



Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee

A Standing Committee of Washington Utilities Coordinating Council

COMMUNICATION – COOPERATION – COORDINATION

P.O. Box 734

April 1, 2015

Steve King, Executive Director and Secretary
Members of the UTC
1300 Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Review Committee Decision - Case Number 15-002
City of Lacey vs. Steve Ruhnke Construction, Inc.

Dear Mr. King:

The Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee received a complaint regarding a potential violation of the Washington State Dig Law RCW 19.122 for work performed in January of 2015. The complaint was filed with the Safety Committee on January 9, 2015. On March 25, 2015 the Review Committee of the Safety Committee heard the complaint. The Complainant in this case is the City of Lacey, and the Respondent is Steve Ruhnke Construction, Inc.

The complainant alleged violation of RCW 19.122.030(1)(a), failure to mark the excavation area in white and failure to request a dig ticket prior to performing excavation. The Review Committee finds that the respondent, Steve Ruhnke Construction, Inc., did violate RCW 19.122.030(1)(a), by not requesting a dig ticket prior to performing excavation as part of utility installation work performed at 7526 Brianna Ct SE, Lacey WA., and by not marking the excavation area out in white. As part of this excavation work, Steve Ruhnke Construction, Inc. struck and damaged a City of Lacey sanitary sewer force main, for which they did not contact the One Call Center or City of Lacey, which violates RCW 19.122.050 for not reporting the damage.

The Review Committee recommends that a \$1,000.00 penalty be assessed for this violation, with a stipulation that \$800.00 of the \$1,000.00 be deferred if Steve Ruhnke Construction, Inc. agrees to Dig Safe Training for their five(5) Superintendents/Field Representatives, two(2) Locate Staff, and a representative of company ownership. This training must be completed within 90 days of the UTC review and confirmation of this decision. If Steve Ruhnke Construction, Inc. either fails to perform the training, or commits a further violation of RCW 19.122 within a 12-month period from the UTC confirmation date, then the full \$1,000.00 will be due and payable at that time.

The Review Committee also requests that Steve Ruhnke Construction, Inc. pursue further safe digging practice instruction for its entire field staff through either WA 811, the UTC, or other appropriate existing training venues.

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
2015 APR - 6 AM 8:06
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

- 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

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this case. I can be contacted at 425.430.7212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DC', is positioned above the printed name.

Dave Christensen
Chair

Cc: John Dunlap
Steve Ruhnke
Lynda Holloway, UTC
Don Evans, WA 811