

SUPPORTING ELECTRONIC POSITIVE RESPONSE (EPR) FOR MINNESOTA'S 811 ONE CALL SYSTEM

THE ISSUE

Before digging, contractors must contact **811** so underground utilities can mark their lines. In Minnesota, this process is coordinated through Gopher State One Call.

After a notice of excavation is submitted, facility operators (utilities) must mark their lines or communicate that no facilities are present. Electronic positive response is one of the three methods for responding a notice; the other two being marking on-site (without updating the electronic response) or contacting the excavator and informing them of their response on whether something was located or cleared (i.e. text message). Although common, it's not required that a utility has completed its response electronically through the One Call System, which can lead to delays, confusion, or increased risk of damaging underground infrastructure.

THE SOLUTION

HF4233 (Kraft)/ SF4339 (Hoffman) requires **Electronic Positive Response (EPR)** for facility operators participating in the 811 system.

EPR allows utilities to **electronically report the status of a locate request**, such as:

- Lines marked
- No conflict with excavation
- Utility not located in the work area
- Additional coordination required

Excavators can view these responses in real time before starting work.

WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR HF4233/SF4339

This legislation **strengthens Minnesota's excavation safety system** by requiring an electronic response that most utilities already use today, **while improving communication and accountability for everyone involved in digging safely.**

SUPPORTERS ON REVERSE

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Update Public Status for TEST03". It features a "Status" dropdown menu with options: "Please select", "Marked", "Marking will be delayed", "Not complete/In progress", "Marked, critical facilities in area", "No access to site", and "Maps Provided - Abandoned Line". Below the dropdown is a "Comments (internal)" text area. To the right, there are sections for "Update assigned locator" (with a "Locator" dropdown), "Update internal status" (with "Open / Close" and "Group" dropdowns), and "Add custom responses" (with "flags?:" and "Flags:" dropdowns, "completed:" checkboxes, and "Is this flagged and painted: *" checkboxes). The form has "Cancel" and "Save and..." buttons at the top right.

ALREADY WIDELY USED IN MINNESOTA

EPR is already the standard practice for most utilities. This bill simply **ensures all facility operators follow the same process for responding.**

NATIONAL BEST PRACTICE

Electronic Positive Response is a **recommended best practice** of the Common Ground Alliance, the national organization dedicated to preventing damage to underground infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENT: UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

The bill also ensures excavators can reach utilities when field coordination is necessary. Facility operators must:

- **Review and update their contact information at least quarterly,** and
- Update it **more frequently when changes occur**

Maintaining accurate contact information helps resolve field questions quickly and avoid project delays.

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**WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT
FOR HF4233 / SF4339**





MIDWEST

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House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF4233 (Kraft) Electronic Positive Response

Committee Co-Chairs Tabke and Koznick, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the members of DIGIN Midwest and representing thousands of workers in the underground utility and infrastructure construction community, I am writing in support of the HF4233 amendment. We appreciate Rep. Kraft's work to improve safety and communications in underground utility locating.

For many years DIGIN Midwest has been an active participant in stakeholder discussions to update and reform Minnesota's utility location and damage prevention statutes. At times these discussions have been intense as service providers that own underground facilities and our contractors who work around and among buried utility systems met to discuss the safety of the workers in our industry, the underground facilities, and the public. Finding common ground was difficult.

DIGIN Midwest appreciates the additional utility contractor protections and improved utility communications through Electronic Positive Response that will lead to increased safety in the field while protecting operator assets. In addition, ensuring excavators have valid contact information of facility operators will help resolve questions while in the field, and avoid project delays. These modernizations will contribute to increased safety in future projects by providing more accurate information.

We are pleased to support HF4233 as a solution between stakeholders and look forward to the adoption and passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephanie Menning'.

Stephanie Menning, CAE, IOM
Executive Director