

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

CHARLES D. BAKER GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ONE SOUTH STATION BOSTON, MA 02110 (617) 305-3500 MATTHEW H. NELSON CHAIR

ROBERT E. HAYDEN
COMMISSIONER

CECILE M. FRASER
COMMISSIONER

June 24, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Mark D. Marini, Secretary Department of Public Utilities One South Station, Fifth Floor Boston MA 02110

Re: Onyx Corporation, D.P.U. 19-70

Dear Mr. Marini:

The Pipeline Safety Division ("Division") and Onyx Corporation have resolved the Dig Safe matter underlying the above-referenced adjudicatory hearing (D.P.U. 18-DS-0636). Attached please find a copy of the Consent Order and checks totaling \$15,000, signifying resolution of D.P.U. 18-DS-0636 (civil penalty \$5,000) and other matters pending before the Division. The parties request that the above-referenced adjudicatory hearing be closed without further action. Please contact me at laurie.e.weisman@mass.gov if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Laurie Ellen Weisman

Division Counsel

Pipeline Safety Division

Department of Public Utilities

Sman

Enclosures

cc: Lauren Morris, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities Stacey G. Durkin, Treasurer, Onyx Corp.

FAX: (617) 345-9101 www.mass.gov/dpu



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

CONSENT ORDER

In the matter of Onyx Corporation

D.P.U. 17-DS-716 D.P.U. 18-DS-0636 D.P.U. 19-DS-0536

I. JURISDICTION

- 1. Pursuant to G.L. c. 82, § 40E and G.L. c. 164, § 105A, the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") has authority to enforce violations of the provisions of G.L. c. 82, §§ 40 through 40E ("Dig Safe Law"), and 220 CMR 99.00 ("Dig Safe Regulations").
- 2. The Department issued the Dig Safe Regulations to establish procedures for the determination and enforcement of violations of the Dig Safe Law and Dig Safe Regulations.
- 3. Pursuant to <u>Delegation Order</u>, D.P.U. 18-44-A (2018), the Commission of the Department delegated to the Department's Pipeline Safety Division ("Division") the administration and enforcement of the Dig Safe Law.
- 4. For purposes of this Consent Order, Onyx Corporation ("Respondent") is an Excavator within the meaning of the Dig Safe Law and the Dig Safe Regulations.
- 5. Respondent has stipulated and consented to the issuance of this Consent Order with the attached Compliance Agreement.

II. <u>DIG SAFE VIOLATIONS AND CIVIL PENALTY</u>

Pursuant to the authority vested in it by D.P.U. 18-44-A, the Dig Safe Law, and the Dig Safe Regulations, the Division hereby orders that:

1. Regarding D.P.U. 17-DS-716, and based on information referenced in the June 8, 2018 Notice of Probable Violation ("NOPV") issued by the Division and gathered during the informal review, the Division found that Respondent violated the Dig Safe Law or Dig Safe Regulations, or both, in connection with an excavation that occurred at 376 Main Street, Acton, Massachusetts, on or about November 1, 2017. Specifically, the Division had reason to believe that the Respondent failed to provide a proper initial notice to Dig Safe, Inc. prior to commencing the excavation, as required by the Dig Safe Law, G.L. c. 82, § 40A. The civil penalty for this matter is \$1,000.1

This matter was also the subject of <u>Remedial Order</u>, D.P.U. 19-01-03 (2019).

- 2. Regarding D.P.U. 18-DS-0636, and based on information referenced in the December 24, 2018 NOPV issued by the Division and gathered during the informal review, the Division found that Respondent violated the Dig Safe Law or Dig Safe Regulations, or both, in connection with an excavation that occurred at 134 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, Massachusetts, on or about September 6, 2018. Specifically, the Division had reason to believe that the Respondent failed to employ reasonable precautions, such as by maintaining the marks or calling for remarking, to avoid damage to the underground facilities, as required by the Dig Safe Law, G.L. c. 82, § 40C. The civil penalty for this matter is \$5,000.²
- 3. Regarding D.P.U. 19-DS-0536, and based on information referenced in the September 18, 2020 NOPV issued by the Division, the Division finds that Respondent violated the Dig Safe Law or Dig Safe Regulations, or both, in connection with an excavation that occurred at 70 Sparks Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, on or about Augut 12, 2019. The civil penalty for this matter is \$12,000.
- 4. Pursuant to G.L. c. 82, § 40E, and 220 CMR 99.14, the Division imposes upon Respondent a total civil penalty of \$18,000. A violation relating to a natural gas pipeline facility is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$200,000 each day, up to a maximum civil penalty of \$2,000,000 for a related series of violations. 49 U.S.C. § 60122(a)(1); G.L. c. 164, § 105A; 220 CMR 99.14(1). A violation relating to any other underground facility is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for a first offense, and between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for any subsequent offense within twelve consecutive months. G.L. c. 82, § 40E; 220 CMR 99.14(2).
- 5. Respondent shall pay the civil penalty ordered herein by remittance to the Division checks or money orders totaling \$18,000 and made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

 Details of these payments are contained in the Compliance Agreement.

