah. But it's not -- where the damage posts are --

- the damage posts are in relation to the markers, it's not.
- Q. Well, first you said it was up to close to a foot.
- 3 What I say is that faint line you see there, I'm not seeing it
- 4 | that way, I'm seeing it where the angle of the other -- it
- 5 | wasn't marked right, in my opinion, because it was -- you said
- 6 a foot earlier and I'm saying it was almost two feet, because
- 7 of where that circle is where you have it and that direct line
- 8 where it was and where it curved around is totally different,
- 9 it was not a -- nothing in that line -- the clean out was over
- 10 to the right.

- MS. RITER-RAPP: Your Honor, I'm going to object.
- 12 Obviously he can testify at a later time, but if he has a
- 13 question, obviously I'm perfectly fine with him asking that.
- 14 HEARING EXAMINER: Right. Mr. Toof, any further
- 15 questions?
- MR. TOOF: No, that's it, ma'am.
- 17 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Anything further, Ms.
- 18 | Riter-Rapp?
- 19 MS. RITER-RAPP: Just briefly.
- 20 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 21 BY MS. RITER-RAPP:
- Q. I want to go back to these photographs again, Mr.
- 23 | Christensen. And you were referencing in your testimony, and
- 24 | I'm looking at I believe it's page six, was it the top picture
- 25 | you were referencing?

- A. Yeah, page five and six, the top pictures of page five and six.
 - Q. Okay. So show us or tell us again then where the locate marks are in those photographs.
 - A. So go left with your cursor.
 - Q. Verbalize what you are doing so we have a record.
 - A. Right there you are right on the yellow line and it kind of sweeps, crosses the orange line and it goes over to where that looks like a building shadow, keep going, right there is that circle over the gas line on the edge of that shadow right there that we saw on damage pictures on page seven, top photo, you can see it sweeping. It's faint, but it's there.
- 14 Q. Okay.

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- A. I wish the yellow were better in these pictures. That leads to the damage picture as to how it has a sweeping motion over to the mound of dirt in the background where that little yellow shovel is.
- 19 Q. And then going back to then page seven, that top 20 picture.
- 21 A. Okay.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Codi, could you go down one picture? Yeah, you are on six.
- Q. (BY MS. RITER-RAPP) Okay, and so tell us again then what's reflected in that photograph. What we are looking at,

- 1 | are those the locate marks that we see in yellow?
- 2 A. Yep. You can see the line on the left going pretty
- 3 | much straight to that orange post, it says "mark" on it, right
- 4 | there goes straight towards it, and then you got the line in
- 5 yellow and the hole with the other yellow post saying "damage"
- 6 here.
- 7 Q. And so as I understand your testimony, it would have
- 8 been no more than a foot between the damage marker and the
- 9 lines, the locate lines; is that correct?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And it appears that it could be even less than that.
- 12 A. Yes.
- MS. RITER-RAPP: Nothing further.
- MR. TOOF: Can I ask some questions?
- 15 HEARING EXAMINER: Go ahead.
- 16 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. TOOF:
- 18 Q. You see where the gas meter is, right? See where the
- 19 | gas meter is at the top of the picture?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay now, if you go right straight ahead of that,
- 22 | there's a yellow mark on the other side of the ditch, and then
- 23 | your yellow line turns to the right there, from the circle,
- 24 | it's turning to the right, your yellow line is turning to the
- 25 | right and there's a faint yellow right there at the edge of the

- grass and then you cross that orange line like you did on the

 other previous picture, it's nowhere near there. You see what

 I'm talking about?
- If you are crossing that yellow orange line again, you 4 5 are way out there, and if you follow that yellow coming up 6 across where that looks like a yellow rope or something is, it looks like it turns right there and it goes right straight up 7 8 crossing that orange line to the meter. Why would it go -- I 9 don't understand why it's circling because there was no --10 right there, it ends -- see that right there, then it crosses 11 your orange right up above the clean out. That's what I'm 12 saying, that's where it was, then you are crossing that orange 13 line again. Do you see what I'm talking about?
 - A. I have to apologize, I don't. I have to apologize, I don't.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, I'm going -- Mr. Toof, I'm going to have you testify as to what you see later.
- MR. TOOF: Okay.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: And about your testimony.
- MR. TOOF: Okay.
- 21 HEARING EXAMINER: Any further questions for Mr.
- 22 | Christensen?

