

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF PENALTIES INCURRED AND DUE
FOR VIOLATIONS OF LAWS AND RULES**

PENALTY ASSESSMENT: DG-250795

PENALTY AMOUNT: \$2,000

Investigation # 9161

EMAIL SERVICE

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YOU MUST RESPOND WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THIS NOTICE

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) believes that NR Construction Concepts, LLC (NR Construction or Company) violated Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.122.030(1)(a) by failing to notify the one-number locate service before beginning excavation on two different dates at two different locations.

RCW 19.122.030(1)(a) states, in part, that excavators must provide notice to a one-number locator service not less than two full business days and not more than 10 full business days before the scheduled work-to-begin date.

RCW 19.122.055(1)(a) states, in part, that excavators who violates any provision of this chapter and causes damage to an underground gas facility are subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each violation.

Commission staff (Staff) conducted an investigation that included reviewing damage reports, investigation reports, the One Call Center database, and communications with the Company. The documents reviewed identified a natural gas event that involved NR Construction damaging a natural gas facility while excavating without a valid locate ticket.

The Commission reviewed findings and recommendations made by Staff and hereby notifies you that it is assessing a \$2,000 penalty (Penalty Assessment) against you on the following grounds:

1. Alleged Violation 1:

The Complaint submitted by NWN indicates that on September 15, 2025, NR Construction excavated at 4108, 4112, and 4202 NE 188th St., Ridgefield, WA, and did not have valid locate tickets.

2. Analysis:

In the complaint submitted by NWN it reported that on September 15, 2025, the Company had been observed installing fence posts using post hole diggers in areas with clear indication of underground gas facilities and they were not submitting locate requests. NWN reported that despite having multiple meetings with the Company to educate and encourage compliance it has continued to violate the law. NWN submitted 6 photos as supporting documentation. The photos depicted new fencing in a neighborhood of new houses.

3. Alleged Violation 2:

The Complaint submitted by NWN indicates that on October 1, 2025, NR Construction excavated at 3301, 3305, and 3309 SE 12th Ave., Battleground, WA, and did not have valid locate tickets.

4. Analysis:

In the complaint submitted by NWN it reported that on October 1, 2025, the Company had been observed installing fence posts using post hole diggers in areas with clear indication of underground gas facilities and they were not submitting locate requests. NWN reported that despite having multiple meetings with the Company to educate and encourage compliance it has continued to violate the law. NWN submitted 4 photos as supporting documentation. The photos depicted new fencing in a neighborhood of new houses.

Staff emailed NR Construction on October 17, 2025, and on November 12, 2025. NR Construction responded and explained it had a new employee during the time frame that these violations occurred and they were late in getting locate requests submitted. The Company reported it is now verifying multiple times before digging and it is taking extra precautions.

The Commission considered the following factors in determining the appropriate penalty amount for the violation(s):

1. How serious or harmful the violation(s) is/are to the public.

These incidents could have been harmful to Company workers, utility technicians, nearby homeowners, and the public, and could have resulted in serious injury and loss of property.

2. Whether the violation(s) is/are intentional.

These violation(s) appear to be due to negligence by NR Construction rather than a lack of knowledge regarding Washington State's dig law. Since November 12, 2024, NR Construction has submitted 216 requests to locate underground facilities in Washington. This demonstrates the Companies knowledge of requirements and its responsibility to contact the one-number locate service before beginning excavation. NR Construction acknowledged there was a timeframe in which multiple violations occurred due to a new employee at the time, and it has since rectified the problem.

3. Whether the company self-reported the violation(s).

NR Construction did not self-report the violation. The Commission became aware of the violation when NWN filed a Complaint with the Commission.

4. **The likelihood of recurrence.**

The likelihood of recurrence depends on the Company's actions going forward and its willingness to notify the one-call location service every time prior to excavation. NR Construction has not received any previous Warning Letters or been issued any previous penalties.

The Commission has considered these factors and determined that it should penalize NR Construction as follows:

- \$2,000 penalty for two violations of RCW 19.122.055(1)(a) with an offer to suspend a \$1,600 portion of the penalty for 90 days, and then waive it, subject to the conditions that:
 - 1) Company management and field crew responsible for excavation complete Dig Safe Training provided through the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) within 90 days of this Penalty Assessment; and
 - 2) The Company must submit documentation of training completion to the Commission.

