

Research Problem Statement

Project Title:	Placement of Underground Obstruction by Posts (2023-03-LSRB)
Project Synopsis:	Beam Guard posts occasionally need to be placed close to underground obstruction. When does the placement of an underground obstruction interfere with post operation?
Project Goal(s):	 How close an object can be to a beam guard post without interfering with post operation? Is there a different offset depending on which side of the post the underground obstruction (impact side, backside, left, right)? Is there a different post response depending on elevation of underground obstruction?
Project Background:	 Occasionally utilities, drainage features are placed close to beam guard posts. Some examples are: A utility may run parallel with a beam guard installation. A pipe may intersect a beam guard run. An inlet may be close to a post.
Proposed Work Plan:	 1.) Task 1 – Literature Review Review studies and/or test reports to identify currently used posts, existing posts, and/or previously tested posts that closely placed underground obstructions Obstacle types 2.) Task 2 – Computer modeling of different underground obstruction Based on data from Task 1, develop computer simulation models for different types of posts and underground obstructions Find critical cases: combinations of a post and an obstruction / side of post impacting the obstructions / distance between post and obstruction 3.) Task 3 – Bogie testing Conduct bogie tests on critical cases based on Task 2 4.) Task 4 – Calibrated simulations Compare bogie tests and preliminary simulation Calibrate and upgrade the computer simulation models Find a range of offsets from the post faces to underground obstruction that will not
	 A range of offsets from difference post faces to underground obstruction that will not interfere with beam guard operation. Approximate force imparted at a given distance from post.

Urgency and Expected Benefit:	States will have a better understanding of how close underground obstructions can be to a post. States can provide information to a utility what forces will be imparted to their equipment at a given offset.
Problem Funding and Research Period:	Total Estimated Cost = \$211,791
Developer(s) of the Problem Statement:	Name: Erik Emerson, Wisconsin DOT Email: Erik.Emerson@dot.wi.gov Phone: