

## **Pipeline Safety**

### Damage Prevention Enforcement

**Proposal:** Due to interest in damage prevention by the Citizen Advisory Committee, the WUTC invites the Committee to co-sponsor a public discussion on enforcement of the “call-before-you dig” laws. It is our hope the outcome of these discussions will result in consensus legislation to be introduced in the 2001 legislative session.

**Background:** The “call-before-you dig” law calls for remedies and penalties for non-compliance, however no one entity has administrative responsibility for enforcement of the law. As a result, few cases are taken to superior court by a party.

Last fall, the WUTC held two public forums on enforcement of the current damage prevention law. The purpose of the public workshops was to explore the relevant issues and make suggested changes to the law. Due to the late date of the last meeting (Nov) the group asked the WUTC to reconvene and facilitate further discussion on these issues following the 2001 legislative session.

The WUTC is prepared to reconvene discussion on this topic. There was interest during the 2001 legislative session to improve safety efforts in this area to eliminate damage to pipelines caused by third-party damage.

**Process:** The WUTC envisions monthly meetings to include underground utilities, local governments, contractors, the Washington Utilities Coordinating Council, legislators and staff, city-county pipeline safety consortium, Association of Washington Cities, one-call centers, and others.

The group will identify desired areas of change in Washington, models of enforcement in other states, and other areas of interest.

Other groups may also co-sponsor.