



# Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee

A Standing Committee of Washington Utilities Coordinating Council  
COMMUNICATION – COOPERATION – COORDINATION  
5808 A Summitview PMB 227 • Yakima, WA 98908

January 29, 2014

Committee Members  
Represent:

Local Government

Natural Gas Utility

Contractors

Excavators

Electric Utility

Consumer – Owned Utility

Pipeline Utility

Insurance Industry

Utilities and Transportation  
Commission

Telecommunications  
Company

Three At – Large Positions

Dave Lykken, Pipeline Safety Director  
Members of the Commission  
Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Review Committee Decision - Case Number 13023  
Tesoro Logistics Northwest Pipeline, LLC vs. Randy Buchanan

Dear Mr. Lykken:

The Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee received a complaint regarding a potential violation of the Washington State Dig Law RCW 19.122. On January 16, 2014 the Review Committee of the Safety Committee heard the complaint. The Complainant in this case is Tesoro Logistics Northwest Pipeline, LLC and the Respondent is Randy Buchanan who owns farm lands in Burbank, WA.

The complainant alleged violation of RCW 19.122.030, failure to call for a dig ticket prior to excavation. The Review Committee's recommendation regarding the respondent is as follows:

The Review Committee finds that the respondent, Randy Buchanan, did violate RCW 19.122.030, by not calling in for a dig ticket prior to excavation work that occurred on October 21, 2013. The Review Committee also determined that the respondent also violated RCW 19.122.033(1) as a result of not contacting the pipeline company Tesoro, prior to excavating. In addition the review Committee has determined that two distinct violations have occurred. First, that the respondent performed excavation on October 21, 2013 without a valid dig ticket or without notifying the pipeline company. Second, that the respondent, upon being notified of his requirements under the dig law to not excavate without a proper dig ticket by the pipeline company, continued to excavate including exposing the pipeline sometime between October 21<sup>st</sup> and October 22, 2013.

The Review Committee recommends the following penalties and actions be taken by the UTC in accordance with RCW 19.122.055(1)(b), 19.122.070(1), and 19.122.090:

1. For the first violation for excavating without a dig ticket or notification of the pipeline company, a fine of \$1,000.00.
2. For the second violation for continuing to excavate after being notified by the pipeline company of his responsibilities when excavating near a pipeline, a fine of \$4,000.00.

3. That the UTC utilizes its authority to enforce the penalty outlined in 19.122.090.
4. That the UTC work with the respondent, Randy Buchanan, to educate him on the hazards of excavating near a transmission pipeline, and the requirements for safely excavating near a pipeline as required by the State Dig Law.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding this case. I can be contacted at 206.442.2110.

Sincerely,



PP David Christensen  
Chair

Cc: Tesoro Logistics Northwest Pipeline, LLC  
Randy Buchanan