Further violation of RCW 19.122 will result in progressive penalty assessment up to maximum allowable by law.

These facts, if proven at a hearing and not rebutted or explained, are sufficient to support the Penalty Assessment.

Your penalty is due and payable now. If you believe the violation(s) did not occur, you may deny committing the violation(s) and contest the penalty through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. Or, if there is a reason for the violation(s) that you believe should excuse you from the penalty, you may ask for mitigation (reduction) of the penalty through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. The Commission will grant a request for a hearing only if material issues of law or fact require consideration of evidence and resolution in a hearing. Any request to contest the violation(s) or for mitigation of the penalty must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that request. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the request. *See* RCW 81.04.405.

If you properly present your request for a hearing and the Commission grants that request, the Commission will review the evidence supporting your dispute of the violation(s) or application for mitigation in a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding before an administrative law judge. The administrative law judge will consider the evidence and will notify you of their decision.

You must act within 15 days after receiving this Penalty Assessment to do one of the following:

- Pay the \$2,000 penalty amount due; or
- Pay \$400 and notify the Commission that you accept the offer to suspend an \$1,600 portion of the penalty amount for 90 days, and then waive it, subject to the following conditions:
 - Company management and field crew responsible for excavation must complete NUCA Dig Safe Training (<https://utc-9183.quickbase.com/db/bpkt6vndh>) within 90 days of service of this Penalty Assessment; and
 - The Company must submit documentation of training completion (Certificate) to the Commission. (See attached **NUCA Dig Safe Training Verification Record**); or

- Contest the occurrence of the violation(s); or
- Admit the violation(s) but request mitigation of the penalty amount.

Please indicate your selection on the enclosed form and submit it electronically through the Commission's web portal at <https://efiling.utc.wa.gov/Form> **within FIFTEEN (15) days** after you receive this Penalty Assessment. If you are unable to use the web portal, you may submit it via email to records@utc.wa.gov. If you are unable to submit the form electronically, you may send a paper copy to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, PO Box 47250, Olympia, Washington 98504-7250.

If you wish to make your payment online, please use this link: [Make a Payment Now \(wa.gov\)](#).¹

If you do not act within 15 days, the Commission may refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for collection.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective November 20, 2025.

/s/Connor Thompson
CONNOR THOMPSON
Director, Administrative Law Division

¹ <https://www.utc.wa.gov/documents-and-proceedings/online-payments/make-payment-now>.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PENALTY ASSESSMENT DG-250795 Investigation # 9161

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and sign this document and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the Penalty Assessment. Use additional paper if needed.

I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, competent to testify to the matters set forth below, and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements:

- [] 1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violation(s) occurred:
[] Enclose \$2,000 in payment of the penalty.
OR [] Attest that I have paid the penalty in full through the Commission's payment portal.
- [] 2. **Accept conditions.** I admit that the violation(s) occurred and enclose \$400 toward the payment of the penalty. I also accept the Commission's offer to suspend for 90 days, and ultimately waive, the remaining \$1,600 penalty amount subject to the following conditions:
- o Company management and field crew responsible for excavation at the time of the incident, must complete NUCA Dig Safe training (<https://utc-9183.quickbase.com/db/bpkt6vndh>) within 90 days of service of this Penalty Assessment; and
 - o The Company must submit documentation of training completion (Certificate) to the Commission. (See attached **NUCA Dig Safe Training Verification Record**).
- [] 3. **Contest the violation(s).** I believe that the alleged violation(s) did not occur for the reasons I describe below (**if you do not include reasons supporting your contest here, your request will be denied**):
- [] a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision.
- OR [] b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.
- [] 4. **Request mitigation.** I admit the violation(s), but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below (**if you do not include reasons supporting your application here, your request will be denied**):
- [] a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision.

OR [] b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: _____ [Month/Day/Year], at _____ [City, State]

Name of Respondent (Company) – please print

Signature of Applicant

RCW 9A.72.020 “Perjury in the first degree.”

- (1) A person is guilty of perjury in the first degree if in any official proceeding he or she makes a materially false statement which he or she knows to be false under an oath required or authorized by law.
- (2) Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and the actor's mistaken belief that his or her statement was not material is not a defense to a prosecution under this section.
- (3) Perjury in the first degree is a class B felony.