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- MS. RITER-RAPP: Nothing further.
- MR. TOOF: No, that's fine.
- 25 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, thank you, Mr. Christensen.

- 1 Mr. Toof, then we are going to turn to your testimony. I'm
- 2 going to swear you in at this time.
- 3 | Thereupon,
- 4 DARWIN TOOF,
- 5 | called as a witness, being first duly sworn as hereinafter
- 6 | certified, testified as follows:
- 7 HEARING EXAMINER: The record shall reflect the
- 8 | witness is sworn.
- 9 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 10 BY HEARING EXAMINER:
- 11 Q. State your name for the record.
- 12 A. Darwin Toof.
- Q. And Mr. Toof, I'm going to ask you a few questions
- 14 just to get some basics down, and then I'm going to let you
- 15 testify yourself. What is your current address, sir?
- A. 1515 East St. Patrick Street, Lot No. 265.
- Q. No. 265, okay, so you live in this trailer court that
- 18 | you worked on?
- 19 A. No. I live in a trailer court, where the owner of the
- 20 | company owns three trailer courts, and where I was digging was
- 21 another trailer court, not where I live.
- Q. Okay. That was at 815 East New York Street was where
- 23 | you were digging, correct?
- A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. Okay, and so you worked for the trailer court?

- 1 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 2 Q. Okay, what's the name of that company?
- 3 A. It is -- I gotta get it right -- Countryside
- 4 Property -- it's an LLC.
- 5 Q. Is it Countryside Estates?
- 6 A. Yeah, Countryside Estates, LLC.
- 7 Q. Okay, and they hired you as a maintenance person
- 8 there?
- 9 A. Yeah, I'm a maintenance man there, yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. Now, who called in the 811 locate or who called
- 11 | to locate it?
- 12 A. I did.
- Q. Okay. And you gave your information to the 811 when
- 14 you called in, correct?
- A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. Okay. And so if there was an issue --
- 17 A. What's that?
- 18 Q. Let me ask my questions and then you can answer them.
- 19 A. Okay.
- Q. And then so after you call in or when you call in and
- 21 give your information, you are the one that they are going to
- 22 | call if there's a question or if there's a delay in coming out,
- 23 | correct?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay, and so you are acting as the excavator because

- 1 | you will be excavating this location, correct?
 - A. Yes, ma'am.

- Q. Okay. And so after you call in, there was a water leak; is that what happened?
 - A. A sewer leak. The sewer was backing up.
- Q. And so 811 came out that same day or ELM came out and located it that same day?
- 8 A. Yes, ma'am.
 - Q. And tell me what happened after that, after it was located and you started digging.
 - A. Well, we started digging and we paid attention to all the utilities and everything, and we determined that the one utility, which is the orange line, was old cable so we didn't have to bother worrying too much about it because all the utilities are right on top of each other there. There's two sewers there, two clean outs, the water is right there, right there six feet below, and then of course there's the gas, and there was no electrical there at all in that location.
 - Q. Okay, so --
 - A. We started digging, I had another person with me helping, watching and everything else while I was digging, and then we knew the gas line was close so we dug some of it by hand, and then the last we had a bunch of dirt in there, it was dug loose, and I went to pick that up and that's when I hit the gas line.

- Q. And you knew you hit it right away?
- A. Yes, and I don't know who did say that we did not call 911, because we did because they showed up, the police showed up first and then the fire department, and then MDU showed up and we -- I called 911 first, then I called 811, then I called MDU.
 - Q. Okay. And what happened after that?
 - A. Well, the police showed up first and then the fire department showed up, and then a guy from MDU showed up and he got on the phone, they were trying to locate a map to where the shutoff was or something like that or how to shut it off, and then another guy showed up from MDU and he couldn't -- they couldn't decide where the shutoff was or whatever. So then they started digging about 15 feet away to find another place to shut it off, I guess, and they found the line and pinched it off to repair it.
 - Q. Okay.

A. To my knowledge, that yellow mark wasn't anywhere near, I don't know if the yellow mark and the orange mark got mixed up. I can't see how I did that because I couldn't, and where it was located was in front of the hole where the mark was, and where I hit it was in the back, and it was only like three inches underground too. I didn't understand how come it shouldn't have been buried further than that too. And I didn't hit it with a backhoe, I was pulling dirt up. The force of the

dirt coming up is what broke it, not the backhoe physically itself, not the bucket.

