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PUCO
180 East Broad Street
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Ref: Utility construction

Gentlemen;

In the past several years many counties have adopted and are enforcing Ohio Administrative Code 4733-37 Standards for Boundary Surveys. This standard requires that monuments be set at all deflection points, corners and at the road right of way line at a minimum. This is certainly an improvement on previous standards with regard to trying to retrace a survey.

However, no one has addressed the subject of monument preservation. ODOT, County and Municipal Highway Departments have paved over many monument boxes making access difficult or impossible. Other points in the centerline are milled up in the process of repaving. And last but not least, utility companies install or replace their facilities within the right of way. Very seldom does anyone require location and preservation of monuments.

Keep in mind that the property owner, past or present, paid a Professional Surveyor to establish the boundary and pin it accordingly. Disturbing or destroying the monument represents a loss of value or injury to the property owner. It also makes the next survey that much harder to perform.

I am well aware of the requirement that anyone, government agency, utility company, contractor, private individual, digging within the right of way or anywhere else for that matter, must call OUPS. Care must be exercised by the responsible party to actively locate and protect any utility, weather or not listed with OUPS, prior to digging. Why should monument location/protection be any less of a requirement?

I would like to know what your current policy is on this subject. I have included several letters and responses for your reference.

Respectfully Yours,

Cc:
ODOT District 3
Engineers and Surveyors Board
State PLSO

Timothy Riley, P.E., P.S.