



December 13, 2024

South Dakota 811  
Attn: Codi Gregg and Enforcement Panel  
PO Box 187  
Rapid City, SD 57709

Re: 811 Complaint OC24-026

Dear Codi and/or Enforcement Panel,

This letter is J&J Earth Works, Inc.'s (J&J) formal response to the 811 complaint filed by Watertown Municipal Utilities (WMU) – OC24-026.

The locate for this incident was called in by Jamie Andrews of J&J on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 2:08 PM – 811 Locate Request Ticket Number 2426042989. The incident occurred on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The address on the ticket was 2330 Challenger Way. This is also the location of the incident. J&J has pictures of the aftermath of the incident that show there were no markings or flags for water, sewer, or gas at the location on the ticket. Communication lines were marked in the area. Construction staking was in place for the new water and sanitary sewer mains and services. A high-pressure gas main was hit during the installation of water services. This created major liability and safety concerns at that time. Luckily, J&J crew members were not injured in the event.

It was also noted by J&J's foreman that the water, sewer, and gas were not marked at the time of ditch grading in the area. WMU employees made mention of the cover over the new gas main at the time of the grading, but did not have the main marked. This grading occurred before this incident and a separate locate was called into 811 for that work.

J&J strongly disagrees with the complaint filed by WMU and has proof that it is not accurate. The date stated on the complaint is wrong and there were no locates marked by WMU. J&J has a good relationship with the WMU crews and are usually in constant contact with them during the construction season. We will continue to maintain that communication going forward.

J&J takes incidents like this very seriously and has safety protocols implemented for the entire company for any safety event. Although we are thankful that no injuries occurred this time, we are also hoping that things like this do not happen in the future for us or other companies. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin A. Paulsen', is written over a horizontal line.

Colin A. Paulsen  
Director of Operations  
J&J Earth Works, Inc.

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