



March 17, 2014

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Mr. David Ferguson  
Pipeline Safety Division  
Texas Railroad Commission  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Proposed Revisions to Title 16, Chapter 18 of the Texas Administrative Code,  
Relating to Underground Pipeline Damage Prevention

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide informal comments on the Railroad Commission Staff's proposed revision to the above-referenced rule. CHR Solutions, Inc. is a telecommunications consulting and technology firm representing small incumbent and competitive local exchange companies that provide local exchange service in Texas.

The CHR Solutions, Inc. Clients (CHR Clients) are both facility operators as well as excavators, and they are concerned with the possible effects the proposed rule would have on their efforts to provide timely, cost effective service to their customers. Small local exchange companies do not believe the Railroad Commission has jurisdiction over Telecommunications or Information Service Providers. As a result, the CHR Clients contend that the Commission should clarify that Telecommunications and Information Services Providers are exempt from the proposed rule.

In addition, the CHR Clients believe that the State's existing damage prevention laws regulating underground excavation and notification of intended work near underground facilities work well, and were developed after taking into account the interests and concerns of all interested parties. The CHR Clients are concerned that the Railroad Commission's proposed rule revisions have the potential to impose unnecessary burdens on their operations without improving on the State's existing process for damage prevention and underground excavation.

CHR Solutions appreciates the opportunity to file these informal comments and looks forward to working with the Commission on these proposed rule amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Odell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Odell  
Senior Director – Business Compliance

GO/CM/pjf