

AGENDA

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 18, 2026

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931522564>

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Any person engaging in conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting including but not limited to:

1. Unduly repetitive or irrelevant remarks;
2. Use of intimidating, threatening, or abusive language;
3. disobedience of an order to be seated or to discontinue further comments;
4. and/or engaging in violent behavior,

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will be deemed out of order and may be removed from the meeting and/or have his or her virtual microphone muted.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA
Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

And remotely via Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931522564>

Thursday, June 18, 2026

3:30 PM - Regular Meeting

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.A Utility Advisory Committee Meeting 5-21-26 Minutes
- 4. Correspondence and Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**
 - 4.A Public Comment
- 5. Electric, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Discussion Items**
 - 5.A Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter - Energy Services
 - 5.B Natural Gas - Distribution Integrity Management Program Overview
- 6. Energy Services Updates**
 - 6.A Energy Services Updates
- 7. Commission Representative Update**
- 8. Adjournment**



For more information on the Ellensburg Utility Advisory Committee, contact Finance Officer, Megan Bair, at 509-962-7124.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Utility Advisory Committee, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

May 21, 2026

Time of Meeting

3:30 PM

Place of Meeting

Council Conference Room

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Or remotely via Zoom

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931522564>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Bousson called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Members present in person: Jeff Bousson, Chair/CWU, Delano Palmer, City Council, Fred Springsteen, Utility Customer, Charolette Tullos, Utility Customer, Frederick Padjen, Utility Customer, Camber Owlsym, Utility Customer.

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, Energy Services Director Stanavich, Energy Resources Manager Baker, Gas Engineer Yusi, Finance Officer Bair, Telecom Manager Hiede, and members of the public.

Others present remotely via Zoom: Rate Analyst Mooers, members of the public.

2. Approval of Agenda

Committee member Bouson moved to Approve the Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 6-0**

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Utility Advisory Committee Meeting 4-16-26 Minutes

Committee member Bouson moved to Approve the Minutes from the meeting.

Motion Approved 6-0

4. Correspondence and Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comment.

5. Electric, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Discussion Items

5.A Bonneville Power Administration Provider of Choice Above-CHWM Election
Nichole Baker, Energy Resource Manager introduced Bonneville Power Administration Provider of Choice Above-CHWM Election. Introduced guest presenter Ted Light with Lighthouse Energy Consulting to present the CHWM election. Presenter Ted Light explained timeline, service options, and financial analysis.

Committee member Delano Palmer asked about the price variances between the service options. Committee Member Camber Owlsym asked which level of service is closest to our current operations. Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich explained that we are currently operating closest to a tier-2 service option. Committee Member Camber Owlsym asked guest speaker Ted Light what surrounding communities are choosing and how it compares to our City operations and growth.

Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich emphasized the importance of this decision and how it will secure power for the City for the next 20 years.

Committee member Jeff Bouson moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to approve Option A Bonneville Power Administration Provider of Choice Above-CHWM Election. **Motion Approved 6-0**

- 5.B Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter - Energy Services Nichole Baker, Energy Resource Manager, introduced Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, who presented the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter — Energy Services. Stacey Henderson explained what the comprehensive plan is and when the comprehensive plan is used; Stacey Henderson explained how the Comprehensive Plan is applied to community decisions and growth, and asked the committee to provide feedback.

Stacey Henderson will distribute the redline comprehensive plan document to the committee members after the meeting, for the opportunity to review and bring comments to the next UAC meeting.

- 5.C Natural Gas Supply and Asset Management Agreement Nichole Baker, Energy Resource Manager introduced Natural Gas Supply and Asset Management Agreement.

Committee Member Bouson asked for clarification on the length of the term, which will be 5 years. Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich explained the areas that were evaluated prior to the selection of the Natural Gas Supplier.

Committee Member Delano Palmer moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to authorize the Energy Services Director, Buddy Stanavich, to sign and execute Natural Gas Supply and Asset Management Agreement. **Motion Approved 6-0**

6. Energy Services Updates

- 6.A Energy Services Updates Committee Member Frederick Springsteen asked for more information on the image of the transformer damage during the recent power outage within the City. Committee Member Frederick Padjen asked for more information on what caused the SR97 Gas utility expansion loop. Committee Member Camber

Owlsym asked for information on the Geothermal Resource Project. Committee Member Camber Owlsym asked what technology the City has to signal power disruptions or fault indicators.

Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich announced the retirement of our two Gas Division leaders, Darren Larsen and Marcello Martinez.

7. Commission Representative Update

No commission representative updates.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Subject: I-2066 and local control

Greetings Council and UAC:

June 2026

I had one more comment on the topic of gas infrastructure, expansion and law, as this might come up in your conversations.

While recent state policy discussions have centered around Initiative 2066, the City must recognize that I-2066 is not a mandate for passive, unmanaged utility expansion. The initiative remains in a state of constitutional limbo pending a final decision from the Washington State Supreme Court. More importantly, it does not erase the City's existing legal and financial obligations.

Crucially, I-2066 did not repeal the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). The long-term fiscal risks associated with expanding fossil fuel infrastructure remain entirely intact. Every new natural gas connection Ellensburg adds represents a multi-decade operational footprint. As the state's emissions caps tighten, the rising compliance costs of purchasing carbon allowances will be borne entirely by local utility ratepayers.

Even if I-2066 is ultimately upheld, municipal utilities retain their fundamental authority under RCW 35.92 to manage system capacity, set feasibility standards, and protect their fiscal health. There is a profound difference between an outright ban on a fuel source and a responsible, data-driven pause on infrastructure expansion due to localized economic risk. In the absence of an integrated, high-level compliance plan, expansion continues by default—saddling current and future ratepayers with a shifting risk profile.

The City has the clear discretion to align its utility growth with its climate mandates. I urge the Council to pause or place a moratorium on new main extensions (with the exception of Granite, already approved) until a comprehensive fiscal impact analysis under the CCA can be completed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Meghan Anderson • Ellensburg • 509-591-7874

Subject: Clarifying the City's Discretionary Authority over Natural Gas Service 1

Hello Council and UAC members:

June 2026

There may be a common misconception that the City is under a mandatory "duty to serve" that requires extending natural gas service to any applicant. A review of both local code and state law demonstrates that this obligation does not exist. The City retains full legal discretion over the expansion of its gas utility.

Local Authority: ECC 9.10

A review of ECC 9.10 indicates that the City has no mandate to provide gas service to all applicants. Instead, the code frames service as discretionary:

- **Administrative Discretion:** Provisions place gas main taps within the "sole judgment" of the Energy Services Director.
- **Service Termination:** The code explicitly allows the City to refuse or discontinue service under multiple conditions.

ECC 9.10 governs the terms of service where it is provided, but it does not mandate the extension of infrastructure. This distinction is critical for long-range planning, confirming that the City maintains the authority to set its own growth and connection policies.

State Authority: RCW 35.92

Municipal utilities in Washington operate under RCW 35.92, which grants cities broad authority to construct, operate, and regulate utility systems. Unlike investor-owned utilities—which are subject to strict oversight by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission—municipal utilities are not bound by a statewide "duty to serve" that mandates universal expansion.

RCW 35.92 emphasizes local control. Where state law is silent on mandatory service extensions, local ordinances govern. Consequently, the City is not legally compelled to expand its gas infrastructure to meet every request.

Conclusion and Policy Implication

Because the City operates with this legal flexibility, infrastructure growth is a policy choice, not a legal requirement. Customer growth and system size are outcomes of the City's own capital planning and service criteria.

As the City moves forward with long-range planning, I urge the Council and UAC to treat gas infrastructure expansion as a discretionary policy decision. We have the authority to align our utility operations with the City's broader strategic goals rather than assuming we are bound by an outdated "duty to serve."

Thanks for considering this comment.

Meghan Anderson • Ellensburg • meghan6083@icloud.com

Subject: Clarifying the City’s Discretionary Authority over Natural Gas Service 2

Hello Council and UAC members:

June 2026

This comment expands on “Duty to Serve comment 1”.

The City retains clear discretionary authority to approve or deny new natural gas service, and this authority is not overridden by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). Clarifying this point is important, as some discussions have suggested that denying service could trigger UTC intervention or risk a reduction in service territory.

According to my research, the UTC’s jurisdiction over municipally owned gas utilities is limited to pipeline safety oversight and does not extend to regulating service provision decisions, service territory boundaries, rates, or customer complaints. As such, a City decision to deny new natural gas service would not typically compel service expansion or result in a loss of service territory. Framing the UTC as a governing backstop in this context may misrepresent its actual authority and may unnecessarily constrain the City’s understanding of its own discretion.

This issue highlights a broader policy misalignment. The City is simultaneously expanding natural gas infrastructure while pursuing CCA reduction goals. The Climate Commitment Act (CCA) further changes the financial and regulatory landscape for natural gas. It increases long-term fiscal risk associated with expanding gas infrastructure, particularly as compliance costs and emissions constraints evolve. This shifting risk profile should be acknowledged in City policy and decision-making.

At present, there appears to be no detailed implementation planning aligned with high-level CCA compliance goals. In the absence of that planning, natural gas expansion continues by default. Recent data illustrates this trend: 134 connections in 2023, 122 in 2024, and 45 in 2025. During this same period, approximately 90 customers were transitioned from gas heating to electric cold-climate heat pumps using HEARS grant funding—resulting in a net expansion of gas reliance despite public investment in electrification.

I believe clarifying the City’s discretionary authority would enable more deliberate policy choices and better alignment between infrastructure decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Meghan Anderson • Ellensburg • meghan6083@icloud.com

Subject: Energy ‘Neutral’ Policy

Greetings Council and UAC members:

June 2026

At the May 2026 UAC meeting it was suggested that energy policy should, at least, be ‘neutral’.

In reviewing the City of Ellensburg [gas extension application](#) and [developer materials](#), I am concerned that the language of these documents continue to encourage natural gas expansion rather than remain neutral energy guidance.

