

SENATE BILL NO. 396—COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to subsurface installations. (BDR 40-1386)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to subsurface installations; revising provisions relating to the notification required before beginning an excavation or demolition under certain circumstances; revising provisions governing certain complaints relating to the conduct of an excavation or demolition; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

**Section 1** of this bill amends the definition of “approximate location of a subsurface installation” to mean a strip of land not more than 24 inches on either side of the exterior surface of a subsurface installation, instead of 30 inches as defined by existing law. (NRS 455.082)

**Section 2** of this bill amends the definition of “subsurface installation” to include a service lateral. (NRS 455.101)

Existing law requires a person to give notice to the appropriate association of operators of an excavation or demolition at least 2 working days, but not more than 14 calendar days, before the excavation or demolition. (NRS 455.110) **Section 3** of this bill extends the time frame to not more than 28 calendar days before the excavation or demolition.

Existing law authorizes certain persons to file a complaint to enjoin certain activities or practices of an operator or a person who is about to conduct an excavation or demolition and authorizes the court to issue a temporary restraining order under certain circumstances. (NRS 455.160) **Section 4** of this bill adds the Regulatory Operations Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, the Attorney General, an operator or a person conducting an excavation or demolition to the list of persons authorized to file a complaint. **Section 4** also removes the authorization of a court to issue a temporary restraining order.



\* S B 3 9 6 \*

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 455.082 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
455.082 "Approximate location of a subsurface installation"  
means a strip of land not more than ~~30~~ 24 inches on either side of  
the exterior surface of a subsurface installation. The term does not  
include the depth of the subsurface installation.

**Sec. 2.** NRS 455.101 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
455.101 "Subsurface installation" means a pipeline, conduit,  
cable, duct, wire, sewer line, storm drain, other drain line , *service*  
*lateral* or other structure that is located underground.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 455.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
455.110 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a  
person shall not begin an excavation or demolition if the excavation  
or demolition is to be conducted in an area that is known or  
reasonably should be known to contain a subsurface installation,  
except a subsurface installation owned or operated by the person  
conducting the excavation or demolition, unless he:

(a) Notifies the appropriate association for operators pursuant to  
NRS 455.120, at least 2 working days but not more than ~~14~~ 28  
calendar days before excavation or demolition is scheduled to  
commence. The notification may be written or provided by  
telephone and must state the name, address and telephone number of  
the person who is responsible for the excavation or demolition, the  
starting date of the excavation or demolition, anticipated duration  
and type of excavation or demolition to be conducted, the specific  
area of the excavation or demolition and whether explosives are to  
be used.

(b) Cooperates with the operator in locating and identifying its  
subsurface installation by:

(1) Meeting with its representative as requested; and

(2) Making a reasonable effort that is consistent with the  
practice in the industry to mark with white paint, flags, stakes,  
whiskers or another method that is agreed to by the operator and the  
person who is responsible for the excavation or demolition, the  
proposed area of the excavation or demolition.

2. A person responsible for emergency excavation or  
demolition is not required to comply with the provisions of  
subsection 1 if there is a substantial likelihood that loss of life,  
health or property will result before the provisions of subsection 1  
can be fully complied with. The person shall notify the operator of  
the action he has taken as soon as practicable.



\* S B 3 9 6 \*

Sec. 4. NRS 455.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

455.160 ~~{1. A commissioner}~~ *The Regulatory Operations Staff* of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, *the Attorney General, an operator, a person conducting an excavation or demolition*, or the district attorney of a county or the city attorney of a city in which there is an excavation or demolition or a proposed excavation or demolition which he believes may cause death, serious physical harm or serious property damage may file a complaint in the district court for the county seeking to enjoin the activity or practice of an operator or a person who is responsible for the excavation or demolition.

~~{2. Upon the filing of a complaint pursuant to subsection 1, the court may issue a temporary restraining order before holding an evidentiary hearing. A temporary restraining order may be issued for no longer than 5 days.}~~

Sec. 5. NRS 455.170 is hereby amended to read as follows:

455.170 1. An action for the enforcement of a civil penalty pursuant to this section may be brought before the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada by the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney, ~~legal counsel for~~ *the Regulatory Operations Staff* of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, the governmental agency that issued the permit to conduct an excavation or demolition, an operator or a person conducting an excavation or demolition.

2. Any person who willfully or repeatedly violates a provision of NRS 455.080 to 455.180, inclusive, is liable for a civil penalty:

(a) Not to exceed \$1,000 per day for each violation; and

(b) Not to exceed \$100,000 for any related series of violations within a calendar year.

3. Any person who negligently violates any such provision is liable for a civil penalty:

(a) Not to exceed \$200 per day for each violation; and

(b) Not to exceed \$1,000 for any related series of violations within a calendar year.

4. The amount of any civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section and the propriety of any settlement or compromise concerning a penalty must be determined by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada upon receipt of a complaint by the Attorney General, ~~{an employee}~~ *the Regulatory Operations Staff* of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, ~~{who is engaged in regulatory operations,}~~ a district attorney, a city attorney, the agency that issued the permit to excavate or the operator or the person responsible for the excavation or demolition.



1       5. In determining the amount of the penalty or the amount  
2 agreed upon in a settlement or compromise, the Public Utilities  
3 Commission of Nevada shall consider:

4       (a) The gravity of the violation;

5       (b) The good faith of the person charged with the violation in  
6 attempting to comply with the provisions of NRS 455.080 to  
7 455.180, inclusive, before and after notification of a violation; and

8       (c) Any history of previous violations of those provisions by the  
9 person charged with the violation.

10      6. A civil penalty recovered pursuant to this section must first  
11 be paid to reimburse the person who initiated the action for any cost  
12 incurred in prosecuting the matter.

13      7. Any person aggrieved by a determination of the Public  
14 Utilities Commission of Nevada pursuant to this section may seek  
15 judicial review of the determination in the manner provided by  
16 NRS 703.373.

