

**Washington State  
Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250



July 10, 2002

Washington State Building Code Council  
PO Box 48350  
Olympia, WA 98504-8350

Dear Council:

Following the pipeline incident in Bellingham Washington in June of 1999, the Washington State Legislature created in law the Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. Committee members are appointed by the Governor and represent local government, elected officials, citizens, and owners and operators of hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines. The Committee was established to advise state, local, and federal agencies on pipeline safety matters.

The Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety has taken a strong interest in damage prevention, to the extent that we have devoted several of our meetings to learning more about how the one-call system works in our state and the effectiveness of current education efforts.

As a result, we have a suggestion that we feel will help to enhance the awareness and compliance of our state dig law, RCW 19.122. Using Whatcom County Planning and Development's Encroachment Permit as a model (enclosed), we recommend that permits in Washington State have the "Call-Before-You-Dig" number (1-800-424-5555) and a designated location for the ticket number. The types of permits to include this information on would include, but would not be limited to: Land Disturbance, Encroachment and Building Permits. In essence, any type of permit issued for excavation activities that would necessitate a call to the 800 number for a locate would need to have this information on it.

The Committee would like to offer this suggestion and would also like to extend an invitation for a representative of the Building Code Council to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of implementing this idea.

If you would like to discuss this issue in further detail, please contact Doug Kilpatrick, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) Pipeline Safety Director at (360) 664-1154. We look forward to your response regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Chuck Mosher  
Committee Chairman

Enclosure