The developer packet states that installation of natural gas is “not mandatory, but providing the infrastructure allows builders and owners options for their energy needs,” is language that positions gas infrastructure as a desired aspect of development planning.

The City also provides engineered design and cost estimates for that infrastructure. Combined with additional language that transfers costs to end purchasers of parcels where gas is extended, this frames gas infrastructure as having special financing options and significant City cost.

The long-standing focus of the gas utility has been to support growth. This growth-oriented framing appears to remain embedded in current application materials and assumptions about future service connections.

While developers technically pay for extensions, the use of credits, amortized payments, and reimbursement mechanisms suggests the City still assumes financial risk and anticipates continued gas system growth. In practice, these mechanisms may substantially reduce or defer developer costs, shifting financial exposure into the broader utility system.

For example, if a developer requests a gas main extension to serve a new subdivision, the City provides engineering, drawings, cost estimates and installs the infrastructure. The developer is “billed” for the extension, but the cost is amortized over several years and may be reduced through credits. Those costs are also then passed through to individual homebuyers via lot pricing or utility billing, rather than being paid upfront by the developer at the time of construction.

If the City is providing financing mechanisms as described above for natural gas extensions, this indicates an approach that actively supports gas infrastructure buildout. By comparison, [electric utility applications](#) appear to rely primarily on direct cost recovery without similar financing structures.

Whatever the intent between gas and electric installation details, the combination of cost recovery structures and application language creates a system where natural gas infrastructure is easier to implement and less financially immediate for developers. In my view, this is not consistent with a ‘neutral’ policy framework.

Washington State policy has evolved significantly with the Climate Commitment Act and earlier clean energy legislation. The City has also adopted a [Sustainability and Energy Roadmap \(2024\)](#) and a [Decarbonization Roadmap Workplan \(2025\)](#), indicating an updated policy direction.

Changes to achieve neutrality now:

- Review natural gas installation financial and delayed payment incentives
- Change application documents to reflect no incentives

Thank you,

Meghan Anderson • Ellensburg • meghan6083@icloud.com

Subject: Expanding the Natural Gas Utility Infrastructure

Greetings Council and UAC members:

June 2026

The May UAC meeting included a discussion regarding the new Granite Construction addition, which involves adding a significant utility loop at SR 197/Hwy 10. This project is identified as Priority #5 in the 21-26 6-Year Gas Plan.

Because this project was approved several years ago, revisiting the original decision is not my goal. However, its implementation highlights a critical, forward-looking policy issue.

By installing this loop, the City is not only improving system reliability but also creating newly accessible capacity that can support future industrial or commercial gas services. This raises an essential question:

- How will the City respond to future service requests in areas made newly viable by this public investment?

Once this infrastructure is in place, it may become increasingly difficult—both practically and legally—to deny similar requests from adjacent applicants. Clarifying expectations now is vital to preventing an unintended, ad-hoc expansion of the fossil fuel network.

For that reason, it seems to me beneficial for the Council to clarify:

- **Connection Intent:** Whether areas made newly serviceable by recent infrastructure investments are intended to be open to additional gas service connections.
- **Governing Framework:** What specific policy framework will guide decisions on future service requests in those expanded areas.

For example, the City could formally designate certain infrastructure upgrades strictly for system reliability, thereby limiting new customer hookups or evaluating them under strict, predefined criteria. Providing this direction now ensures that current infrastructure investments remain entirely aligned with the City's long-term energy policy goals, rather than creating future liabilities.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Meghan Anderson • Ellensburg • kittitasclimateaction@gmail.com



Meeting Date: June 18, 2026

**City of Ellensburg
Utility Advisory Committee Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter - Energy Services
Submitted by: Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, Nichole Baker, Energy Resources Manager
Department: Energy Services

Suggested Motion/Action:

Recommend approval of the Energy Services sections of the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan chapter.

Background/Summary:

The Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan chapter establishes the City of Ellensburg’s policy framework for planning, maintaining, and funding the public facilities and utility systems needed to serve current residents and accommodate projected growth over the next 20 years. It addresses City-managed systems, including water, wastewater, stormwater, electric, natural gas, telecommunications, library services, and police, and explains how capital planning is aligned with land use, level-of-service standards, and Growth Management Act requirements.

The chapter further describes how the City will maintain and expand core utility systems to support projected growth while preserving reliability, operational performance, and long-term financial stability. The electric utility serves approximately 11,000 customers and is planning for feeder extensions, increased demand associated with electrification and EV charging, and a potential west-side substation within the next five years. The natural gas utility serves approximately 5,200 customers and has identified a 2027 looping project to address localized pressure constraints. The chapter also highlights the City’s telecommunications utility, which operates municipal fiber serving 50 locations and is positioned to support future service expansion, strategic planning, and broader digital connectivity goals.

Previous Council Action:

Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, presented the Energy Services sections of the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan chapter to the Utility Advisory Committee on May 21, 2026.

Analysis:

The City’s electric utility serves approximately 11,000 customers through 47 miles of overhead conductor and 83 miles of underground cable. The system purchases all of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration, which delivers service through the City’s four electrical substations. Based on the Washington Department of Commerce 2024 Fuel

Mix Disclosure, the City's power supply is approximately 88% carbon free, consisting primarily of hydropower and nuclear resources. Current priorities include maintaining reliability, extending feeder capacity to serve growth areas, preparing for increased demand from solar integration, EV charging, electrification, and planning for a potential west-side substation within the next five years, depending on development. The utility also operates a renewable energy park and promotes energy conservation and efficiency.

The City's natural gas utility serves approximately 5,200 customers within the City and surrounding Kittitas County through more than 135 miles of distribution mains. Its service territory is established by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and extends beyond the City limits and Urban Growth Area. The system currently maintains sufficient capacity for anticipated growth, although the City has identified localized pressure constraints on the far western edge of the system. A looping project scheduled for completion in 2027 is intended to improve pressure. The utility installs and maintains its infrastructure with City staff, has received repeated safety recognition from the American Public Gas Association, and provides service support for both customers and developers. Planned investments focus on reliability, safety, and targeted capacity improvements.

The City's telecommunications utility operates municipal fiber optic that has been formalized as a dedicated utility since 2014. The system currently serves 50 locations through more than 25 miles of overhead fiber and two miles of underground fiber, primarily supporting public agencies, schools, administrative facilities, and a limited number of commercial users. Although the utility does not currently provide direct residential service, the existing network provides a foundation for future expansion. Strategic planning focuses on reliability improvements such as hardware refresh, outdoor plant upgrades, and recurring strategic plan updates. The chapter also includes supporting telecommunications policies related to small cell deployment, public-private partnerships, broadband service standards, digital inclusion, and reducing barriers to infrastructure extension.

Financial Impact:

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

1. 2026-0402-Eburg-Capital Facilities- Redlined Draft

6. Capital Facilities and Utilities

What you will find in this chapter

- ◆ Inventory of public facilities including locations and capacities.
- ◆ Forecasts of future needs for public facilities and utilities.
- ◆ Goals, policies, and programs that will help to ensure safety, efficiency, and affordability of City facilities and utilities.

Overview

Capital facilities and utilities are central to the quality of life, safety, and opportunities of Ellensburg residents and the City’s ability to grow in the future. The City of Ellensburg is a full-service municipality, offering water, wastewater, natural gas, electric and telecommunications utilities, storm water drainage, a street transportation system, law enforcement, a public library, a parks and recreation system, and administrative services that keep it all running. Table 6-1 lists utilities and facilities in the City and their providers.

Table 6-1. Utilities, Facilities, and Providers in Ellensburg

Service/Facility	Provider
Water	City of Ellensburg
Wastewater	City of Ellensburg
Natural Gas	City of Ellensburg
Electric	City of Ellensburg
Telecommunications	City of Ellensburg, Charter Communications, Lightcurve
Stormwater Drainage	City of Ellensburg
Law Enforcement	City of Ellensburg
Parks and Recreation System	City of Ellensburg
Administrative Services	City of Ellensburg
Schools	Ellensburg School District, Central Washington University
Healthcare	Kittitas Valley Healthcare
Library	Kittitas County Public Library
Solid Waste	Waste Management (WM)
<u>Central Transit</u>	<u>City of Ellensburg</u>

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Ellensburg is served by an extensive system of publicly funded and operated facilities, from schools and parks to utility systems and transportation facilities. Many of these facilities, such as water towers and roads, help meet the basic needs of residents. Others, such as fire stations, make the community safer. Community resources like schools and libraries foster learning and educational development, which make the city a better place.

The community benefits from these investments on a daily basis. In order to sustain and improve on the benefits the community currently enjoys, the City must identify how it can best maintain existing facilities and create new facilities to serve the needs and desires of local residents and future development.

Background and Context

This section addresses existing capital facilities and utilities owned and largely managed by the City of Ellensburg, including water, wastewater, stormwater, electric, natural gas, telecommunications, library services, and police.

Demand for Ellensburg’s capital facilities will grow over the next 20 years. New demand can be accommodated through increasing capacity and through managing demand. Demand management can be accomplished in a variety of ways, depending on the service or facility. For example, encouraging consumers to use less electricity during peak hours can decrease the need for future investments to meet peak demands.

Each capital facility system has its own functional plan, which includes a list of needed capital facilities. Facility needs are determined through Level of Service standards, operating criteria, or performance standards.

A key feature of the capital facilities planning process is asset management, which continually monitors the condition of existing facilities and infrastructure, identifies levels of maintenance needed, and determines when facilities need to be replaced. The City’s capital facilities policies ensure that the City plans in advance for maintenance and infrastructure replacement to maintain Levels of Service. These policies also tie capital facilities planning to land use, making sure that assumptions about future growth are consistent.

