

**Stakeholder Meeting Summary**  
**Dept. of Labor & Industries, Spokane**  
August 7, 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:**

Building Industry Assn of WA  
Avista  
Cascade Gas  
Garco Construction  
NPL Construction

**Summary:**

Meeting called to order at 1:05 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:**

Really glad the “rescue” planning part is gone from the draft provided a few years ago.

Only need this if using a shoring system or greater than 4’- need to make that clear.

Need to make it part of the plan to inspect daily. Things can change quickly on the East side.

Need a definition of “prompt”. On the East side there is a lot of rural work and a company shouldn’t be cited if it takes 45 minutes to get EMS on scene. Over here most EMS outside of the city is volunteers.

Need to create a definition of “excavation” and will send via email some ideas and comments.

Overall, this is something employers of all sizes can accommodate.

Meeting concluded at 2:45 p.m.