

Agenda Date: 3/19/25 Agenda Item: 6A

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

> AUDITS AND RELIABILITY & SECURITY

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DESIGNATION OF SYSTEM OPERATOR OF NEW JERSEY'S "ONE-CALL DAMAGE PREVENTION SYSTEM" ORDER APPROVING TARIFF AND TICKET RATE UNDER CONTRACT AWARD

DOCKET NO. AA24040229

Parties of Record:

Thomas Hoff, President, One Call Concepts, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:

By this Decision and Order, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") considers a proposed tariff submitted by the New Jersey One-Call Damage Prevention System ("One-Call System") Operator ("System Operator") that was awarded the contract by the Board on March 19, 2025. The tariff sets forth operational terms and the tariff rate for outgoing mark-out notification tickets relating to the One-Call System beginning April 1, 2025, and terminating on March 31, 2030. The contract includes the option of two (2) one (1) year extensions.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Board has jurisdiction to oversee and enforce the provisions of the Underground Facility Protection Act, N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 et seq. ("Act"). The Act mandates that the Board establish a System to prevent damage to underground facilities resulting from excavation and/or demolition.¹ The Act grants the Board the authority to designate a System Operator and promulgate any necessary regulations to implement the Act's provisions. The System Operator, among other things, receives excavator requests to mark the location of Underground Facilities in an area planned for excavation or demolition ("Message"), and provides the Message to each of the underground facility operators ("Tickets"). The ratio of Tickets per message is used to calculate the rate that the underground facilities operators will be charged. The ratio is established to ensure that the charges for outgoing Tickets will provide sufficient revenue to pay the System Operator at the contract rate per incoming Message.

¹ Underground facilities include, but are not limited to, facilities that convey water, forced sewage, telecommunications, cable television, electricity, oil, petroleum products, gas, optical signals, or traffic control or transport hazardous liquids ("Underground Facilities").

On May 22, 2024, the Board approved the release of Request for Proposal 23DPP00833 ("RFP").² The award of the contract was approved by Treasury's Division of Purchase and Property and, subsequently, by the Board at its March 19, 2025 Agenda Meeting. The rates agreed upon in the new contract require a new tariff.

The proposed tariff reflects a Ticket rate of \$1.90 per outgoing mark-out notification ticket which is billed to underground facility operators in order to fund the program and allow the System Operator to collect the contract rate agreed upon in the contract award. In addition to a Ticket rate, the tariff sets forth rates for other permissible fees as well as operational details.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

After a thorough review of the record in this matter, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the proposed tariff and Ticket rate are reasonable. The Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u> that the new tariff and Ticket rate take effect at the beginning of the new contract on April 1, 2025. The System Operator is <u>HEREBY DIRECTED</u> to provide the final tariff in accordance with this Order prior to March 31, 2025.

The information presented by the System Operator and a review of the proper collection and calculation of rates and ratios, is subject to audit by the Board, including a review of collection activities, proper expenditure of money, and any additional over/under collections. This Order shall not preclude or prohibit the Board from taking any actions determined to be appropriate because of any such audit.

² In re Request for Proposal Designation of System Operator for New Jersey's "One-Call Damage <u>Prevention System"</u>, BPU Docket No. AA24040229, RFP issued on May 22, 2024.

The effective date of this Order is March 26, 2025.

DATED: March 19, 2025

DR. ZENÓN CHRISTODOULOU

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

TINE шні SADOVY C G

PRESIDENT

MARIAN DOU

COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL BANGE COMMISSIONER

SHERRIL LEWIS

BOARD SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DESIGNATION OF SYSTEM OPERATOR OF NEW JERSEY'S "ONE-CALL DAMAGE PREVENTION SYSTEM" DOCKET NO. AA24040229

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