



Impact of Exemptions on Railroads PHMSA State One-Call Exemption Forum

West Palm Beach, FL

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Association of American Railroads**

The Association of American Railroads

- AAR members account for 82% of the industry's mileage, 95 percent of its employees, and 97 percent of its freight revenue
- Railroads carry 43 percent of intercity domestic freight – more than any other mode of transportation
- There are seven Class I railroads (revenue >\$433 million) including:
 - BNSF Railway
 - Canadian Pacific
 - CN
 - CSX Transportation
 - Kansas City Southern
 - Norfolk Southern
 - Union Pacific
 - Other members include Amtrak, some regional and short lines, and some commuter railroads





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What railroads want exemption for

- Routine track maintenance using mechanical excavation in the track structure – including subgrade, grade, ballast and track and associated ditches
- Reasons:
 1. As the property owner, railroads have a permit system for anyone wanting to install underground utilities on our property
 2. Railroads are not aware of any damage to underground utilities when performing routine track maintenance which would have been prevented by calling 811



Reasons for railroad exemptions (cont.)

3. Data from the CGA Data Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report indicate very low numbers of railroad caused damage to underground utilities
4. Railroads own approximately 200,000 miles of track, not including yard track requiring maintenance multiple times a year including:
 - Ballast tamping and cleaning
 - Installation of new ties and rail, and
 - Ditch cleaning (required by regulation)



Reasons for railroad exemptions (cont.)

5. Calling one call centers for locates on that much track multiple times per year would impose a significant burden on the railroads to protect the locators while on the right of way, but also impose a significant burden on the locators to make those locates
6. Limited exemptions are provided to other industries like state highway departments and farmers, so there is a precedent for exemptions



Thank You

Questions?

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