

Case 23-093: M&L vs Avista. 8110 N Panorama Dr Spokane WA

Avista Narrative

M&L requested a locate (23340117) on N Panorama Dr in Spokane WA from W Strong Rd, south to W Panorama Ave totaling 4000 linear feet, ROW to ROW, in a residential neighborhood. That dig area included 90 Avista electrical lines, 58 gas services/stubs, and 14 gas mains totaling 162 utility lines to account for and adding up to 6700 feet of utility marked. ELM dedicated multiple technicians for multiple days to complete the request by 3:00pm on August 28th, the day the ticket was due with the exception of a couple unlocatable gas stubs that were addressed by an ELM supervisor and completed on August 29th.

Pages 2-7

Pages 2-7 start with M&L's documentation photo of Avista's gas and electric markings in a private driveway. Through the sketches provided, you can see the gas service splits near the curb into two services, indicated by two dots after the single locate mark at the road edge. M&L documents a single electric dot near the street light pole to try and illustrate lack of markings, but you can clearly see a continuation of red markings leading to the front yard of the property. As you can see, M&L dug within one foot of the curb edge and where all of the utilities were located.

Pages 8 & 9

Page 8 shows red circles everywhere red paint was placed to indicate the presence of Avista electric facilities. You can also see the meter locations from the front of the properties, denoted with red boxes in the sketch. Again, the bore path and pothole locations are within 2ft of the marked Avista facilities.

Page 9 shows again that the bore path and pothole locations are within 2ft of the marked Avista facilities when comparing to Slide 8 of the M&L documentation of the locate marks.

Page 10

Page 10 shows M&L's documentation of the Avista gas line located within their dig area / bore path.

Pages 11 - 13

Page 11 shows yellow circles where Avista marked yellow paint to indicate the presence of buried gas facilities. The green line shows where the neighboring gas service runs, connecting near the front of the house for the pictured driveway. Again, the dig area / bore path for M&L was right in between Avista's locate marks. Avista's obligation is to mark underground facilities in requested dig areas, not to indicate lack of buried facilities where operator's have concerns.

Page 12 shows the same information facing the property vs parallel to the street.

Page 13 shows where M&L potholed and ran their bore path, right between Avista's locate marks.

Pages 14 – 18

Page 14 shows the inconsistencies and confusion around M&L's white marking practice and dig area descriptions. In the same request M&L describes the dig area as "35ft either side of the route marked in white paint" (+ marks in the middle of the street) and "30ft of ROW BOC [back of curb]", all while their "outer edge" white marks range from 25 to 48 feet from the curb edge. M&L's email also describes the issues they have with providing consistent dig area verbiage compared to white markings and insists the problem is with locating companies needing to communicate with M&L to "figure out what we need".

Pages 15 -17 shows M&L's white marks are inconsistent to the verbiage in the ticket as well as what was described in Dusty Hattenburg's email.

Page 18

Page 18 shows where M&L's white paint is compared to the OCC polygon and how far apart they are to accurately show how far into properties the dig area extends.

Conclusion

Avista provided locate marks where M&L dug. M&L provided very inconsistent white markings and contradicting dig area verbiage throughout the project.