

Large Project FAQ:

Qualification and Criteria

1. What qualifies as a Large Project?

A large project is an excavation project that meets the following criteria:

- Takes more than 90 days to complete,
- Covers more than one mile linearly or 2 square miles of excavation, and
- Consists of major highways, utility, or development projects in areas which underground lines exist.

Large projects involve ongoing excavation over an extended period across a broad area and require coordination among multiple parties. The Large Project process allows work to be managed through planned phases and agreed Marking Schedules rather than repeated standard locate notices.

Examples of Large Projects

Example 1 (A well-defined large project) – An interstate highway expansion spanning several miles and is expected to take six months to complete would qualify based on duration and distance.

Example 2 (Qualifies due to complexity)- A provider is installing 6 miles of fiber across a multi-phase subdivision spanning several square miles. While segments can be completed in under 90 days, the pace of construction requires upfront communication and coordinated planning so locators can align resources to keep up with multiple active crews.

Example 3 (Does not qualify as a large project)- A residential pool installation that takes several months to complete but is limited to a small area would not qualify as a Large Project as it does not meet the required distance or work type requirements.

2. Can Large Projects apply to design work?

Design-related requests, including design tickets, may be submitted as part of the Large Project (LP) process; however, the LP process extends beyond design alone. Project plans are required to be submitted to ensure operators are properly notified of the full scope, duration, and coordination needs of the project. If design prints, planning meetings, or additional coordination are needed, those activities are facilitated within the LP

framework—eliminating the need to manage them separately and ensuring all stakeholders are aligned from the outset.

Creation and Management

1. Who is responsible for submitting a Large Project?

The Project Initiator is responsible for creating the Large Project. However, in some cases, the initiator may not be able to reasonably enter all required details. In those situations, another party, such as a general contractor, can submit the Large Project on their behalf when acting as the Project Administrator. However, it is preferred that the Project Initiator enters the project when possible, since they are responsible for the overall project scope. Subcontractors should not submit Large Projects, as they typically do not have full visibility into the project.

The Large Project information should accurately reflect the project's scope and enable all parties to coordinate effectively, regardless of who submits the information.

2. How are Large Project tickets structured?

Large Projects are organized into phases based on the areas the work will take place. Each phase has its own start and end date, and one ticket is created for each phase. This allows the project to be coordinated in more manageable sections.

3. Are there any limitations on phase size when setting up a Large Project?

No, there are no limitations on phase sizes. Phases can be defined within the project's scope. However, consideration should be given to how locating and marking schedules will be managed throughout the life of the project, phases that are too large may make coordination more difficult.

4. How is the area of a Large Project defined in the system?

The project area can be defined using the mapping tools available in the system. These tools allow you to outline the area of work that will take place. Additional guidance on using these tools will be provided through training.

5. What are project contacts?

They're individuals associated with a Large Project and are involved in work, oversight, or coordination. Contacts can include personnel performing work, managing the project, or needing visibility into project activity.

6. How are contacts managed throughout the life of the project?

Contacts are managed by the Project Initiator or Administrator. Contacts can be added when the project is created and updated at any time throughout the life of the project. Contacts can be added or removed to keep information current, however, if subcontractors are responsible for managing tickets and are later removed from the project, this can create challenges with reinitiating tickets and can result in delays. Responsibility for ticket management should be assigned with consideration of project roles and visibility when multiple Project Administrators are involved.

7. Who is responsible for maintaining the marks throughout the project?

The contractor who is listed as performing excavation on the ticket for each phase, is responsible for maintaining the marks in the work area.

8. Do standard ticket update requirements apply to Large Projects?

No, Large Project tickets do not follow standard update requirements. Each phase is established with its own start and end dates. As long as work is completed within that time frame, no updates are required. If work extends beyond the planned end date, the project should be updated accordingly.

9. How is project activity documented and shared across parties?

Project activity is documented and available within Exactix. This includes communications, agreements, and supporting documents allowing all organizations and individuals involved with the project to view information as it progresses.

10. Can there be multiple planning meetings and marking agreements for a Large Project?

Yes, multiple planning meetings and marking agreements may be used throughout the life of a Large Project. Meeting details, including locations and virtual meeting links, can be added within the system to support collaboration.

Planning Meetings and Marking Agreements

1. Are planning meetings required for Large Projects?

Yes, planning meetings are required for Large Projects. A planning meeting must be scheduled so that all known parties such as facility operators, locators, and excavators can review the project scope and begin coordinating work. Planning meetings may be held

virtually or in-person. These meetings are required because they initiate the coordination process and establish the Marking Agreement(s) for the Large Project.

2. What happens if someone does not respond or participate in the planning meeting?

If any party does not respond or participate in the planning meeting, the project will proceed as scheduled, and all parties will be expected to follow the marking agreement that was established during the planning meeting.

3. How are marking agreements established?

Involved parties work together to agree on marking dates and define the scope of work to be completed in each phase. Once agreed upon, the marking agreement reflects how and when marking will take place for the different phases of the project.

4. What should be done if marking timelines are not met?

If a locator does not mark by their agreed upon date, a no-show can be processed and sent to the Member Operator once the ticket is released for the phase.

Migrating Existing Locate Notices to Large Projects

1. What happens to existing tickets that need to be converted to a Large Project?

Existing tickets that meet the criteria for a Large Project are being identified in the system and flagged to be migrated to a Large Project once the updated law takes effect on May 22nd, 2026.

SC811 will work with those involved to complete the migration and gather any additional information that is needed.

Compliance and Damage Reporting

1. What happens if someone does not follow Large Project requirements?

If Large Project requirements are not followed, a violation complaint may be filed with the South Carolina Attorney General's office for noncompliance with Large Project Requirements. Violation complaints may also be filed at the ticket level for other violations (e.g., failure to respond, or failure to follow required excavation practices).

2. Does damage reporting change for Large Projects?

No, damage reporting does not change for Large Projects. If damage occurs during excavation, it must be reported to the owner or operator of the damaged facility, and a damage report must be filed with SC811.

Adoption, Training and Resources

1. Who does this process benefit, and how?

The Large Project process is beneficial for all parties involved. It allows excavators to manage work under one project instead of multiple standard notices, while locators and facility operators can better plan their workload on defined schedules and the project scope. Overall, it improves organization and communication by keeping information in one place, making excavation work easier to manage.

2. Is training required to participate in Large Projects?

Yes. Large Projects must be submitted online, and users are required to complete training before they can use the system.

3. What training or resources are available?

Training for Large Projects will be provided by SC811 through Coursettra. Training and resources will be shared as they are developed.

4. Will additional webinars be offered?

Yes. Future webinars will be offered for additional overview and guidance related to Large Projects. Information about upcoming webinars, including dates and registration details will be shared in SafeNex, the SC811 website, by email, and through social media.

5. What if I have additional questions about Large Projects?

You can reach out to our Help Desk by emailing support@sc811.com.