- Q. Anything else you wanted to testify about in regards to this?
- A. Well, like I said, I was working for somebody at the time, I'm not a contractor, and I don't know, I never received the first notices because they didn't send it to No. 265. I thought they would be sending it to the office, which is the address I gave them, and for some reason, they didn't get it either. Then when I finally got the lady's number, 811 got ahold of me, and I had her get the papers that I did finally get, which were the exhibits, I think it was Exhibit 5 she gave me.
- Q. Okay. So to your knowledge, Countryside Estates didn't get the mail either?
- 16 A. No. They were aware of what happened.
- Q. Okay. Anything else, sir, you wanted to testify about?
 - A. I guess not, but just the way them pictures are, I'm pretty sure that there's -- it's going -- if you look at the different angles, it's just difference on what it was out there, and that first picture you can't even tell where it was for sure. Even if you look to the right, it's like it's more to the right than it is to the left in that shadowy first picture when they did locate it.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. That's about all.
- 3 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, Ms. Riter-Rapp, any questions
- 4 for Mr. Toof?
- 5 MS. RITER-RAPP: Just a couple.
- 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MS. RITER-RAPP:
- 8 Q. You maybe covered a little bit of this, but Mr. Toof,
- 9 you were the individual then that called in the locate ticket;
- 10 | is that correct?
- 11 A. Yes, ma'am, I did.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. That's just whoever is digging, because we have other
- 14 people that dig too that run the excavator and that's you only
- 15 | call on the location, yeah.
- Q. But you were the excavator on this date and time,
- 17 | correct?
- A. Yes, I was running the machine, yes, ma'am.
- 19 Q. Okay. And so you did the excavation work on that
- 20 date?
- 21 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 22 Q. Okay, and you are not denying that you hit the line,
- 23 correct?
- A. Oh, no, I'm not denying that, no, unh-unh.
- Q. And so I believe you indicated that maybe you did dig

- a little bit by hand, but then you used the excavator to pull up the dirt; is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. And so it was at the time that you were using the excavator that you hit the line?
- A. Yes, ma'am, I was using the excavator when the line qot hit, yes.
- Q. And you have the ability to call in a verification ticket if you are not confident in the location, correct?
- 10 A. Yeah.

- Q. And you didn't do that this time.
- A. Well, because the angle looked right. How did it
 swoop around like that didn't even make sense. Usually they go
 in a safe, straight line, you know, because -- and I didn't -in my recollection of anything digging, they don't usually
 swoop around.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. So I had no reason to question the locate.
- 19 Q. But you would agree in the pictures that it reflects
 20 that the locate -- excuse me, where the damage occurred is in
 21 close relationship to where the markings were, correct?
- 22 A. No, I disagree with that.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- A. If you look at the angles and you look close where
 that yellow paint is and when it crosses that orange paint and

- 1 everything else, no, I don't think so. If you ever seen when
- 2 | they locate, they swoop their wand and I don't know if one
- 3 | hand -- I don't know, because they missed it. Then where they
- 4 even dug when they pinched the line off, they were off.
- 5 Q. Okay, after you hit the line, you indicated that
- 6 | you -- did you immediately call 911 or --
- 7 A. Yes, ma'am, that was the first thing that got called.
- 8 Q. Okay, so you specifically contacted 911?
 - A. No, the lady that was with me did.
- 10 Q. Who was the lady that was with you?
- 11 A. My fiance.

- 12 Q. Okay. I gotcha. Then after that, then you contacted
- 13 811 after that; is that correct?
- 14 A. Yep. I think I might have called MDU before I called
- 15 | 811, but I figured 811 needed to know, but I think I called MDU
- 16 | first before I called the locators, 811.
- 17 Q. So you do work like this regularly?
- 18 A. Not very often, maybe once every six months.
- 19 Q. Okay. But you know what your responsibilities are
- 20 under the law in terms of an excavation and contacting the 811
- 21 | locate authorities?
- A. Yeah.
- MS. RITER-RAPP: I have no further questions.
- 24 HEARING EXAMINER: Committee members, do you have any
- 25 | questions for Mr. Toof? I do not see any questions from the

