



State of Utah

Department of Commerce

Division of Public Utilities

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MEDIA ALERT

Division of Public Utilities secures \$100K to aid Blue Stakes in protecting citizens, property

"Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration awards Utah maximum grant, benefits seen statewide"

(For immediate release...)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – Philip Powlick, Director of the Division of Public Utilities (DPU), announced today that a \$100,000 federal grant from the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has been awarded to Utah to help the State with its damage prevention program starting this summer. The grant will be presented to Blue Stakes of Utah, a non-profit organization which facilitates locating of underground utilities before excavations. Blue Stakes of Utah will use this money to improve its damage prevention to the level of the federal requirements according to the "2006" Pipe Act. This is the second grant that DPU's Pipeline Safety Group has secured for Utah this year. An earlier "One Call" grant earmarked \$40,000 in funding which was passed on to Blue Stakes of Utah.

"This grant will benefit all of Utah, from Logan to St. George, by protecting the public from underground accidents," said Powlick.

"Our thanks to the Division of Public Utilities for its support. Safety is our number one concern and this funding will help our mission to promote public safety, protect underground facilities and minimize service interruptions," said Gary Hansen, Executive Director of Blue Stakes of Utah.

About the Division of Public Utilities: The Division of Public Utilities is part of the Utah Department of Commerce. DPU makes recommendations to the Utah Public Service Commission for rate-making purposes, applications, hearings and other issues affecting quality of service. The Division also handles and investigates consumer complaints and monitors utility operations to ensure compliance with Public Service Commission rules, regulations and orders. The Division includes the following sections; Energy, Telecommunications, Water, Pipeline Safety, and Customer Service. The Pipeline Safety group enforces safety standards for all natural gas pipeline transmission and distribution facilities as well as master meter installations and new pipeline construction within Utah. Their role is to ensure compliance with the Federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 and Public Service Commission Rules.

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