



PHAI and utility locates - We do it because it's the law

At Canadian Nuclear Laboratories contract partners working on the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) are required by law to have all utilities identified and marked to avoid damage to buried infrastructure and to prevent injuries.

The purpose of a utility locator is to accurately locate underground utilities such as water, gas, and electric lines, sewer lines, and other buried infrastructure.

Public versus private utilities

Public utility companies, such as Hydro One, Enbridge Gas, Reliance etc., are responsible for locating their infrastructure.

PHAI contractors hire private locating firms, such as ProMark and T2UE, to identify and mark services such as fibre optics, irrigation and pool systems, electricity to detached garages and sheds, to name a few.

Utility locates

Paint, stakes or flags are some of the various methods used to locate where underground pipes, wires, or cables run, and each type of infrastructure has a unique colour associated with it.

The locate validity period is determined by the infrastructure owner. Public locates are valid for at least 60 days. Private locates expire in 30 days.



Why do we need them?

Utility locating is outside of CNL's control. The locating company has up to 10 business days to complete the work and they determine the order of work.

Return visits

Delineation Phase

Once LLRW has been found on a property, return visits are required to conduct additional sampling to find the outer edge of the contamination; this also means two utility locate visits, per the legal requirements.

Pre-Design Surveys

In total, there can be up to seven visits that need to be conducted to meet legal requirements including:

- topographical survey
- property boundary survey
- arborist assessment
- utility locate marking
- property line survey
- Species at Risk survey
- Designated Substance Survey

Once these visits have been completed, the information obtained is combined with the results from the radiological testing and a design package is created. At this point, CNL will meet with property owners to review the proposed cleanup.

Remediation

Prior to beginning remediation on a property, utility locates are once again marked, per the legal requirement. Contractors then follow the plans agreed upon with the owner to cleanup and restore the property.

Municipal Road Allowance testing

CNL is conducting soil sampling in municipally owned road allowances. Utility locates are once again marked, per the legal requirement. Although it may seem to property owners that the testing is being conducted on a private property, it's taking place in the municipally owned road allowances.