Capital Facilities Inventory

Most city-owned and operated capital facility systems are governed by a dedicated functional plan. These plans contain detailed inventories of existing facilities and infrastructure as well as planned improvements. In addition to the facilities covered by functional plans, the City of Ellensburg maintains and uses a number of other facilities to perform administrative functions. [Table 6-2](#) and [Table 6-3. Inventory of Services Provided by Alternative Service Providers](#)

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Service/Facility	Provider	Contact
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Telecommunications	Lightcurve	https://getlightcurve.com/
	Spectrum	https://www.spectrum.com/locations/wa/ellensburg
Schools	Ellensburg School District	https://www.esd401.org/
	Central Washington University	https://www.cwu.edu/
Healthcare	Kittitas Valley Healthcare	https://www.kvhealthcare.org/
Solid Waste	Waste Management (WM)	https://www.wmnorthwest.com/ellensburg/
Fire Protection and Emergency Services	Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue (KVFR)	https://www.kvfr.org/
Public Transit	Ellensburg Central Transit	https://centraltransit.org

Table 6-3 contain a list of both types of facilities, a description, and a reference to the functional plan, if applicable.

The functional plans listed in Table 6-2, Table 6-2 and Table 6-3. Inventory of Services Provided by Alternative Service Providers

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Service/Facility	Provider	Contact
Telecommunications	Lightcurve	https://getlightcurve.com/
	Spectrum	https://www.spectrum.com/locations/wa/ellensburg
Schools	Ellensburg School District	https://www.esd401.org/
	Central Washington University	https://www.cwu.edu/
Healthcare	Kittitas Valley Healthcare	https://www.kvhealthcare.org/
Solid Waste	Waste Management (WM)	https://www.wmnorthwest.com/ellensburg/
Fire Protection and Emergency Services	Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue (KVFR)	https://www.kvfr.org/
Public Transit	Ellensburg Central Transit	https://centraltransit.org

6-3 identify facility inventories, potential funding sources, and implementation strategies. For each relevant utility functional plan there are specific strategies that proactively address energy efficiency and water conservation.

Table 6-2. Inventory of City-Owned Capital Facilities

Facilities	Description	Functional Plan
Ellensburg City Hall	City departments and, council chambers	Capital Facilities Plan
Ellensburg City Shop	Shop and Warehouse, vehicle and equipment maintenance, facility maintenance and storage	Capital Facilities Plan



Ellensburg Library and Hal Holmes Center	Public library and meeting space	Level of Service Standards and Library Goals and Objectives (in process of being updated)
Parks and Recreation	Parks and community facilities, including 29 parks, adult activity center, Memorial pool, youth center and Racquet Center	2026 Park, Recreation, Open Space (PROS) and Sustainable Funding Plan
Ellensburg Police Department	Police headquarters	Annual reports
Water	Infrastructure for providing potable and fire response water including water storage tanks	2024 Water System Plan
Wastewater	Facilities that convey wastewater to the city treatment plant	2026 General Sewer Plan
Stormwater	Infrastructure that conveys and manages storm and surface water	Stormwater Management Plan
Electric	Infrastructure for meeting community electrical needs	2025 Electric System Plan
Natural Gas	Infrastructure for the natural gas distribution system	2021 Natural Gas System Plan (in process of being updated)
Telecommunications	Infrastructure providing a fiber optic network to 50 locations throughout Ellensburg	Telecomm System Plan (updated every 3 years)

Table 6-3. Inventory of Services Provided by Alternative Service Providers

Service/Facility	Provider	Contact
Telecommunications	Lightcurve	https://getlightcurve.com/
	Spectrum	https://www.spectrum.com/locations/wa/ellensburg
Schools	Ellensburg School District	https://www.esd401.org/
	Central Washington University	https://www.cwu.edu/
Healthcare	Kittitas Valley Healthcare	https://www.kvhealthcare.org/
Solid Waste	Waste Management (WM)	https://www.wmnorthwest.com/ellensburg/
Fire Protection and Emergency Services	Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue (KVFR)	https://www.kvfr.org/
Public Transit	Ellensburg Central Transit	https://centraltransit.org

City-Owned Facilities and Utilities



Water

The City's Water System Plan, last updated in 2024, examines water source, storage, delivery, and quality and is the strategic plan for the management and operations of Ellensburg's water system. This chapter adopts the Water System Plan by reference, provides a summary of the City's water system and establishes a general policy context within which the water system plan will operate.

The water division of the City of Ellensburg operates and maintains approximately 96 miles of underground water distribution piping, two above ground reservoirs, eleven groundwater wells, one booster, and one transfer station. This extensive piping system serves over 4,800 residential and 700 non-residential customers by distributing safe, clean, and reliable water. The water division provides constant monitoring, testing, and system maintenance to ensure the highest quality of clean water is delivered to the community. Figure 6-1 shows the existing water system.

The City has sufficient water rights to accommodate the projected 20-year growth. These water rights will allow for additional municipal wells to be added to the system as the City's water users increase. The City of Ellensburg has shifted its focus from expanding baseline capacity to enhancing system resiliency. While current capacity is sufficient—bolstered by a new well completed two years ago and a recently finished booster pump project—future reliability will require the construction of an additional water reservoir and the drilling of another well within the next five years. To support these goals, a well-siting study is scheduled for 2026, with the new well installation anticipated between 2027 and 2030.

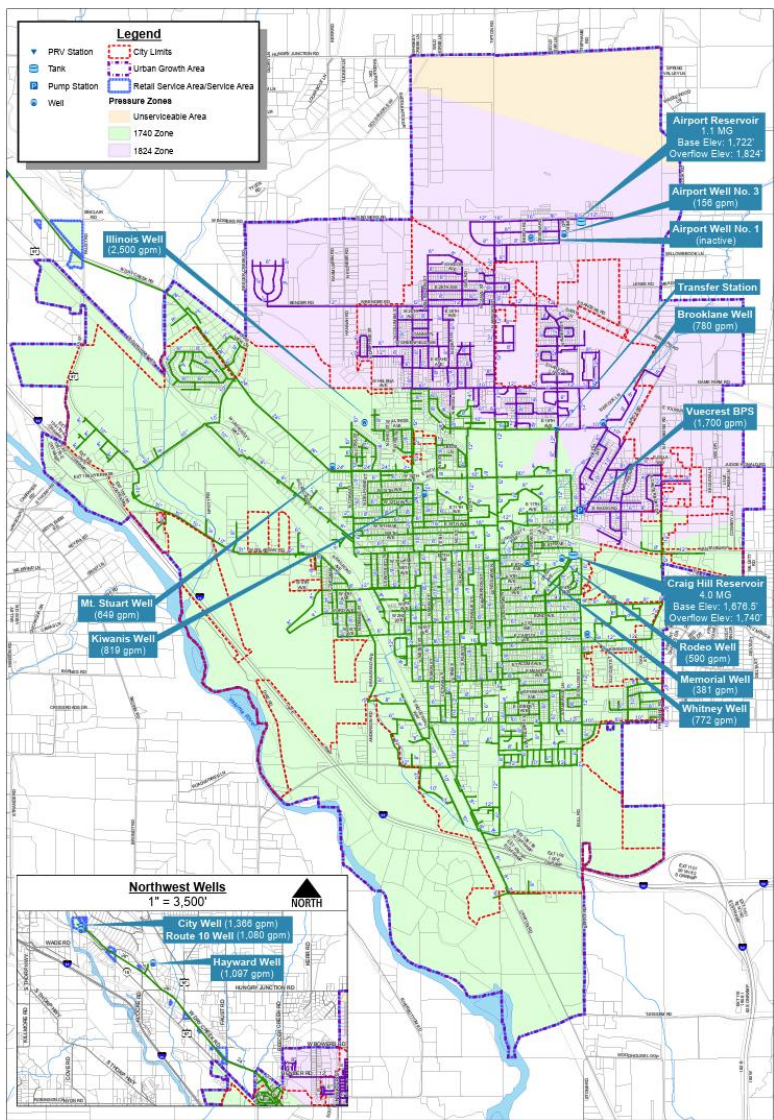
The City is also prioritizing long-term sustainability and infrastructure modernization. An Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) feasibility study is currently underway and expected to conclude in late 2026, which may lead to a pilot project for funding in 2027. Additionally, the City is launching a water main replacement program and embarking on a major joint utility investment in an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. This \$10–15 million project will modernize metering across gas, water, and electric services to improve operational efficiency and data accuracy. The City will continue to verify that all capital and private development projects are designed and constructed to ensure all appropriate fire flows are met for each prospective project.

Planned capital improvements for the water system are identified in the City's six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which is updated annually. The water system CIP prioritizes investments in system capacity, reliability, and long-term resiliency. Water system capital improvements are anticipated to be primarily funded through a combination of ending fund balance, revenue generated through rates, and long-term revenue bonds. Grants are not typically available for water utility capital improvements. At the end of 2024, the ending fund balance available for the water utility CIP was approximately \$7 million. Recent financial data indicates the water utility generates approximately \$8.3 million annually in revenue and maintains dedicated reserves for bond obligations, system development charges, and utility deposits. Capital improvements continue to be supported through a combination of rates and long-term revenue bonds.

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Figure 6-1. Existing Water System Map



Wastewater

The City of Ellensburg operates a wastewater division that operates and maintains 80 miles of underground sewer pipe. This extensive piping system serves approximately 5,100 residential and almost 500 non-residential customers by managing wastewater flows from sinks, showers, bathing, dish and clothes washers, toilets, and industrial processes. Wastewater flows from homes and businesses through sewer pipes that lead to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Wastewater Treatment Plant processes an average of 3.12 million gallons of wastewater each day.

In 2026 Ellensburg completed an update to the general sewer plan. This chapter adopts the General Sewer Plan by reference.

The existing system has a maximum treatment capacity that is greater than current growth prediction and any improvements identified for the Wastewater Treatment Facility are recommended in the 2026 report to be designed to provide a capacity equal to or greater than the existing design capacity of a population of 31,000. This recommendation is sufficient to meet the projected population growth of the Ellensburg population to 25,631 by 2046.

While the City's sewer utility currently maintains adequate capacity, a substantial list of capital improvements is planned over the next 10 to 15 years to modernize and expand the system. Key treatment facility upgrades slated for the next five to 10 years include a new aeration system, a larger influent pump station, headworks modifications, and a new UV system. These improvements will be paired with extensive electrical and motor control upgrades to bring the facility up to modern standards.

