

M&L Construction vs Avista
Case 24-062
515 W Regina Ave. Spokane, WA

Avista Utilities Supporting Documentation Narrative

ELM, on behalf of Avista, located for ticket 24198375. This locate request included 44 buried electric lines and 28 buried gas lines. During ELM's performance of the locate, they encountered secondary electric lines for 516 W Regina and 11605 N Howard Ct. These lines were mapped in Avista's GIS mapping system as going north from their meter locations to a transformer north of the dig area. While confirming these line locations, it was determined the secondary lines actually went south to a handhole at the SE corner of 516 W Regina Ave. From there, the locate signal crossed W. Regina Ave, heading south. Once across the street, the locator found a signal going west and connecting to a nearby transformer. This locate signal turned out to be a bleed from the electric line to a communications line that had not been located at the time of ELM's locate of this secondary. The secondary actually headed east to another handhole and was discovered by M&L during their potholing process.

Factors that contributed to this situation include:

- Inaccurate mapping/records
- Locate signal bleed to non-target utility
- Lack of locates on non-target utility to identify bleed

Following the discovery of the mis-mapped electric secondary lines, Avista made the appropriate mapping corrections to avoid this situation in the future.