

UKOPA One Call Work Group – Chairmans Report Jan 2001.

Ongoing operation of Cheshire Pipelines One Call.

PIG Seminar at Birmingham- Nov.

Good attendance with wide support that the issue should be progressed to try to achieve consensus within the industry on a national system.

A work group is being formed under the chairmanship of Sir John Cullen with the first meeting on 24th Jan. Several UKOPA operators will be represented.

NJUG Interchange of Records.

3 utilities are now in a position to exchange records by enquiry. We await experience from actual operation.

The trial is licensed to run until end March after which the future seems very uncertain. NJUG at present seems unlikely to sponsor its continuation or further development/ roll-out.

Demonstration during commissioning showed that the system can satisfactorily exchange digital maps and notify enquirers of non-utility buried assets. As yet there are no proposals on how this can be extended to enquiries from outside the utilities. Delays have been in getting resource and priority to enable the in-house GIS systems to interface with the project server software rather than technology problems.

Transco/Advantica Initiative.

Transco have commissioned Advantica to develop a system for their field engineers/ contractors following incidents with their operations interfering with other operators pipelines.

In its initial stages this was based on presence within km map squares, but this has now been refined to identify pipeline corridors on a GIS background – just as the pipelines part of the NJUG system, or the software used by Moleseye (previously Susiephone).

Advantica has identified about 80 operators (many are different sections or offices of the same operator) across the UK. I see validation of this data as an essential function and have volunteered that the UKOPA operators will co-operate in piloting this.

This system could be the basis of a low-cost non-utilities one-call system until a full national system is developed.

Transco do not appear to wish to operate the system for external access, but may well be willing for others to do so, subject to proposals.

Thus there is scope for progress on various fronts. The challenge is to achieve a package that spreads the cost acceptably between the underground services operators and potential enquirers.