Beyond the treatment plant, the City is continuing long-term collection system improvements that have been in development for several years. Coordination with Central Washington University (CWU) remains a priority, as the university manages its own internal sewer piping while remaining a major user of the City's distribution and treatment infrastructure.

Planned capital improvements for the wastewater system are identified in the City's six-year CIP, with a focus on treatment capacity, regulatory compliance, and system modernization. Wastewater utility improvements are anticipated to be primarily funded through a combination of ending fund balance, revenue generated through rates, and long-term revenue bonds. Grants are not typically available for water utility capital improvements. At the end of 2024, the ending fund balance available for the wastewater utility CIP was approximately \$6.3 million. The wastewater utility generates approximately \$7.2 million annually and maintains reserves to meet bond obligations and capital investment needs.

Stormwater

The City of Ellensburg stormwater division maintains approximately 2,500 catch basins and 350 manholes in the public right-of-way, is comprised of approximately 49 miles of underground pipe, and discharges to ninety outfalls in local streams and irrigation facilities. In newer parts of the city bio-swales capture, slow velocity of, and treat stormwater prior to discharging into the City's stormwater system. The City of Ellensburg operates a stormwater utility whose revenues are used to comply with the stormwater permit, providing funding for required activities such as the Illicit Discharge Elimination Program and public education on the effects of stormwater on water in our rivers and streams.



Ellensburg’s stormwater utility is managed through a five-year permit cycle, with annual updates to ensure compliance with state and local regulations. Currently integrated with the Street Department, the utility focuses primarily on system maintenance, stormwater conveyance, and water quality requirements.

In addition to managing the stormwater system, the City coordinates with the Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District on flood modeling and floodplain management associated with five major streams within city limits that significantly impact daily operations. While these systems are related, flood management is addressed through separate planning and interagency coordination. Ongoing challenges for the stormwater utility include the management of inflow and infiltration (I & I) and the maintenance of private system connections.

The stormwater utility generates approximately \$2 million annually and is supported through a combination of user rates, dedicated reserves, and long-term revenue bonds. Planned capital improvements for the stormwater system are identified in the City’s six-year CIP and support regulatory compliance, water quality, and ongoing system maintenance.

Electric

The City of Ellensburg was the first municipality in Washington State to have its own electrical distribution system, which was installed in 1891. The City’s electric utility serves approximately ~~9,200~~ 11,000 customers using 47 miles of overhead conductor and 83 miles of underground cable. New development within the system is served by underground electrical infrastructure installed in conduit, with looped distribution incorporated where feasible to improve system reliability and reduce the potential for outages. The existing aerial facilities are in excellent condition due to continuous maintenance work over the years. The electric utility offers a variety of services to the public. These services include assistance with applying or altering a service, as well as advising developers so they know what is required when applying for an electrical system for a subdivision, plat, or multi-family project. All requirements are based on existing city policies and standards, as well as national, state, and local electrical codes. The City’s electric utility has an enviable safety record and has been recognized by the Northwest Public Power Association for its commitment to safety for many years.

The electric utility currently purchases the majority of its power from Bonneville Power Administration which delivers power to the City’s four electrical substations. The Washington Department of Commerce 2024 Fuel Mix Disclosure indicated that the City is about 88% carbon free (75% hydropower and 13% nuclear) for the fuel that was used to generate the power.

While current substation capacity is sufficient, the primary challenge lies in expanding the distribution network through feeder extensions to support growing neighborhoods. Looking ahead, the system must adapt to increasing demands from solar integration, EV charging stations at major interchanges, and a general shift from natural gas to electric appliances. These strategic updates are outlined in the six-year Electric System Plan (2025–2030), which incorporates the projected Ellensburg population of 25,631 by 2046 into its system model. Dependent on development, another substation on the west side of the City will be needed within the next five years to meet projected demand.

The utility has a renewable energy park that hosts solar generation facilities that were constructed between 2006 and 2013 and expanded in 2016. The utility has a long history of promoting energy

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conservation and encourages its customers to take advantage of all the programs the City offers to assist them in using energy efficiently.

The electric utility is the City's largest enterprise operation, generating approximately \$22.7 million in annual revenue. Planned capital improvements for the electric utility are identified in the City's six-year CIP and focus on system reliability, capacity, and infrastructure upgrades to support future growth. Electric utility capital improvements are anticipated to be primarily funded through a combination of ending fund balance, revenue generated through rates, and revenue bonds. Grants are not typically available for electric utility capital improvements. At the end of 2024, the ending fund balance available for the electric utility CIP was approximately \$14.6 million.

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Natural Gas

The City of Ellensburg was the first municipality west of the Mississippi River to have its own natural gas distribution system, installed in 1956–1957. Today, the system includes over ~~115,140~~ miles of distribution mains and serves approximately 5,200,000 customers within the City and surrounding Kittitas County. Unlike other City utilities, the natural gas service territory is defined by the Washington Utility and Transportation Commission and extends beyond the City limits and Urban Growth Area covering a total of 73.50 square miles.

The City receives its natural gas supply from the Williams Pipeline through a single measuring station, from which gas is distributed to customers. The utility installs and maintains its distribution system using its own City employees; it has an enviable safety record and has been recognized by the American Public Gas Association for its commitment to safety for many years. Public safety information is provided to customers throughout the year.

The natural gas utility provides a range of customer and development services, including assistance with establishing or modifying service and guidance for developers on requirements for extending natural gas infrastructure to new subdivisions and plats.

The City currently maintains ample natural gas capacity to support anticipated growth. While the system is well-positioned overall, the utility has identified localized pressure constraints associated with concentrated, high-volume loads on the far western edge of the system. To resolve these issues and improve reliability for large commercial customers, a significant looping project is scheduled for completion in 2027. This project will create additional connections within the gas distribution system, allowing gas to be supplied from multiple directions, which helps maintain consistent pressure and reduces the risk of service interruptions.

Planned capital improvements for the natural gas utility are identified in the City's six-year CIP, with an emphasis on system reliability, safety, and targeted capacity improvements. Natural gas utility improvements are anticipated to be primarily funded through a combination of ending fund balance, revenue generated through rates, revenue bonds, and restricted reserves, including funding associated with state and federal energy programs. Grants are not typically available for natural gas utility capital improvements. At the end of 2024 the ending fund balance for the natural gas CIP was approximately \$7.7 million, and the utility generates approximately \$15.4 million annually.



Telecommunications

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Operation of Ellensburg’s municipal fiber optic network has been ongoing since 1999, with infrastructure developed and maintained under various administrative arrangements. In 2014, the City formalized these efforts by establishing a dedicated telecommunications utility. The system currently services 50 locations with over 25 miles of overhead fiber optic cable and two miles of underground fiber optic cable.

Ellensburg’s telecommunications utility functions as a municipal fiber optic backbone, primarily serving public agencies, schools, and administrative facilities, as well as a limited number of commercial users. While the utility does not currently provide direct residential service, the existing infrastructure provides a foundation for potential future expansion. To guide this future development, the City has hired a Telecommunications Business Manager tasked with creating a strategic approach for future planning and exploring the potential for service expansion.

Operationally, the utility provides internet services supported by an agreement with NoaNet for emergency fiber repairs and after-hours support. Service delivery does not currently include formal service-level guarantees; as the system evolves, the City may evaluate opportunities to establish formal service standards. Ellensburg’s telecommunications market includes multiple private providers, offering residents and businesses a range of service options. The City’s telecommunications utility complements these providers by supporting public sector connectivity and targeted service needs.

The telecommunications utility operates at a smaller financial scale than other City utilities, generating approximately \$0.5 million annually. Unlike other utilities, capital improvements for telecommunications have historically been financed in part through general obligation debt. Planned capital improvements can be found in the City’s six-year CIP. The planned telecommunications improvements for 2026–2031 total \$1,033,000 and are intended to ensure the continued reliability of the municipal fiber optic network. The CIP focuses on hardware refreshment, outdoor plant improvements, and regular strategic plan updates every three years. Funding is consistently allocated toward maintaining existing equipment and extending lines for commercial customers to support the community’s projected population of 25,631 by 2046.

Library

The City of Ellensburg operates a public library, founded in 1907 in partnership with Andrew Carnegie by the Women’s Municipal Movement Society of Ellensburg. The Society donated two lots on the corner of 3rd Avenue and Ruby Street and opened the library in 1910. The library has maintained a historically and socially important location in Ellensburg’s downtown core, and continues to serve as a central community resource, providing services to residents throughout Kittitas County.

The library’s mission is:

“...to provide a safe and welcoming place where patrons can develop an appreciation for reading and learning; find information about their community and its opportunities; and investigate or explore a wide range of topics relevant to their work, school, and personal lives.”



All Kittitas County residents are able to use the Ellensburg Public Library. Kittitas County annually contributes general tax funds in support of the Ellensburg Library operations, and the City maintains reciprocal agreements with all other libraries in the county. The Hal Holmes Community Center, completed in 1982 and co-located with the library, is the City's multipurpose facility providing space for community events and activities, including performing and visual arts and educational events. The Hal Holmes Center's public meeting spaces provide for the programming space needs of both the library and the greater community.

The library contains a large local history collection that represents the community's interest in the City's past. The collection is partially housed in the main library and is accessible to the public, but much of the collection is inaccessible in basement archives. [An adequate ventilation system and an elevator are necessary improvements to preserve and protect the collection and make it accessible.](#)

A 2003 expansion, intended to serve Ellensburg and the region well into the future, greatly expanded the [children's staff/youth](#) and circulation areas of the library and resulted in additional off-street parking located across the street from Hal Holmes Center.

The City's ownership of the property on the east side of Pine Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues allows for further expansion of the library on the same block it currently occupies, moving parking to the new property across the street. Presently, the majority of the parking serving the library is on-street parking. The small off-street parking lot on the south side of the Hal Holmes Center may be taken up with any future expansion needs of the library. As the community continues to grow and other conference and meeting spaces are constructed, the Center's meeting room space may be available to meet the expanded need for library functions. This built-in room for expansion will enable the library to maintain its historically and socially important place in the downtown core.

