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To whom this my concern,

Alliance Construction is writing this letter regarding the incident that took place on the South Louise Turning Lane Project in Sioux Falls, SD. that resulted in a notice of complaint OC21-010

Alliance Construction has many qualified, experienced operators, and Superintendents that have training and understand the danger that comes with digging around utilities. We have been around this type of work for many years and take it seriously when an incident happens. This situation is unfortunate but learning and taking action from bad situations is mandatory at Alliance construction.

I have investigated the incident with all parties involved and have concluded that our company did not do as much as we should have to ensure the locate process was executed properly.

The process for this incident went as such. Once we called a locate ticket in for Northwest to locate the proposed work limits normally, they locate with flags, and we move forward with our work. This time the proposed area had a high-pressure line in our work limits. In these situations, the locators are required to verbally contact us with a phone conversation and notify us of the high-pressure line and request a standby. I could not verify if this happened but if it did the wrong people had a conversation, and our crews were not aware of the standby request. Also, the locate flags are marked with a caution of a high-pressure line. These flags look similar to other gas flags but if you read them, they clearly state that action is needed when digging.

When the work was performed, we did hand dig and have no issues when installing rip rap near their line. Our operators are aware they must hand dig before we use machines around utilities and normally do not have any issues. However, in this case we went back to the job and were removing the rock and because we were not planning on digging just removing and adding dirt our operator did not hand dig and verify the line. This was a poor choice by our operator and is not allowed by our company.

In summery our operator did not make good decisions digging around northwestern gas line and failed to be safe by Alliance constructions standards. We have safety meeting and regular talks about digging around berried utilities or obstacles. It is a major part of our company and I take pride in training our operators to be safe in this area. The operators also are required to be professional while on duty. Therefore, the operator that was operating the excavator in this incident is no longer working at Alliance construction.

I have also contacted Jason at northwestern energy and discussed with him in detail the events that happened. We have come to an understanding of everything and will be having their company do some detailed training on the hazards working around gas lines. I am hopping this will be one of the silver linings of recognizing how to improve on safety. We also have dedicated extra training on ALL types of underground utilities and how to recognize High priority situations from standard locates.

I would like to personally ensure that this issue is being addressed and you can trust that we are taking all possible precautions to prevent future issues. Please call my cell listed below with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Wiseman

Managing partner

Alliance Construction.

605-728-2576 Cell