



# Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee

1673 S Market Blvd, #121  
Chehalis, WA 98532

**D-240263**

April 18, 2024

Received  
Records Management  
Apr 18, 2024

Jeff Killip, Executive Director, and Secretary  
UTC Records Center  
Utilities and Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: Review Committee Decision – Complaint Case 24-009 NW Natural Gas vs. Columbia Excavating, LLC

Dear Mr. Killip:

The Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee (committee) received a complaint filed by NW Natural Gas against Columbia Excavating, LLC (Columbia) regarding a potential violation of the Washington State Dig Law RCW 19.122.030.

On April 11, 2024, the committee formed a peer review board and reviewed Complaint Case 24-009.

The peer review board determined that the respondent, Columbia, violated RCW 19.122.030(2) one time for failure to provide notice to a one-number locator service not less than two business days before the scheduled excavation date.

The peer review board also determined that the respondent, Columbia, violated RCW 19.122.030(5) for making a locate request and then not waiting for all known facility operators to mark their underground facilities.

Therefore, the committee recommends a total penalty of \$6,000 be assessed to the respondent as follows:

- \$1,000 for one violation of RCW 19.122.030(2) that occurred on March 11, 2024, at 904 NW 178<sup>th</sup> Way, Ridgefield, WA
- \$5,000 for one violation of RCW 19.122.030(5) that occurred on March 12, 2024, at 904 NW 178<sup>th</sup> Way, Ridgefield, WA

Additionally, the committee recommends a deferral opportunity be offered to suspend \$5,800 of the \$6,000 total, based on the conditions that Columbia's owner and all employees take NUCA Dig Safe Training and incur no additional violations of RCW 19.122 within the next 12 months.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this recommendation. You may contact me at 206-794-9823.

Sincerely,

Jim Walton, Chair

cc: Marina Rathbun, UTC  
Jaimie Lemke, NW Natural Gas  
Jared Barhoum / Eric Weber, Columbia Excavating

Committee Members  
Represent:

Local Government

Natural Gas Utility

Contractors

Excavators

Electric Utility

Consumer Owned Utility

Pipeline Utility

Water Utility

Utilities and  
Transportation  
Commission

Telecommunications  
Company

Three At-Large Positions