UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
Pertinent information helps minimize delays and service interruptions.

When underground utilities are disturbed during construction operations, undue delays and costs often result, and the question of responsibility is raised.

- The Design Professional should review with the Owner the procedure and cost involved to procure all available data showing location and condition of underground utilities affected by the proposed construction.
- It is in everyone’s best interest to gather accurate information during the design stage. Extra costs may occur if underground utilities are not located and identified properly on the construction documents. Cost to research the records will usually more than offset costs involved if a problem is encountered during construction.
- The Design Professional should include in construction documents the pertinent information obtained by the Owner.
- The documents should also include the method of payment for all connection charges, and all charges to extend or move existing underground utility lines. Accurate and complete information is not always available. Whenever exact charges by utility companies cannot be determined at time of bidding, Owner shall pay all such fees, or provide an allowance to be included by the Contractor and later adjusted when exact costs are known.
- Before construction, the Contractor should review underground utility data with the Design Professionals, utility companies, and Owner to be sure they have knowledge of all available data.
- In order to have underground utilities identified, in Missouri, contractors should call Missouri One Call (1-800-DIG-RITE); in Illinois, contractors should call JULIE-Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (800-892-0123 or by dialing 811) before digging. The Contractor should assume responsibility should they disturb marked underground utility lines.
- Owners are encouraged to research available records and show on construction documents. However, Contractor still bears responsibility to have all utilities marked as per state regulations.

REFERENCES:
AIA A201 General Conditions
ConsensusDOCS 200 Owner/Contractor Agreement and General Conditions
Site plans and surveys
All utility companies and record drawings
Missouri One Call
Mo. Revised Statutes Chapter 319
Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE)
Illinois Underground Utility Facility Damage Prevention Act (220 ILCS 50/1 et seq.)

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