1 committee. Ms. Riter-Rapp, any further testimony or witnesses? 2 Any rebuttal? 3 MS. RITER-RAPP: Nothing further, Your Honor. HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Well, then at this point in 4 5 time the board will go into executive session and make their 6 decision on this matter, and we will come out shortly. So if 7 you just hang on, Mr. Toof, if you just hang on the line, we 8 will put everyone or the committee members will go away into 9 another room and then we will come back when they have made 10 their decision. 11 MR. TOOF: Okay. 12 (Whereupon, the hearing was in recess at 3:10 p.m., 13 and subsequently reconvened at 3:25 p.m., and the following 14 proceedings were had and entered of record:) 15 HEARING EXAMINER: I believe we are all back or will 16 be back here soon. 17 MR. TOOF: You ready for me? I'm sorry. 18 HEARING EXAMINER: No, you are fine. We will be back 19 on the record in this matter. We are back on the record and is 20 there a motion from the board? 21 MR. KAISER: This is Dan Kaiser. I'll make a motion 22 that this complaint be dismissed due to the fact that it was

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Is there a second?

MR. RAVE: I second that.

filed against the wrong entity.

1 COURT REPORTER: Can I ask who that was? 2 HEARING EXAMINER: Any discussion on the motion? 3 MR. JANDREAU: I will simply add that through our 4 discussions, it was my finding or my belief that 911 was 5 called, and that was the second complaint; so in addition to 6 the wrong entity being brung to task, it did appear that 911 7 was called. 8 MR. RAVE: Correct. 9 HEARING EXAMINER: That was Mr. Rave who said 10 "correct" and the motion was made by Dan Kaiser, it was seconded by? 11 12 MR. RAVE: Lloyd. 13 HEARING EXAMINER: Lloyd Rave, okay. With that, Ms. 14 Gregg, if you could take roll call vote on the motion. 15 MS. GREGG: So the motion before the panel is to 16 dismiss the complaint. All in favor. Fay Jandreau. 17 MR. JANDREAU: Aye. 18 MS. GREGG: Dan Kaiser. 19 MR. KAISER: Aye. 20 MS. GREGG: Jim Scull. 21 MR. SCULL: Aye. 22 MS. GREGG: Loren Beld. 23 MR. BELD: Aye. 24 MS. GREGG: Steve Mohr. 25 MR. MOHR: Aye.

1 MS. GREGG: Lloyd Rave.

2 MR. RAVE: Aye.

3 MS. GREGG: Ed Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Aye.

MS. GREGG: Bleau LaFave.

MR. LAFAVE: Aye.

MS. GREGG: Mark Meier.

MR. MEIER: No. Nay.

MS. GREGG: Okay.

HEARING EXAMINER: It's eight to one, and with that, this complaint has been dismissed. Is there anything more before this body in regards to this case?

MR. KAISER: This is Dan Kaiser, and I want to address MDU per our discussion in our room. I think as you file these complaints, you need to do a better job of investigating and —it was certainly determined that, in our opinion, 911 was called. And the complaint process doesn't go to the individual excavator, unless they are an independent contractor working alone, it goes against the company, and that's why we have elected to dismiss this. You are certainly entitled to file a complaint against the owner of the trailer park who directed the excavation, and those are the discussions that we all agreed upon.

HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Anything further? Hearing none, thank you much for appearing here today. We will be off

the record in this matter and an order of dismissal will be sent to the parties. I'd like to thank the board for appearing here today. (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 3:30 p.m.)

1 <u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u> 2 3 STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA) SS. 4 COUNTY OF HUGHES 5 I, Carla A. Bachand, RMR, CRR, Freelance Court 6 Reporter for the State of South Dakota, residing in Pierre, 7 South Dakota, do hereby certify: 8 That I was duly authorized to and did report the 9 testimony and evidence in the above-entitled cause; 10 I further certify that the foregoing pages of this 11 transcript represents a true and accurate transcription of my 12 stenotype notes. 13 Dated this 12th day of May 2021. 14 15 16 17 18 Carla A. Bachand, RMR, CRR Freelance Court Reporter 19 20 21 2.2 23 24 25

1	5	38:15, 42:9, 48:13	Aye [3] - 47:17,	buried [1] - 41:24
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