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Maurice Scott opened the tailgate of his pickup, revealing enough quick-drying Krylon industrial spray paint to palpitate the heart of a graffiti artist. "Anything within 25 feet, we have to mark," said Scott, an underground-utility locator for USIC, a Peco Energy Co. contractor.

Scott consulted a map of the underground circuitry at 22nd and Walnut Streets in Center City, where a four-story condominium building is being constructed. He confirmed the location of the wires using an electronic tool that wailed when it detected underground electricity. Scott marked the pavement with red paint indicating Peco's buried electrical lines.

After workers for other utilities tagged the site - yellow paint for gas and steam, blue for potable water, orange for phone and cable - the sidewalks and streets around the site were transformed into a kaleidoscope of colorful hieroglyphs that mapped out the hidden network of pipes and cables below. "It's crowded down there," said Dave Haverstick, Peco's manager of damage prevention. "In big cities like this, it's very challenging."



Coleman said he understands the cost concerns of small conventional gas producers and is willing to consider a compromise relaxing the requirement to enter maps of their legacy pipelines into the One Call system. They would still be required to mark their new lines in any excavation area. But Kiger, head of the One Call System, said all existing gathering lines should be mapped so that the pipeline owners would be notified when excavators propose to dig nearby. "It really doesn't take that much effort to enter the map data into the system," he said.

The One Call system, which operates nationwide under the aegis of the Common Ground Alliance, also establishes a clear line of responsibility if an accident occurs. Even companies that do not participate in the system can be found liable if their underground lines are damaged. Kiger said Sun Pipe Line Co. was held partly liable for a 1983 gasoline spill that occurred when a cable-television operator struck an unmapped Sun pipeline while installing new

underground lines. Sun later became a member of the One Call system, he said.

Liability concerns clearly motivated the actions of the Peco contractor who marked out the intersection of 22nd and Walnut the other day. Scott, whose official title is damage-

**presidential  
delegation**

prevention specialist, pulled out a digital camera when he was done and photographed the lines he had just painted. "We document," said Haverstick, the Peco supervisor. "We take pictures and time-stamp when we were here. We would have a history of any actions that were taken."

If there was any damage later, Peco would conduct an investigation to establish whether the excavator had called 811, whether Peco's contractor had properly marked the underground lines, and whether the excavator had prudently dug around the buried utilities. "The onus is on us to prove we were here," said Haverstick. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*

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If you're an RCN customer and you've been waiting to watch Hulu on your TiVo set-top box, now you can. RCN on Thursday announced a partnership with Hulu that enables the cable company's customers to watch the streaming service as a channel through the same set-top box they use to watch live TV. To watch it, however, customers must subscribe to RCN Digital TV service powered by TiVo and have a monthly subscription to Hulu. Hulu can be found on channel 749 in the Lehigh Valley. The company called the move the latest update in its "ongoing commitment to innovation and customer convenience." Since integrating Netflix into its channel lineup in April 2014, RCN said more than half of its customers have enabled streaming services like YouTube and HBO Go on TiVo set-top boxes.

It fits into a trend across the cable and digital media industry, especially among millennials, or those between 18 and 34 years old. For example, among millennials, the weekly share of viewing that is streamed has risen from 15 percent in 2012 to 54 percent in 2016, while traditional viewing has dropped from 75 percent to 39 percent, according to the State of Cable & Digital Media 2016 report from Horowitz Research. "In the last year alone, we've seen a 23 percent increase in activation of streaming services such as Netflix, HBO Go and YouTube through our TiVo set-top boxes and that number continues to rise," Chris Fenger, chief operating officer for RCN, said in a news release. "We will continue to innovate in this arena to deliver what our customers want most."

Jeff Kelly, engineering director at Service Electric Cable TV & Communications, said the company introduced its SE Next Whole Home DVR system three years ago and has been in negotiations for several months with the vendors that would have streaming apps through the set-top box. Service Electric also has its TV Everywhere service, which allows customers to watch certain channels, including HBO Go, on their desktop, laptop or mobile device. "By mid-to-late summer hopefully, all those negotiations will be completed and the customer will see the fruits of our labor and the look of SE Next will include several new apps," Kelly said. – *Allentown Morning Call*



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