

Good morning NUNC members,

This past year has seen multiple changes for the NUNC, including substantial revisions to the state dig law, a significant rate increase, the elimination of the State Utility Coordinating Council, and a decline in local UCC participation in many areas. The rate increase was due in large part to the NUNC operating in rural areas with negative call ratios, which are not financially sustainable. The NUNC also had to transfer reserves in January to pay expenses. Given these items, it is time to transition and merge the NUNC into the UULC/WA811. This change will position councils well for the future and provide all NUNC members with training and advertising opportunities. The good news is that your council can continue operating as it does now!

As you know, Don Evans serves as the Executive Director of WA811, and many of you already work with Don as he speaks at contractor breakfasts, luncheons, and training events. We anticipate a seamless transition, with the change taking effect on **July 1, 2026**.

Below is an overview of what this transition means for you:

Ticket Price:

NUNC currently pays \$1.39 per locate request, and merging with WA811 will maintain this price until January 1, 2027. In January 2027, the new ticket price will be \$1.42 per locate. It is anticipated that the WA811 Board will establish a new five-year rate plan before the second quarter of 2027, allowing member utilities to budget accordingly.

After July 1 Advertising Funds:

Under WA811, you will order advertising supplies directly through the WA811 website. While there will no longer be a \$3,500 reimbursement, you may order advertising materials from the website as needed (within reason). For councils that are not that active, but would still like to promote 811, you do not need to spend anything to receive advertising items. Simply place an order on their website. If you are hosting contractor breakfasts, WA811 will cover the costs, with pre-authorization. This is a much simpler process for everyone and is more inclusive. Your council can submit 2026 invoices for reimbursement to NUNC until June 1, 2026. After that, no reimbursement will be available.

Training:

Training will be more readily available by contacting Don Evans directly. If Don is unavailable, he will coordinate with other knowledgeable dig law professionals to speak at your event.

Contract:

Each utility will need to sign a new contract with the UULC/ WA811. UULC members are represented on the UULC/WA811 Board through their respective utility groups. Please sign the new contract attached with this email and return it to drevans3@Washington811.com and nwdatabase@occinc.com within 30 days.

Remittance for services will be mailed to UULC, PO Box 3701, Seattle, WA, 98124. This is in the contract and will also be made clear on your bills

Council Activity:

As stated previously, council activities may continue as usual, with each council determining which types of 811 advertising are most effective in your area. If your council is working on a fair or trade show, additional help may be available to staff the booth. Please contact Mandy at the UTC as early as possible to discuss. Mandalyn.mackey@utc.wa.gov

Reserves:

Any NUNC reserve balance will be transferred to WA811.

Again, with rising costs and a largely rural customer base, we are no longer able to provide the level of service our members expect. Additionally, WA811 has a paid Executive Director, enabling it to operate more like a business than a volunteer group.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Don Evans (copied on this email) or me.

I would like to thank all NUNC members for their hard work promoting 811 in their areas.

Sincerely,
Zella West
Chair, NUNC