In addition to projected countywide growth, unique factors affect the physical space needs and the services offered at the Ellensburg Public Library. These needs are driven by the need to keep up with changing technology and by the desire to [improve/enhance](#) library services and programs for all ages, with an emphasis on children and young adult programs and services that meet the needs of an aging population. Foreseeable service and space needs include [increased](#) mobile services, [enhancement/expansion](#) of the library's website and electronic resources, [increased programs for youth and adults](#), additional meeting space and study rooms, quiet shared reading spaces, and retention of existing off-street parking. Capital improvements related to library facilities are identified in the City's six-year CIP, in coordination with broader community facility planning efforts.

The Ellensburg Public Library goals and objectives and Level of Service Standards are hereby adopted into this Comprehensive Plan by reference. The goals, policies, and programs in this chapter provide the broad overall framework of Ellensburg Public Library services. Please refer to the Library Goals and Objectives and/or Level of Service Standards for more detail.

Police

The Ellensburg Police Department (EPD) provides law enforcement services to the City of Ellensburg with 29 sworn officers working in three divisions: patrol, motors, and investigations. The Department and its personnel are expected to respond to and effectively handle a variety of criminal, societal, technological, and international type events that impact our community. In addition, the Ellensburg



Police Department provides many community oriented programs, including school-based partnerships, volunteer and reserve officer programs, business outreach, and community engagement and education initiatives.

EPD currently maintains the equipment and capacity necessary to manage average annual service calls and emergency responses effectively. Once fully staffed, the EPD anticipates it can satisfactorily meet service obligations for up to an additional 4,000 to 5,000 calls. However, further growth beyond this threshold will require a proportional increase in both commissioned and support staff to sustain quality standards.

The department is in a strong position regarding capital improvements, with no major facility projects currently anticipated. The primary system upgrades on the horizon involve 911 call-taking and radio systems, which are managed through a third-party provider. To ensure continued excellence and accountability, the EPD maintains accreditation through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). Furthermore, the department utilizes local surveys to monitor constituent expectations and verify that service standards align with the community's needs.

Capital investments related to public safety facilities and systems are identified in the City's six-year CIP, supporting ongoing service delivery and operational needs.

The goals and policies in this chapter outline the broad framework of the Ellensburg Police Department; strategic planning and annual reports provide more detailed information regarding services offered and department statistics.

Animal Shelter

The Ellensburg Animal Shelter was constructed in 1974. Since its inception, it has become a regional facility providing services to other municipalities and unincorporated areas in Kittitas County. The shelter is open to the public six days a week and care for the animals housed at the shelter takes place seven days a week. The shelter takes in animals that are stray, neglected, abandoned, law enforcement impounds, and, as space allows, owner-surrendered animals. The majority of adoptable animals are transferred to organizations that have behavioral and medical resources. Since August 2022, the Yakima Humane Society has managed the operations of the Ellensburg Animal Shelter and Adoption Center through a formal partnership with the City. This collaboration helps shelter staff work directly with City officials and employees to provide essential pet welfare services and animal control for the community.

Capital improvements related to the animal shelter are identified in the City's six-year CIP, as needed to support ongoing operations and regional service responsibilities.

Parks

Ellensburg's existing park system includes 22 sites totaling approximately 350 acres, consisting of regional parks, community parks, neighborhood and pocket parks, special use facilities, trail corridors, and natural open space. About half of the City's parkland is developed with recreational amenities, while the remainder consists of undeveloped land and natural areas that provide environmental benefits and opportunities for future park development. This mix of developed and undeveloped parkland provides flexibility to meet evolving community needs while preserving important open space resources.



The park system currently provides a level of service (LOS) of approximately 16.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is higher than many similarly sized communities. However, as the population grows, maintaining this level of service will require strategic investments in new parkland and facilities. Ellensburg has identified a target LOS of approximately 15.5 acres per 1,000 residents, which will require additional parkland and expanded recreational opportunities over the planning horizon.

Existing parks serve a range of community-wide and neighborhood needs. Larger community and regional parks, such as Horseshoe Lake Park, provide a variety of recreational amenities, including water access, sports facilities, and gathering spaces. These are complemented by smaller neighborhood parks, such as Hoffmann Park and Eagle Park, which provide convenient access to recreational opportunities for nearby residents. In some areas, school fields and regional open spaces help supplement park access. While parks are generally well distributed, additional parks will be needed in areas of future growth to maintain access within a reasonable walking distance. Figure 6-2 illustrates the location of existing parks.

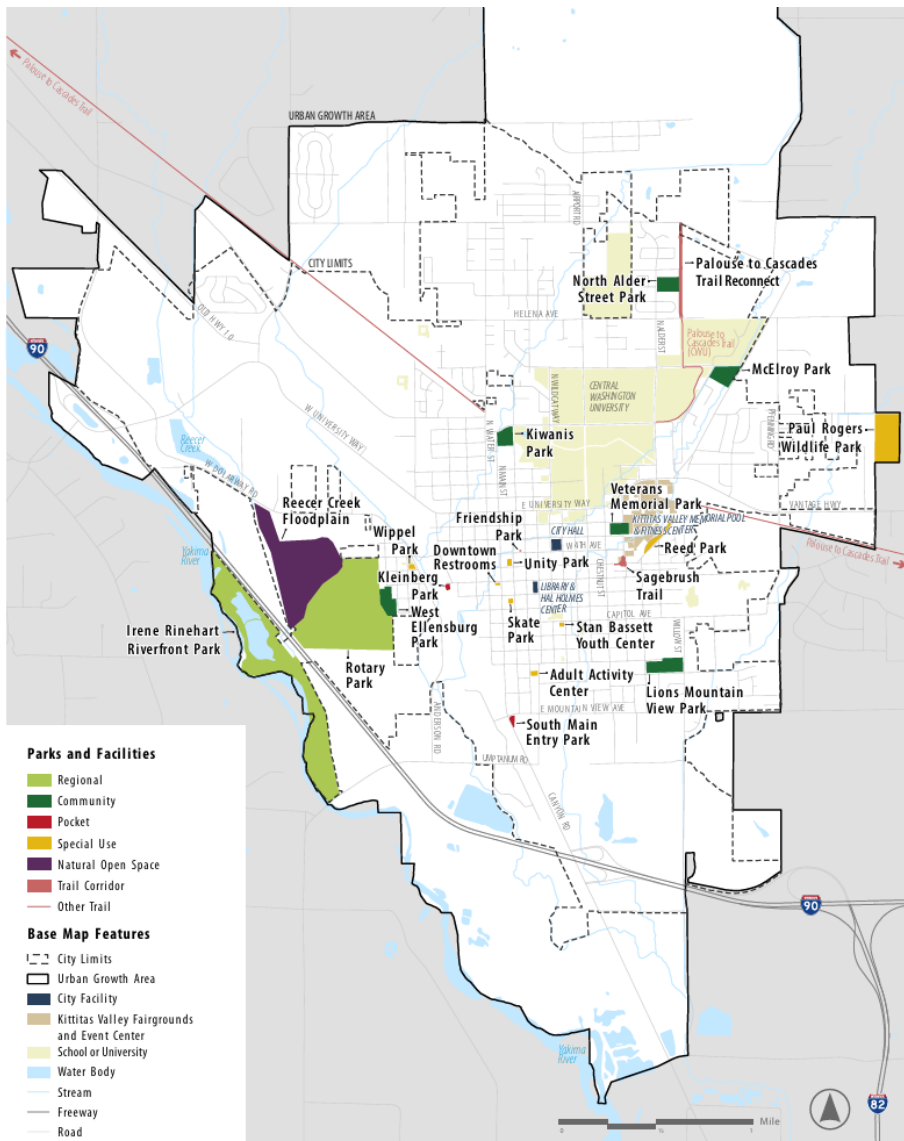
The City is also focused on reinvesting in and maintaining existing parks and facilities, many of which are approaching or have exceeded their expected lifespan, while expanding the system to serve future growth. System needs include upgrades to existing amenities, expanded recreational opportunities, improved accessibility, and enhanced trail connections between parks, neighborhoods, and regional destinations. Addressing these needs will require a phased and strategic approach to capital investment, including land acquisition, development of new parks, and renovation of existing sites. The City will continue to coordinate with regional partners, including schools and other agencies, to maximize access to recreational opportunities and leverage shared resources where appropriate.

Park system improvements are supported through a combination of impact fees, gas tax revenues, and other capital funding sources. Planned improvements are identified in the City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan and the six-year CIP, which together guide investment in the park system.

Additional information on Ellensburg's park system can be found in the Parks chapter of this Comprehensive Plan. The PROS Plan provides more detailed analysis of level of service standards, system needs, planned capital improvement projects, and funding strategies.



Figure 6-2. Map of Existing Ellensburg Parks



Alternative Service Providers

Ellensburg residents also receive services from a mix of private companies, public commercial entities, and special districts. These services and their providers are summarized in the following sections.

Solid Waste

Waste Management (WM) serves as the sole waste hauler for the City of Ellensburg under a municipal franchise agreement, which is currently contracted through October 2029. The City’s solid waste needs are currently met with significant regional capacity; local waste is transported to the Greater Wenatchee regional landfill, which has approximately 75 years of remaining life, with additional long-term capacity available at sites in Adams County and Arlington, Oregon. To maintain high service quality as Ellensburg grows toward a projected 2046 population of 25,631, WM continues to expand its local fleet and has recently invested \$19 million in upgrades to its regional recycling “Smart Center” to improve automated sorting and capacity.

Future solid waste infrastructure planning is largely centered on a partnership with Kittitas County to develop a new transfer station. This project serves as a long-term site expansion that will allow WM to lease a larger footprint for container storage and driver operations. Additionally, in response to evolving state laws, WM is expanding its recycling and yard debris operations to ensure the utility is prepared for future regulatory requirements and increased volumes within the Urban Growth Area.

