



D-240262
Received
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Jun 6, 2024

From: Scot W Hattenburg M&L Construction Inc. Complainant

RE:

*In the Matter of the Penalty Assessment Against Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities,
Docket D-240262*

As the complainant in this matter, I want to stress that this issue is a clear and present danger to my employees!

Worker safety and protecting my 45 employees is a high priority to me.

Do you believe in worker safety or corporate profits?

Nothing is unlocatable it is just a matter of how much effort and expense that is applied to it...Avista has demonstrated that they do not want to spend corporate profits to protect my employees and the public. Avista actually submitted a statement that the “goal is public safety at a “reasonable price”... This happened after we hit an unmarked electric line that was live for 22 hours in a neighborhood. The goal should be public safety period!

Would you accept this corporate negligence in your front yard with your family?

We are using trenchless technology, so we have no idea when we hit unmarked explosive gas lines. We must rely on Avista to put in the effort to show us where these dangerous lines are.

My questions are;

1. Would Avista have been at the hospital to comfort a grieving wife, widow or children, because they failed to map this line?
2. Would Avista have paid my L&I insurance for their negligence for not mapping.... I think you know that answer...

This is a life or death issue and the continued negligence on the part of this billion dollar utility; **is disgusting.**

Every time I pay my gas and electric bill, I pay for them to do their job of mapping and locating for 811. I do not pay for names on stadiums or CEO pay in the multimillions. I pay for the safety of my employees and the public, and I am not getting it.



Do you remember the Bellingham pipeline incident? Three kids died because of 811 negligence. This incident could easily have mirrored Bellingham, and is one of many continued negligent hazards that we are faced with.

Here is a great youtube video of the 3 kids that were murdered due to corporate negligence, I encourage you watch this. [Timeline of the 1999 pipeline explosion on Whatcom Creek \(youtube.com\)](#)

Until the government gets serious about 811 enforcement and stops accepting excuses from billion dollar corporations, we **will** see another deadly incident.

Avista deserves more than a \$5,000 fine because it has been demonstrated and they have even stated that they are willful in their negligence for their corporate profit “public safety for a reasonable price”.

Scot W. Hattenburg

M&L Construction inc.

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