

Subject: Letter of Comment - BCUC Inquiry into the Regulation of Safety - Hyland, Chris
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 10:15:06 AM
Attachments:

Date Submitted: January 07, 2021

Proceeding name: BCUC Inquiry into the Regulation of Safety

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: Yes, Interested Party

Name (first and last): Hyland, Chris

City: Sidney

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:

BC 1 Call is the critical first step in underground infrastructure damage prevention. BC 1 Call looks forward to continuing to work with regulated utilities with the combined interest of improving damage prevention awareness.



January 7, 2021

Ms. Marija Tresoglavic
Acting Commission Secretary and
Manager of Regulatory Services
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Subject: BCUC Inquiry into the Regulation of Safety – Letter of Comment

BC One Call Limited (“BC 1 Call”) is registered as an Interested Party in the captioned inquiry, and submits this Letter of Comment for consideration.

Since 1994, BC 1 Call has operated as a not-for-profit to provide a public service in British Columbia, while also serving as a critical component of our members’ underground infrastructure damage prevention strategies.

BC 1 Call and its 362 members are committed to:

- the prevention of damage to underground infrastructure in B.C. and the avoidance of related consequences, including
 - loss of life / personal injury
 - environmental contamination
 - explosion, fire, flood, or toxic gas escape
 - evacuation of a residential areas
 - disruption of essential services
- the promotion of safe digging practices

Our service supports safety and the avoidance of accidental damages and injury, and should, therefore, be considered as a component of the safety environment of our members, including those regulated by the BCUC who are owners or operators of underground infrastructure, and choose to become members of BC 1 Call.

Basically, we operate a contact centre to receive requests from excavators for information about the existence and whereabouts within proposed dig sites of buried infrastructure owned or operated by our members. The requests are immediately relayed to our members, so that they can respond and engage in a timely fashion to advise excavators whether and how to dig without risk of damage to infrastructure. (For more on our service, please visit <https://www.bc1c.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BC-1-Call-Brochure.pdf>)

click, call or check **before** you dig.



As per section 7(5)(b) of the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* Pipeline Regulation B.C. Reg. 281/2010, pipeline permit holders must be a member of BC 1 Call. Beyond this, there is no mandatory membership requirement for other underground infrastructure owners or operators. If all BC underground infrastructure owners were members of BC 1 Call, then excavators would only need to contact us once to ensure locate requests are received by all underground infrastructure owners with assets in or near a proposed dig site. However, we do not notify non-members, who must be discovered and contacted separately by excavators.

In essence, BC 1 Call is the link between the excavating community and owners of underground facilities, who are our members. Our self-funding model is based on membership fees. We encourage excavators to use our service by making our service free to them, and raise awareness through collaboration with educational institutions and associations who provide safe digging training to excavators. In addition, we work with Technical Safety BC and WorkSafeBC on projects that include raising awareness of our service in the context of safe digging practices. For more on our Dig Safe Community, visit: <https://www.bc1c.ca/dig-safe-community/>



How We Do It – Our Collaborators

- We collaborate to raise awareness of our service
- We support or provide training of excavators (often as part of certified safe digging courses)
- We collaborate to clarify how our service fits into regulatory frameworks



B.C. Dig Safe Community: always growing to increase impact

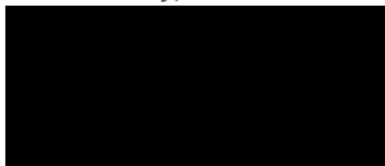
Our membership includes some of the organizations currently regulated by the BCUC, including FortisBC Inc., FortisBC Energy Inc, BC Hydro and Pacific Northern Gas. In fact, >50% of BC 1 Call’s membership fees come from utilities regulated by the BCUC. About one third of our members are in the Oil and Gas sector and, as noted previously, are mandated by regulation to be members of BC 1 Call. Our full membership list can be found at <https://www.bc1c.ca/member-list/> and is organized by membership category:



- Oil & Gas
- Energy
- **Municipalities (all local government)**
- First Nations
- Regional Government
- Telecommunications
- Improvement/Water Districts
- Other

In summary, BC 1 Call feels that it directly contributes to the safety of all British Columbians by providing a critical and valuable service to support safe excavation practices in the province.

Yours Truly,



Chris Hyland

President & CEO