

QLA

QLB

QLC

QLD

The most significant SUE Standards advancement has been the implementation of UTILITY QUALITY LEVEL ATTRIBUTES. These attribute levels are defined on every set of plotted underground utilities. They indicate how utility data was collected and developed. The use of quality levels in the Subsurface Utility Engineering process allows designers to certify on the plans that a certain level of accuracy and comprehensiveness has been provided. There are four Quality Levels:

### **(QLD) Quality Level D**

At this level information collected from existing records and verbal recollection.

### **(QLC) Quality Level C**

Quality Level C Information is obtained by surveying and plotting visible above-ground utility features and by using professional judgment in correlating this information to Quality Level D information.

### **(QLB) Quality Level B**

At this level information is obtained through the application of appropriate surface geophysical methods to identify the existence and approximate horizontal position of subsurface utilities. "Quality Level B" data are reproducible by surface geophysics at any point of their depiction. This information is surveyed to applicable tolerances and reduced onto plan documents.

### **(QLA) Quality Level A**

Quality Level A information is obtained by the actual exposure (or verification of previously exposed and surveyed utilities) of subsurface utilities, using minimally intrusive excavation (VACUUM EXCAVATION, AKA POTHOLING) equipment to determine their precise horizontal and vertical positions, as well as their other utility attributes. This information is surveyed and reduced onto plan documents. Accuracy is typically set at 15mm vertical, and to applicable horizontal survey and mapping standards. Quality Level A & Quality Level B upgrades have been successful in reducing risk on tens of thousands of highway and road projects.

QLA

