

WSDLSC/UTC Stakeholder Process

Proposed Dig Law Update

Subject: All New Facilities Locatable

Issue: Currently, the dig law does not require all utility facilities to be locatable. Under definition, it acknowledges and allows for “unlocatable underground facilities”. While these exist and will continue to be an issue, this proposition seeks to limit them such that all facilities that are installed to replace existing service laterals and nonconductive underground facilities, or facilities installed as new construction be locatable.

Because unlocatable underground facilities exist, and are not indicated by paint or by existing records, this limits the excavator’s ability to satisfy:

- RCW 10122.030(5) requiring that an excavator not begin their excavation until all known facility operators have marked or provided information regarding their underground facilities.
- RCW 19.122.040(2) requiring an excavator to use reasonable care to avoid damaging underground facilities.
- RCW 19.122.040(2)(b) requiring an excavator to plan the excavation to avoid damage to or minimize interference with underground facilities in and near the excavation area.

Proposed Solution: Add a requirement in RCW 19.122 that any replaced or newly constructed underground facility that is installed by a facility operator shall be locatable by a common, accessible, and proven method.

Proposed Dig Law Update Language: Between 19.122.075 and 19.122.080 New Section As of __/__/__, all newly constructed and replaced underground facilities shall be installed such that they are locatable by a common, accessible, and proven method.

New Definition 19.122.020 (xx) “Replaced” that portion of new underground facility that is installed between connection points, i.e., structures in replacement of an existing underground facility, not a spot repair.