School District

The Ellensburg School District (District 401) provides educational infrastructure for Kittitas County, serving approximately 3,300 students across a network of elementary, middle, and high schools, alongside specialized learning centers. While the District anticipates a slight decrease in enrollment over the next decade, planning efforts remain focused on the modernization of existing assets rather than system expansion. Most facilities have been updated within the last 20 years; however, Valley View Elementary is scheduled for a comprehensive remodel within the next five years. To manage these long-term needs, the district maintains an annually updated six-year Capital Facilities Plan and a 30-year Long-Range Facilities Plan that aligns with state models.

In addition to building modernizations, the district is prioritizing site-specific infrastructure and regional partnerships. Active projects include the construction of a new high school bus line to improve traffic flow on Capitol Avenue and ongoing ADA accessibility upgrades at the district stadium. To address current gaps in athletic facilities, specifically for swimming and tennis, the district is seeking collaborative opportunities with the City to develop local solutions. Future growth is expected to be contained within existing district properties. Ellensburg School District facilities are listed in [Table 6-4](#).

Table 6-4. Inventory of Ellensburg School District Schools

School Name	Grades Served	Students Attending
Ellensburg High School	9-12	1,065



Morgan Middle School	6-8	746
Valley View Elementary School	K-5	400
Mt. Stuart Elementary	K-5	323
Lincoln Elementary	K-5	333
Ida Nason Aronica Elementary	K-5	367
K-12 Ellensburg Learning Center	K-12	47

Fire/Emergency Management Services

Ellensburg previously operated a fire department with 20 paid staff and more than 20 volunteer firefighters. Fire and Emergency Medical Service responsibility is now shifted to ~~the Fire Protection~~ [Kittitas County Fire District #2](#) which merged with the City's fire department to become Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (KVFR) [in 2007](#). KVFR now employs ~~4330~~ career firefighters, ~~720~~ volunteers, ~~612~~ reserves, and ~~49~~ residents. The community has a fire insurance rating of four, one step above the previous rating of five, significantly reducing insurance rates in the city. KVFR also provides emergency medical services at the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support providers.

The headquarters station (Station 29) is located on Mountain View Avenue, one of the City's main arterials. Station 29 responds to emergency calls in the South and West sections of the district. Station 21 is located on the East side of Ellensburg and covers emergency calls in the North and East sections of the district. Volunteer stations located in ~~strategic~~ rural areas of the district respond to calls in their areas. All stations can cover one another in times of heavy call volume or larger incidents.

Growth in Ellensburg's population to the north, and the increasing traffic on the community's arterial streets, are increasing pressure to develop a remote fire station to serve the northern areas.

Growth Projections

According to growth projections, which provide the foundation for the Comprehensive Plan, the city could experience an increase of up to 6,718 additional people or about 3,012 households over the next 20 years. This projection is based on the population target allocated to the City by Kittitas County (see Land Use chapter for additional discussion).

Growth will undoubtedly not occur precisely as projected over the next six years or even the 20-year planning period. For this reason, the GMA requires that the Capital Improvement Plan be updated at least every six years. This provides local governments the opportunity to re-evaluate their forecast in light of the actual growth experiences, revise their forecast if necessary, and adjust the number and/or timing of capital facilities that are needed.

The Capital Improvement Plan (Appendix A) is updated annually as part of the City's budget process, thereby ensuring that the plan reflects the most current statistics related to growth in Ellensburg, and that city-managed facilities and utilities are slated for upgrade in accordance with both the level of service standards and concurrency standards.



Level of Service Standards

“Level of service” is a term that describes the amount, type, or quality of facilities that are needed to serve the community at a desired and measured standard. This standard varies, based not only on the type of service that is being provided, but also the quality of services desired by the community. A community can decide to lower, raise, or maintain the existing Levels of Service for each type of capital facility and service. This decision will affect both the quality of service provided, as well as the amount of new investment or facilities that are needed, or will be needed in the future, to serve the community.

Level of service standards state the quality of service the community desires and for which service providers should plan. The adoption of level of service standards indicates that a community will ensure those standards are met, or can be met, at the time development occurs. If such standards cannot be met, the community may decide to decrease the standards, determine how the needed improvements will be paid for, or deny the development. The Growth Management Act requires communities adopt level of service standards for transportation facilities (see Transportation chapter); Ellensburg has also opted to establish service standards for the following City-managed capital facilities as outlined in Table 6-5.

Table 6-5. City of Ellensburg Adopted Level of Service Standards

Facility/Service	Level of Service Standard
Fire Protection	Follow the guidelines from the National Fire Protection Association #1720
Emergency Medical Services	Basic Life Support at 5 minutes/90% of the time Advanced Life Support at 9 minutes/90% of the time
Water Utility	The City of Ellensburg owns and operates a public water system inside and outside of the City Limits as allowed by the Washington State Department of Health.
Sewer Utility	Provide a collection system capable of conveying all wastewater discharges from residential, commercial, and industrial customers within the City limits and UGA
Stormwater System	Provide a public collection system capable of conveying a storm event with a 25-year return frequency without flooding or damage to structures; meet the requirements of the City’s Stormwater Discharge Permit
Natural Gas Utility	Provide a minimum gas pressure of 20 psi at the customer’s meter
Solid Waste Management	Weekly curbside refuse collection
Library Service	2026 Level of service document incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference
Broadband Internet	150/150 Mbps for all residences and businesses; 1/1 Gbps for all anchor institutions (i.e. schools, hospitals, libraries, and government buildings)



Adequacy and Concurrency

According to the Growth Management Act, public facilities and services shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is first occupied, without decreasing the Level of Service described in the Comprehensive Plan. Adequate public facilities and services, such as water, sewer, power, and surface water management, are required in order to serve development. Additionally, the GMA mandates concurrency for transportation services to ensure that transportation improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development, or that a financial commitment is made to complete the improvement within six years. The City's Capital Facilities Plan identifies needed improvements and funding strategies to maintain adopted levels of service and ensure concurrency requirements are met.

The City's utility systems are planned and managed to meet current and projected demand at the adopted levels of service, as documented in the Capital Improvements Plan and supporting utility plans. The City uses the most current Department of Ecology stormwater manual to ensure that new development meets the established standards for surface water management and requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. If the City determines that any of the facilities or utilities will not be able to meet these city services, the City could choose to:

- ◆ Modify the Land Use Map through an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan;
- ◆ Modify the Level of Service standards through an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan; or
- ◆ Restrict development until service can be provided at the established level of service standards.

Other services such as police, fire, parks, and schools, must be adequate to serve new development at the time of occupancy. In some cases, maintaining adopted service levels may require phased improvements or facility expansions as growth occurs. The City and its service partners plan for these needs through ongoing coordination, capital planning, and monitoring of service demand.

Goals, Policies, and Programs

The following goals, policies, and programs are designed to work with the other elements to ensure that capital facilities and utilities are provided in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner, while keeping pace with projected growth in the City of Ellensburg.

Goal CFU-1: Ensure that ~~system services~~ public facilities, utilities, and streets are delivered in a safe and reliable manner and are in compliance with regulatory requirements.

Policy A Ensure that ~~public facilities, utilities, and streets are designed, constructed, and maintained~~ design, construction, and maintenance of capital facilities and utilities efficiently and effectively meet community needs, providing equitable access and consistent service levels throughout the city, while complying with applicable state and federal requirements.

Program 1 Coordinate major capital facilities investments to implement the comprehensive plan.



Program 2 Seek co-location opportunities in the UGA and service areas

Program 2 Purchase land as needed for the location of capital and utility facilities.

Program 3 Maintain capital facility renewals and replacements in consideration of rising rates.

Policy B Encourage the co-location of public and private utility distribution facilities, particularly within the UGA and designated service areas.

Program 1 Practice co-location of new public and private utility distribution facilities in shared trenches when reasonable and feasible, and coordinate construction timing to minimize construction-related disruptions and reduce the cost of utility delivery.

Commented [SH5]: Moved from Policy A

Policy BC Provide services concurrently with, or in advance of, demand.

Program 1 If probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs the land use element will be reassessed to ensure that the land use element, capital facilities element, and financing plan within the capital facilities element are coordinated and consistent.

Program 2 Continue to collect system development charges for water and sewer services as a financing tool to help fund needed infrastructure for new development.

Program 3 Any changes to electric, water, and sewer service areas should be based on expansion of the UGA.

Program 4 Purchase or produce commodities such as power, natural gas, and water supply concurrently with, or in advance of, demand.

Program 5 In response to future growth, expand the gas utility into the gas service territory as set by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Program 6 Implement low-cost proactive investments, such as conduits, piping, and joint-utility extensions when opportunities ~~with possible delayed benefits present themselves that would be unaffordable or otherwise inaccessible in the future~~ arise, such as during street, utility, or redevelopment projects, where feasible, to reduce future costs and disruptions and to support future service needs.

Policy CD Provide public facilities and services in a manner that prioritizes existing service areas, protects essential resources, and supports safe, reliable service delivery to meet community needs. Continue to follow and enforce existing city standards for public facilities and services.

Program 1 Provide water, sewer, and storm drainage services with highest priority given to improving services in those areas where it already exists, next highest priority to infilling areas surrounded by utility service, and lowest priority to extension of services into unserved



areas; with a focus on projects that address documented service deficiencies and public health and safety risks.

Program 2 *Protect and conserve existing water rights and pursue opportunities for new water rights as necessary to support growth and long-term water supply resilience.*

Program 3 *Coordinate affordable and reliable collection of solid waste and recycling collection services that meets the needs of City residents.*

Program 4 *Facilitate a culture of safety through education and certification programs for utility service workers.*

Goal CFU-2: **Maintain cost effective rates for providing utility and capital services while ensuring adequate system maintenance.**

Policy A Support. Emphasize compact growth and infill of vacant or undeveloped land to allow for the efficient provisions of services. development patterns that allow for efficient, cost-effective provision of public facilities and utility services.

