

**Stakeholder Meeting Summary**  
**Dept. of Labor & Industries, Kennewick**  
August 5, 2025

**Chapter 296-155 WAC, Safety standards for construction work**  
**Part N, Excavation, Trenching, and Shoring**

**Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) staff present:**

Steve Heist  
Carmyn Shute

**Attendees and organizations represented:**

Associated General Contractors (AGC)  
Big Bend Electric  
Benton REA

**Summary:**

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m.

**Discussion:**

DOSH staff welcomed attendees and provided a safety tip.

DOSH staff shared with attendees the purpose of this rulemaking is to curb the troubling spike in trenching fatalities and injuries in Washington. These tragedies are preventable with planning and adherence to existing rules.

DOSH staff provided an overview of the draft language and the new Trenching Excavation and Work Plan.

**Questions and answer session:**

Need to mention on the form that if less than 4' and shoring isn't needed – then the planning and the form are not needed.

Trench should be inspected daily by a competent person, not just at the beginning of the job.

Education and outreach program will need to work diligently to get the word out and provide training on the website.

In order to get a contractor's license, regardless of the trade, there should be a class on how to navigate and find the rules you should follow. Many of the small contractors don't even know these rules exist.

Following the presentation of draft language, meeting materials and Q&A session, DOSH staff provided a review of the rulemaking timeline and next steps.

Meeting concluded at 2:30 p.m.