

Case 21-045
M&L Construction vs Avista

Ticket Number: 21440305

Location: Day Mt Spokane & Newport Hwy

The original ELM Utility locator failed to locate a section of 4" plastic pipe in the dig zone on 9/27. The locator for Whitworth Water, an ex-ELM locator, contacted ELM on 10/6 to let them know that there was a 4" plastic main in the dig zone that he remembered being in this area. ELM immediately sent out a locator to locate the pipe in the south ROW. The original locator failed to see the white marks in the south ROW. If the locator would have slowed down and taken the time to read the location of work description on the ticket, he would have known to look for additional white marks on the south side of the road.

Step #2 of ELM's locating procedures is to read the ticket to understand the scope of the work. The locator was only looking for white paint on the ground to expedite the process. Avista's Quality Assurance Department has been asked audit this locator to make sure that he understands and follows the procedures with emphasis on step #2. ELM has also been asked to discuss the importance of following procedures with their locators.

Exhibit A – Vicinity map of dig location, Day Mt Spokane and Newport Highway. Location of 4" pipe on south side of road where M&L Construction crossed.

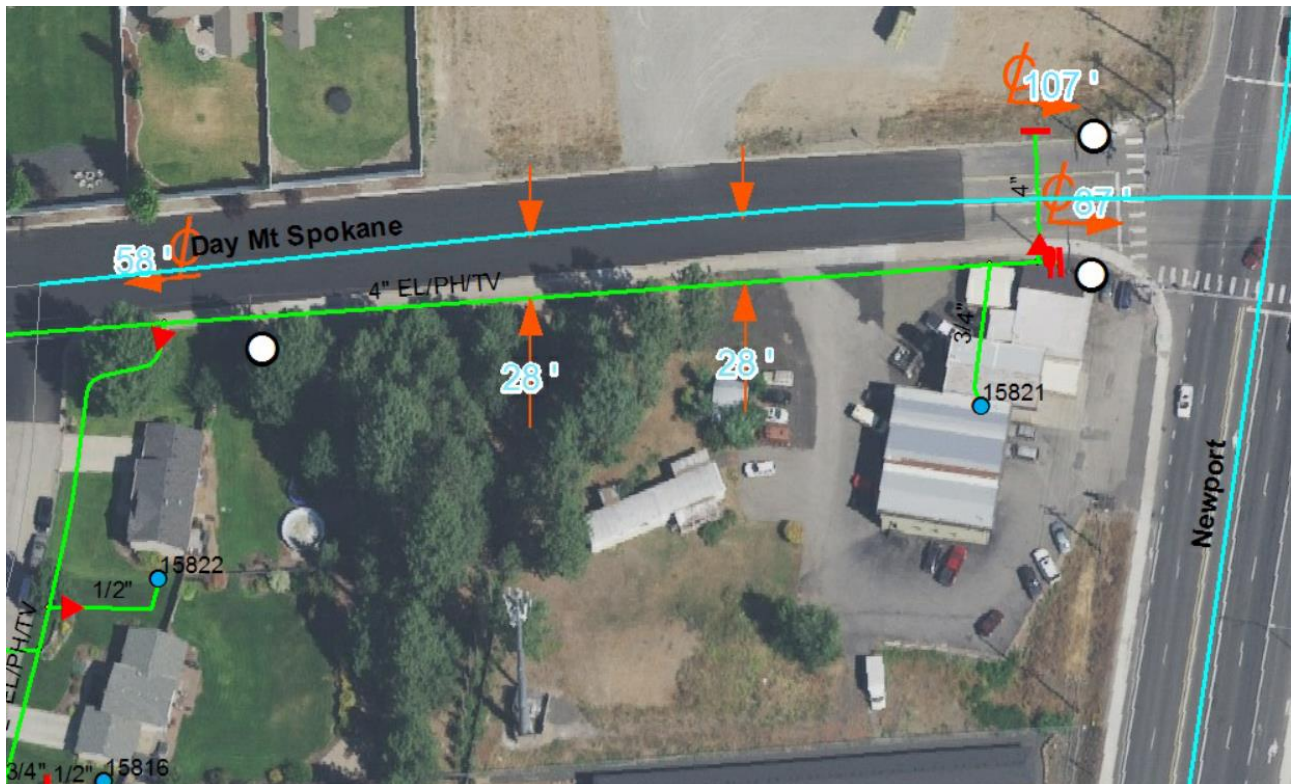


Exhibit B – Locating photo of 4” pipe that was located after Whitworth Water called ELM on 10/6.



Ticket: 21440305.0 Timestamp:10/6/2021 1:57:28 PM