Program 1 *Utilize and encourage the use of existing utility systems for new developments.*

Program 2 *Encourage and provide City utility services to UGA residents who sign necessary agreements for utility connection.*

Program 3 *Use utility extension agreements for the cost of extensions for water, sewer, and electricity, as a financing tool to help fund necessary infrastructure for new development.*

Policy B **Manage expansion of the electrical utility into the UGA in response to future growth based on the following approaches: through asset acquisition or construction, coordination with existing providers, and appropriate cost responsibility for customers and developers.**

Program 1 *Purchase existing assets from other utilities, recognizing that the cost will be incurred by customer/developer.*

Program 2 *Upon annexation, after the required seven-year period, purchase the assets from existing electric providers in the UGA or build new assets.*

Program 3 *Upon request and sufficient power supply, develop agreements with existing electric providers in the UGA for shared assets (wheeling) to serve customers/developers.*

Program 4 *Require, ~~developers to provide assets within developments through the development process,~~ that new development provide necessary on-site utility infrastructure and related improvements consistent with adopted standards.*



Policy C Maintain affordable rates by continuing to require annexation to the City, or approval of a utility extension agreement with the City to receive any City water, sewer, or electric service.

Program 1 Require a standard outside utility agreement concerning provision of water, sewer, and electric services.

Goal CFU-3: Develop facilities and encourage use of services in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Policy A Promote water conservation, energy efficiency, and ~~the use of cleaner and renewable~~ energy sources consistent with adopted climate resiliency goals.

Program 1 Promote the use of solar technology within the community.

Program 2 Assist residents with upgrading energy efficiency in homes and businesses through weatherization, and improvements to mechanical and lighting systems.

Program 3 Promote the use of Energy Star and green building practices in new construction.

Program 4 Promote efficient use of lighting to preserve our night skies, including but not limited to International Dark Sky practices.

Program 5 Comply with City water use efficiency standards.

Program 6 Support the County's operation of composting and recycling facilities in the City.

Program 7 Work with state and regional air quality agencies and Kittitas County Public Health to provide outreach and education to Ellensburg residents and businesses on energy efficient wood stoves, incentive programs, and burn bans.

Policy B Design, construct, and maintain facilities to minimize their impact on surrounding neighborhoods and the environment.

Program 1 Promote the undergrounding of new and existing utility lines, where physically and financially feasible, as streets are improved and/or areas are redeveloped in coordination with other utilities and capital facility systems.

Goal CFU-4: Support the use of data and technology as they evolve to better meet residents' needs and improve efficiency, accessibility, and responsiveness of services.

Policy A Support information and communication technology that allows City officials to interact directly with the community and the City's infrastructure.



Program 1 Consider metering technology migration from the City's legacy automatic meter reading (AMR) to advance metering infrastructure (AMI) for electric, natural gas, and water utilities.

Program 2 Use information and communication technology to monitor infrastructure and service performance and adopt new tools after they have been tested and demonstrated to be effective, to improve service efficiency.

Policy B Encourage new and cost-effective information and telecommunications technologies that would benefit residents and improve services.

Program 1 Facilitate communication technology deployments for next-generation evolving wireless services, such as the use of City utility poles, streetlight poles, traffic signals, and other City assets for small cell deployment.

Program 2 Encourage public-private partnerships to take advantage of the City's fiber optic network to facilitate innovation and expand service delivery.

Program 3 Leverage existing City telecommunications assets and utility service experience to deliver fiber optic broadband service to businesses and residents ~~that provide a similar level of customer service and reliability as the City's other utilities, in a manner that meets the state and federal goals for speed and equitable deployment, and is supported to address business concerns with service outage restoration.~~

~~Program 4 Establish service standards for City-provided broadband that are consistent with the City's level of customer service and reliability as the City's other utilities, in a manner that meets the state and federal goals for speed and equitable deployment, and is supported to address business concerns with service outage restoration.~~

Goal CFU-5: Ensure essential public facilities are sited through a coordinated, equitable, and consistent process aligned with Countywide Planning Policies and state requirements. ~~Maintain consistent countywide planning policies for siting of essential public facilities.~~

Policy A Support and work with the Kittitas County Conference of Governments (COG) to implement and maintain the process for siting essential public facilities that are of a countywide or statewide nature as set forth in the Countywide Planning Policies.

Program 1 Maintain an inventory of existing essential public facilities in the City of Ellensburg and its UGA.

Program 2 Apply the siting process outlined by the Kittitas County Countywide Planning Policies to all essential public facilities identified by the City, the



County, regional agreement, or by State or federal government when such facilities are proposed within the City or the UGA.

- Program 3 *Maintain regulations that ensure essential public facility siting is consistent with all adopted City ordinances and the adopted City comprehensive plan.*
- Program 4 *Coordinate with Kittitas County and other public entities to establish an official map identifying precise arterial corridors, public parks and open spaces, and other public facility locations for current and future dedication and/or acquisition.*
- Program 5 *Assist in coordinating the construction of a public safety broadband network, utilizing City telecommunications utility assets if necessary and appropriate.*

Goal CFU-6: Provide quality library materials and services to fulfill the current and projected educational, information, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community in a location and environment that is welcoming and accessible.

- Policy A Maintain and enhance the library collection to meet the lifelong learning needs and recreational interests of the entire community.
- Policy B Seek funding to meet and maintain the Level of Service Standards for our growing population.
- Policy C Maintain sufficient facilities to provide a range of library services that meet current and projected community needs.
- Policy D Maintain and support ongoing library programming and community space at the Hal Holmes Center for library and community use.

Goal CFU-7: Uphold law and order while maintaining peace and safety for all ~~citizens and police officers by providing the best in public safety services.~~ residents, visitors, and public safety personnel through high-quality, professional public safety services.

- Policy A Maintain accreditation through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.
- Policy B Maintain sufficient facilities to provide public safety services that meet current and projected community needs.
- Policy C Seek and provide innovative training opportunities for staff and volunteers.



- Policy D Use social networking and other data sharing opportunities, as appropriate, to provide information and education to create better ~~citizen~~ **community** understanding of Ellensburg Police Department services.
- Policy E Provide ~~community~~ **citizen** engagement opportunities and events that enable public interaction with the Ellensburg Police Department.
- Policy F Seek proactive approaches to address public safety issues, including prevention, education, and partnerships that respond to identified community needs.

Action Items

Update Capital Improvement Plans Annually

Annually update Capital Improvement Plans with projected funding capacities and provide summary of probable funding sources.

Ensure Consistency Between Capital Facilities Plan and Comprehensive Plan

Regularly review and update the Capital Facilities Plan and financing plan to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and projected growth.

Establish Official Map of Public Facility Locations

Coordinate with Kittitas County and other public entities to establish an official map identifying precise arterial corridors, public parks and open spaces, and other public facility locations for current and future dedication and/or acquisition.

Inventory of Essential Public Facilities

Update and maintain an inventory of essential public facilities in the City of Ellensburg and its UGA.

Regularly Update Telecommunications Utility System Plan

Ensure a Functional Plan is regularly updated to identify facility inventories, potential funding sources, and implementation strategies for the Telecommunications Utility.

Reduce Barriers and Costs to Telecommunications Utility Infrastructure Extension

Coordinate with stakeholders and pursue "Dig Once" or pavement moratorium policies to encourage cost effective utility infrastructure development and extend the service life of City transportation assets, and One Touch Make Ready (OTMR) or "Climb Once" policies to simplify telecommunications infrastructure deployment.

Develop Digital Inclusion Plan

Convene partners to develop a digital inclusion plan to guide decision-making on telecommunications infrastructure and measure progress toward digital equity.

Integrate Climate and Resilience into Capital Planning

Incorporate climate adaptation, energy efficiency, and long-term system resilience considerations into capital facility and utility planning and investments.

Plan for Long-Term Water Supply

Monitor water demand and supply conditions and ensure Water System Plan takes into account long-term reliability and resilience.



Policy Connections

Utilities and capital facilities must keep pace with growth. The **Land Use** chapter identifies projected growth and development assumptions that guide the timing, location, and capacity of these services.

The **Housing** chapter identifies projected housing needs and growth patterns that inform planning for utility capacity, infrastructure investments, and service delivery.

The **Economic Development** chapter includes guidance on telecommunications utility infrastructure to support economic development.

The **Transportation** chapter provides information for Ellensburg's transportation system, including streets, non-motorized facilities, and public transit facilities, which are closely coordinated with utility and capital facility planning.

The **Parks and Recreation** chapter includes goals that create a framework for future parks, recreation, and open space decisions. More specific guidance is provided in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

~~The **Environment** chapter addresses the stewardship of natural resources, including ground and surface water, which informs infrastructure planning and utility service provision.~~

The **Climate and Environment** chapter addresses the stewardship of natural resources, including ground and surface water, which informs infrastructure planning and utility service provision, and provides guidance on increasing resilience, which inform capital planning and investments.





Meeting Date: June 18, 2026

City of Ellensburg

Utility Advisory Committee Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Natural Gas - Distribution Integrity Management Program Overview

Submitted by: Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer

Department: Energy Services

Suggested Motion/Action:
Information Only

Background/Summary:

Distribution Integrity Management Programs (known as DIMP) for natural gas utilities began being regulated on February 12, 2010.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued the final rule on December 4, 2009, creating 49 CFR Part 192, Subpart P. Operators were formally required to write and implement their initial DIMP plans by August 2, 2011.

The City of Ellensburg Gas Division published its initial Program in August of 2010.

