



Rural Utilities & Safety Association

"Serving Albertans Since 1973"

December 17, 2007

Re: Municipal Access Agreement Between SHAW Cablesystems Limited and Wheatland County

To Whom It May Concern:

The Rural Utilities and Safety Association (RUSA) wishes to intervene in SHAW Cablesystems Limited's (SHAW) Part VII Application to the CRTC for an order to access Wheatland County's highways and other public property. In this regard, RUSA support the efforts of Wheatland County in their drive to have SHAW register it's utilities with Alberta One Call.

Operating since 1973, RUSA is an association made up of rural municipalities, counties, towns, special areas and villages dedicated to the safer working conditions for contractors and the public in general when working near any utility, and in the long term, lower costs to municipalities. RUSA represents and supports our members in areas of professional development, safety, uniform interpretation and application of appropriate legislation.

Registration with Alberta One Call is essential for municipalities that have excavation activities in their areas. For SHAW not to be registered with Alberta One Call, municipalities, the digging community and any other lay person, wishing to conduct any sort of subsurface work would have to notify each company personally. RUSA sees a potential safety issue for those persons not aware of such utilities in the area. Any person placing a request to Alberta One Call is trusting that ALL utilities in the area will be notified. If a person was not aware that SHAW was in the area, how would they know where or whom to call?

Alberta One Call is a well-known and trusted service in this province and we feel it should be law that all utility companies register with them. RUSA supports efforts to lobby the Government of Alberta to require mandatory registration of all buried utility providers.

If SHAW were allowed to opt out of the Alberta One Call service, RUSA fears that it may lead to other utility companies (particularly telecommunication providers) following suit. If the precedent is set by SHAW, and other utility companies follow, the safety of all excavations in the province of Alberta will be compromised. As an association committed to the safety of municipalities, we are strongly against letting SHAW be exempt from the Alberta One Call registry.

Respectfully

Bryan Bespalko

President

Rural Utilities and Safety Association