

## What is the Advisory Committee?

The Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act (220 ILCS 50) (“The Act”) requires that the Illinois Commerce Commission establish an Advisory Committee consisting of a representative from each of the following: utility operator, JULIE, Inc., excavator, municipality, and the general public. The Advisory Committee serves as a peer review panel for any contested penalties resulting from the enforcement of the Act. (See [Enforcement Process](#) for a description of how the Advisory Committee fits into the three-step Enforcement Process)

On May 29, 2002, the Commission passed a Resolution to create the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Advisory Committee, whose members serve two-year terms and can be reappointed to additional two-year terms. The Commission has appointed the following members who currently serve on the Committee:

**Excavator:** Mr. Paul Jansyn, Safety Director, IHC Construction Companies, LLC, Elgin, Illinois. Mr. Jansyn has been Safety Director with IHC since 2001. As Safety Director, Mr. Jansyn is responsible for developing and administering IHC’s accident prevention program and for ensuring compliance with applicable federal, state and local regulations. Mr. Jansyn has been employed in the occupational safety field since 1981. Mr. Jansyn currently serves as the Committee Chairman and is the senior member of the Committee having been appointed to his first term effective January 2011. Mr. Jansyn’s current term expires December 31, 2024.

**General Public:** Mr. Mike Parilac. Mr. Parilac is the founder of an underground pipe and cable locate instrument training program known as Staking University, Manteno, Illinois. Mr. Parilac also publishes a damage prevention industry journal, American Locator, formerly produced Digging Dangers, a series of excavation safety videos, and currently produces Planet Underground TV. Mr. Parilac has served on the Advisory Committee since April 2012 and currently serves as the Committee Vice Chairman. Mr. Parilac’s current term expires December 31, 2024.

**JULIE:** Mr. Roger Watwood, Southern Illinois Damage Prevention Manager, JULIE Inc., Joliet, Illinois. For more than a decade, Mr. Watwood has led outreach campaigns and on-site safety training, working with farmers, the excavation community, underground utilities and the general public to raise awareness in Southern Illinois on the importance of calling 811 to have underground lines located and marked prior to starting projects that involved digging. Prior to joining JULIE, Mr. Watwood worked for 15 years at the City of Marshall utility department which operates electric, gas, sewer, water and communication facilities. Mr. Watwood has been a member of the

Advisory Committee since January 2021 and his term expires December 31, 2024.

**Municipality:** Mr. Toby Rinehart, Superintendent of Public Services, City of Flora, Illinois. Mr. Rinehart has been Superintendent since 2007 and is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the streets as well as city owned gas, electric, water and sewer facilities. Mr. Rinehart also serves as Vice President of the Gateway Regional Water Board of Directors and on the Board of JULIE Inc., as a small utility member. Mr. Rinehart has been a member of the Advisory Committee since January 2021 and his term expires December 31, 2025.

**Utility Operator:** Mr. Dan Cempel, Senior Operations Supervisor, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Cempel has been employed by Peoples/North Shore for over 36 years. Apart from maintaining the Peoples/North Shore gas systems, Mr. Cempel's duties in damage prevention have included damage investigations, overseeing locate contractors and training employees and contractors in safe excavation practices. Mr. Cempel also participates as a member of the WEC Energy Group Damage Prevention Team, Greater Chicago Damage Prevention Council and the Underground Contractors Association of Illinois. Mr. Cempel has served on the Advisory Committee since May 2020 and his term expires December 31, 2025.

The Advisory Committee meets monthly to review contested matters at the Commission's office in Springfield or the office of JULIE, Inc. in Joliet, Illinois. The Committee's meeting schedule is located on this website. The Committee operates under the authority of the Act, and by the rules of the Committee's [Bylaws](#) and [83 Ill. Adm. Code 265](#).