III. RESPONDENT REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Respondent shall sign the Stipulation below and return this complete document to the Division along with an initial payment of \$3,000. This initial payment shall be followed by five payments of \$3,000, one payment every 30 days, for a total of \$18,000 as set forth in the Compliance Agreement.
- 2. All submissions by Respondent in accordance with this Consent Order shall be addressed to:

Attention: Damage Prevention Program Pipeline Safety Division Department of Public Utilities One South Station Boston, MA 02110

This matter is also the subject of adjudicatory matter <u>Onyx Corporation</u>, D.P.U. 19-70, currently pending before the Department.

IV. STIPULATED TERMS

Respondent, through the signature below, by the person to whom this Consent Order is issued or a duly authorized representative, acknowledges agreement to the terms contained herein, pursuant to 220 CMR 99.13(1). In signing this Order, Respondent neither admits nor denies that a violation of any Department or federal pipeline safety law or regulation occurred in relation to the above-noted matters. Further, Respondent agrees to issuance of this Consent Order and stipulates to the following:

- 1. Respondent, by signing the Stipulation, hereby waives:
 - (a) All rights to informal review pursuant to 220 CMR 99.10;
 - (b) All rights to an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to 220 CMR 99.10(3);
 - (c) Any and all procedural rights available in connection with the issuance of the Consent Order;
 - (d) All rights to seek any type of administrative or judicial review of the Consent Order; and
 - (e) Any and all rights to challenge or contest the validity of the Consent Order.
- 2. Respondent expressly acknowledges that neither Respondent nor the Division has any intention to enter into a contract.
- 3. The terms and provisions of this Consent Order and Stipulation shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, Respondent and the Division and their successors in interest.
- 4. Nothing in these Stipulated Terms shall preclude any proceedings brought by the Department to enforce the terms of the Consent Order, and nothing in these Stipulated Terms constitute, nor shall Respondent contend that they constitute, a waiver of any right, power, or authority of any other representative of the Commonwealth or an agency thereof to bring other actions deemed appropriate.

V. FINAL ORDER

By Order of the Division

- 1. This Consent Order and Stipulation is intended to be, and shall be construed to be, a final order of the Department issued pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 5, having the force and effect of a remedial order, pursuant to 220 CMR 99.13(2), and expressly does not form, and may not be considered to form, a contract binding on the Division, the Department, or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 2. The terms of this Consent Order and Stipulation, including this paragraph, are not subject to amendment or modification by any extraneous expression, prior agreement, or prior arrangements between the Division and the Respondent, whether oral or written.

RUEST	Date:June 16, 2021
Richard Enright, Director	

Pipeline Safety Division Department of Public Utilities

The undersigned, duly authorized, stipulates to and acknowledges agreement to the terms herein. **Onyx Corporation**

By:

Print name:

Title:

Date: 11-20-2020

RECEIVED

DEC 16 2020

Department of Public Utilities Pipeline Engineering-Dig Safe Division

COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ONYX CORPORATION

D.P.U. 17-DS-716/D.P.U. 18-DS-0636/D.P.U. 19-DS-0536

Onyx Corporation ("Respondent") agrees to take the following actions within the specified time periods:

- 1. Respondent shall return the signed Consent Order with a check or money order made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the amount of \$3,000. This payment is to be followed by **five additional payments of \$3,000**, each made within **30 days of the prior payment**, for a total civil penalty of \$18,000. The final payment shall be made no later than May ____, 2021.
- 2. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall provide the Division with written evidence regarding its internal Dig Safe and damage prevention training program.
- 3. Respondent shall ensure that all employees or contractors performing excavation work on its behalf are properly licensed to perform such work.
- 4. Respondent shall promptly respond to all correspondence from the Division regarding any future damage prevention enforcement matters.

Failure to comply with any of the above-noted items may subject the Respondent to further enforcement actions and civil penalties.

ONYX CORPORATION • 18 Wetherbee Street • Acton, MA 01720-5526

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASS

ONYX CORPORATION - 18 Wetherbee Street - Acton. MA 01720-5526

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TO THE ORDER COMMONWEALTH OF MASS

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