

The Western Virginia Damage Prevention Committee met on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. There were 26 persons present. The group met at the Holiday Inn on Fairway Lane in Verona.

Bernie Gardner of Columbia Gas of Virginia, the Committee Chairperson, welcomed everyone and shared the meeting's agenda.

Steve Light of VUPS provided an update on the following:

- Technology for electronic white lining, proven successful in Phase I of the Virginia Pilot, if being used by more and more folks. Chris Queen of Williams Gas Pipeline, present at the meeting, is working to provide free phones with free data plans for one year for excavators working in the areas where the WGP pipeline exists.
- Phase II testing continues. This part of the Virginia Pilot project looks at applying GPS technology to the locator's side. Use of the Phase II equipment and submitting data by responding to tickets has increased recently. The City of Charlottesville Gas is still responsible for over one-half of the total volume.
- Orthos are now available in the Newtin Member Mapping application!
- The Fifth Edition of the Virginia Marking Standards is now in print. Attendees were encouraged to take a copy of the latest version of the Standards with them.
- The Miss Utility of Virginia call center will observe these holidays in November:
 - 11/11 – Veterans Day
 - 11/26 – Thanksgiving
 - 11/27 – Day after Thanksgiving
- See the Events page at www.missutilityofvirginia.com for directions to the upcoming meetings:
 - 11/17 – Lynchburg Area DPC
 - 12/1 – Advisory Committee Meeting (moved to Richmond instead of previously announced location of Manassas)
 - 12/8 – Fredericksburg Area DPC
 - 12/8 – Winchester Area DPC
 - 12/9 – VUPS Quarterly Membership Meeting (Fairfax)
 - 9/29 – 10/1 – SCC Pipeline Safety Conference (Virginia Beach)

Jenny Kingsley of Dominion Virginia Power shared a video titled, "Contractor Beware". It focused on power line safety, directed at work both near above-ground and underground electric utilities. (Additional safety information is available at DVP's website, www.dom.com.)

In the open forum time, a question was asked, are there any safer tools for working around electric utility lines. Jenny Kingsley and Clay Smith (also with DVP) indicated that insulated shovels and tools with fiberglass handles can provide safety in those circumstances. Bernie Gardner told the story of a gas damage that occurred recently over a weekend. The excavator



who did the damage repaired the line with clamps and water fixtures. Fortunately, the pilot light at the house this line served was out, otherwise here could have been an explosion there.

The schedule for the Western Virginia DPC meetings will be posted on the Events page of www.missutilityofvirginia.com as soon as it is set.

