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MISS DIG SYSTEM, INC AND GOLD SHOVEL STANDARD CELEBRATE 8/11 DAY WITH MICHIGAN STATEWIDE ROLLOUT PROGRESS REPORT

Utilities Companies and Municipalities Across Michigan Work to Increase Public and Workplace Safety and Advance Standardized Metrics for Damage Prevention Performance

AUGUST 11, 2017, [insert city], MI – MISS DIG System, Inc. Michigan’s 811 utility safety notification system, along with Gold Shovel Standard (GSS), celebrates National Safe Digging Day with an update on their efforts to provide resources to municipalities to facilitate their adoption of the Gold Shovel Standard, and to assist them with establishing Gold Shovel Standard communities throughout Michigan. MISS DIG 811 has gathered a diverse committee of excavators, asset owners, MDOT, municipalities and MPSC to drive state-wide adoption of Gold Shovel Standard, which allows buried-asset owners in the state to reward best-in-class performance by Michigan’s excavation and locate community.

Those leading this effort include:

- Barton Malow
- Consumers Energy
- Corby Energy Services
- Dans Excavating
- DTE Gas
- Frontier Communications
- Genesee County Drain Commission
- Holland BPW
- MDOT
- MPSC
- SEMCO Energy
- Tri County MECA
- Zito Construction

“It is motivating to see so much support and momentum around re-focusing Michigan’s buried infrastructure owners and excavating community on damage prevention,” said Catherine Stafford, DTE Gas. “Gold Shovel Standard offers us the framework to bring all parties to a higher level of safe-digging awareness, partnership and performance. The diversity of participants will go far in helping us increase public and workforce safety throughout Michigan. Statewide adoption of Gold Shovel Standard will allow for the seamless connection between existing Michigan damage prevention programs.”

“Gold Shovel Standard certification helps municipalities increase control over the safety and integrity of their buried infrastructure, and allows them to identify contractors who exhibit a commitment to extreme caution and safety training,” said Bruce Campbell, CEO of MISS DIG System. “The Great Lakes Gold Shovel Foundation is ensuring program uniformity throughout the state to minimize the burden placed on Michigan contractors.”

GSS is a nonprofit organization that fills an industry gap by providing third-party confirmation of baseline Damage Prevention-Safety Management Systems for the protection of buried assets, and fair and transparent metrics for damage prevention. GSS-certified excavators have a demonstrated commitment to high safety standards, and ongoing engagement with continued training and education in industry best practices.

This announcement is part of the observation of National Safe Digging Day (also known as 8/11 Day). National 811 Day is observed each year on August 11. August 11 is a convenient way to remind professional excavators as well as homeowners of the importance of always calling 811 before digging. 811 is a free, FCC-designated national one-call number that connects a caller from anywhere in the country to the appropriate local one-call center.

Gold Shovel Standard has already become a permanent fixture in much of North America as industry has rapidly embraced this ambitious program. The rate of adoption has dramatically increased since its implementation, and numbers of new members and participants are expanding at a healthy rate. Notably, GSS has been embraced by some of the largest telecom companies, gas and electric utilities, pipeline operators and a variety of municipalities.

About MISS DIG System, Inc.

MISS DIG 811 is the central contract for the protection of underground utilities in the state of Michigan. The MISS DIG System promotes safety on the job site and assists the utilities in providing safe and efficient service to millions of customers, thus helping to preserve the environment and ensuring the quality of life for all Michigan residents. MISS DIG is also charge with education of its members, excavators, homeowners and the general public to the need to protect underground utilities and those working around them. The Web site is missdig811.org.

About Gold Shovel Standard

Gold Shovel Standard (GSS) is a nonprofit organization committed to improving workforce and public safety and the integrity of vital buried infrastructure. GSS believes that greater transparency in all aspects of damage prevention among buried-asset operators, locators and contractors is essential to drive continuous improvement, and vital to ensure increasingly safe working conditions and communities. The Web site is www.GoldShovelStandard.org

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