Previous Council Action:
n/a

Analysis:

What a DIMP Program Is

A DIMP is a structured framework that helps a gas utility:

Understand its System

- Maintain knowledge of pipeline assets, materials, ages, locations, operating conditions, and historical performance
- Collect and analyze data about leaks, failures, incidents, and maintenance activities

Identify Threats and Risks

Evaluate potential causes of pipeline failures, such as:

- Corrosion
- Excavation or third-party damage
- Natural forces (floods, landslides, earthquakes)
- Material or weld defects

- Equipment failures
- Incorrect operations

Assess and Prioritize Risk

- Determine which parts of the distribution system present the greatest risk to public safety, reliability, and the environment
- Focus resources on higher-risk assets and conditions

Implement Risk-Reduction Measures

Develop and execute actions to reduce identified risks, such as:

- Pipe replacement programs
- Leak surveys
- Corrosion control improvements
- Damage prevention initiatives
- Enhanced inspection and maintenance activities

Measure Effectiveness

- Track performance metrics and trends
- Evaluate whether risk-control measures are reducing leaks, failures, and incidents
- Continuously improve the program based on results

Purpose of a DIMP Program

The primary purpose of DIMP is to enhance the safety and reliability of natural gas distribution systems through proactive risk management rather than relying solely on prescriptive inspections or repairs.

Specifically, DIMP aims to:

1. Protect the public and utility workers.
2. Reduce the likelihood of gas leaks, outages, fires, and explosions.
3. Improve system reliability and service continuity.
4. Prioritize investments toward the highest-risk infrastructure.
5. Support regulatory compliance and accountability.
6. Promote continuous improvement through data-driven decision-making.

Attached to this agenda report is the Gas Division's Distribution Integrity Management **Program**. Appendix A (DIMP) and B (EDIMP Pro-Active Actions) are not included in this agenda due to time and size and will be explained in brief during this report.

Financial Impact:

n/a

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

1. Section 23 - Distribution Integrity Management Program



Natural Gas Division Operations & Maintenance Manual

SECTION 23 – DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Revision History

EDIMP3-15

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Appendix A – Distribution Integrity Management Plan (DIMP)

Appendix B – EDIMP Pro-Active Actions

REVISION HISTORY

REVISION	DATE	REVISION	DATE
Issue of Section 23	08/2010		
Revised	08/2011		
Revised	02/2012		
Revised	05/2012		
Revised	04/2013		
Revised	11/2013		
Revised	04/2014		
Revised	05/2015		
Revised	09/2015		
Revised	12/2016		
Revised	03/2017		
Revised	03/2018		
Revised	02/2019		
Revised	05/2020		
Revised	06/2020		
Reviewed	11/2020		
Revised	12/2021		
Revised	11/2022		
Revised	02/2023		
Revised	12/2023		
Revised	09/2024		
Revised	09/2025		
Revised	04/2026		

Note 1: The latest version may or may not include changes to this section. Any changes made from the previous version are colored for easy identification.

Note 2: Any changes or reviews of the distribution integrity management plan/program are discussed and recorded in the minutes of the Gas Safety Meetings.

Distribution Integrity Management Program



501 N Anderson St
Ellensburg, WA 98926

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE MANUAL - SECTION 23

Original Issue – August 2010 | Last Update – April 2026

23.0 – ELLENSBURG DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (EDIMP)

- A.** This Distribution Integrity Management Program (EDIMP) for the City of Ellensburg’s Natural Gas System has been developed to comply with Federal Regulations 49 CFR 192 Subpart P, but more importantly to improve the safety and reliability of the system. The EDIMP for the natural gas system is continually being reviewed/revise, utilizing the Distribution Integrity Management Plan (DIMP), the knowledge and experience of the entire staff, and the historical information contained in the Department’s files and records.
- B.** The Program strives to accomplish this goal with the following elements:
- Developing and promoting operator knowledge of the system.
 - Identifying and evaluating threats to the integrity of the system.
 - Rank the threats based on the relative risk to the integrity of the system.
 - Identifying and implementing measures to address potential risks.
 - Measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of implemented measures.
 - Annual reporting of system leaks, excavation damage, and construction activity.
 - Developing a Distribution Integrity Management Plan (DIMP).
 - Periodically reviewing and revising the Plan and Program to improve their effectiveness.
- C.** The EDIMP will be reviewed once per calendar year not exceeding 15 months. In accordance with 49 CFR §192.1007(f), the City of Ellensburg’s Gas Division will conduct a complete EDIMP reevaluation at least every five (5) years.

23.1 – DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PLAN (DIMP)

The Distribution Integrity Management Plan (DIMP) seeks to maintain and improve the integrity of the system by using threats, risks, and consequences to develop and continually enhance this Program. The written DIMP can be found under Appendix A of this Section.

- A.** The City’s DIMP was created using the Simple, Handy, Risk-based Integrity Management Plan™ (SHRIMP) software package, as developed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA) Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF).
- B.** This Plan was developed using a variety of data and information outlined in 23.2 of the Program and contains specific information relied upon to evaluate each threat and prioritize risks.
- C.** The DIMP is a dynamic document and subject to change at any time dependent upon circumstances encountered. The DIMP will be reviewed once per calendar year along with the EDIMP review. A complete re-evaluation of the DIMP will be conducted at least every five (5) years. It is intended that the DIMP be reviewed early in the year at a similar time to the Leakage Evaluation Exercise, although modifications may be made at any time throughout the year.
- D.** All updates/revisions of the EDIMP and DIMP should be maintained indefinitely in digital or hardcopy format in accordance with Section 1 Appendix A.
{49 CFR §192.1011}

23.2 – SYSTEM AND OPERATION KNOWLEDGE

- A.** Acquiring, retaining, sharing, and accessing information on the design, components, operation, and maintenance of the City’s natural gas distribution system is a vital element of obtaining continuity and sustaining the integrity of the system. Through training, experience, communication, and documentation, the City Gas Division is able to obtain the required knowledge to establish a Program and DIMP.
- B.** The City encourages communication and the sharing of ideas amongst the staff in a number of ways.
- Weekly Staff Meetings – Scheduled on a weekly basis, the Gas Operations Supervisor, Gas Engineer, Engineering Specialist, Crew Foreman, Serviceman, and the Meterman meet and discuss recently completed work, current work, and proposed work that is anticipated in the near future. These meetings allow office and field personnel to stay informed and provide input on issues outside of their daily routine. The Energy Services Director and Finance Officer are also invited to the meetings, but are not required to attend.

- Monthly Safety Meetings – On a monthly basis the entire Gas Division staff meet and discuss topics concerning the natural gas system. These topics include, but are not limited to the following: Staff Training (OSHA, HSI, Industry, OQ), Safety Issues or Concerns, Abnormal Operating Conditions, Accidents or Near Misses, Stock Item/Inventory Updates, O&M Manual and Procedural Comments, Mapping Updates or Corrections, “Stop the Job”, Leak Investigation Reports, Public Awareness & Damage Prevention Activities, Any other Gas Division Related Comments or Concerns.
 - Each section of the Manual is annually reviewed by the entire staff of the Gas Division. This process familiarizes each staff member with every aspect of the system and offers an opportunity to provide input that may refine or improve the operation of the system.
 - O&M Manual Section readings are scheduled monthly for review and include all Gas Division staff.
- C.** This Program utilizes data and information from construction, operation, and maintenance records of the City of Ellensburg’s natural gas system. This includes (but is not limited to):
- Construction and Installation Records
 - Incident and Leak History
 - Corrosion Control Records
 - Continuing Surveillance Records
 - Patrolling Records
 - Maintenance History
 - Historical Records and Maps
 - Excavation Damage Experience
 - Exposed Pipe Records
 - Meter Installation Records
 - Leak Investigation Reports
 - Leak Repair Reports
 - Leak Survey Records
- D.** The Main Files contain a folder for each section of gas main in the distribution system. These folders typically contain the following documents:
- Construction Drawings
 - Material Check-Out Sheets
 - Exposed Pipe Report(s)
 - Pipeline Pressure Test Report
 - Pipe Specifications Form
- E.** The Address Files contain a folder for each address/lot that has any type of gas record or report linked to that property. These folders typically contain the following documents:
- Service Agreement
 - Work Request Sheets/As-Builts
 - Service Location Information Form
 - Miscellaneous Reports such as Leak Investigation and Repair Reports
 - Pipe Specifications Form
 - Material Check-Out Sheets
 - Exposed Pipe Report(s)
 - Meter Set Form
- F.** The ArcGIS applications Survey123 and WorkForce contain additional data from the following tasks/forms:
- Meter Connection Records
 - Exposed Pipe Reports
 - Meter Change-out Records
 - Specific DIMP Assignments
 - Operating Orders
 - Service Orders
- G.** All of these records and reports will continue to be captured and retained as required. Currently the information being collected on new installations meets all of the system’s needs and no additional data requirements have been identified.

23.3 – THREAT CATEGORIES – IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

{49 CFR §192.1007(b)}

A threat assessment for the City of Ellensburg’s natural gas system is outlined in Chapter 4 of the DIMP and takes into account reasonably available information to identify existing and potential threats. There is also a risk evaluation outlined in Chapter 5 of the DIMP for the identified risks. The threat categories considered for the assessment are as follows: 1) Corrosion, 2) Equipment Malfunctions, 3) Incorrect Operations, 4) Materials, Welds, and Joints, 5) Natural Forces, 6) Excavation Damage, 7) Other Outside Forces, 8) Other Threats.

23.3.1 – CORROSION

- A.** The City of Ellensburg’s steel system has been cathodically protected for most of the time since it was installed and commissioned. Generalized corrosion has never been a problem nor is there any evidence that any generalized corrosion exists within the steel system. Inspections are made of any coupons and sections of steel pipe removed from the system. Samples are saved as evidence of conclusions made in this document. This coupon/pipe retention will be continued as part of the EDIMP.

In addition to cathodically protecting and monitoring the steel portion of the system, the Gas Division will convert steel lines to PE when presented with an opportunity that is feasible to do so.

- B.** Examination of past leakage records have shown that leaks resulting from corroded mains or services are extremely rare. One leak on a steel main discovered during the 2015 annual leak survey was due to a faulty field weld. Isolated corrosion was also found in the area due to poor wrap and was repaired by replacement.
- C.** Corrpro Companies Inc. carried out an independent evaluation of corrosion control on the City’s pipeline system in 2013. This report recommended replacing and relocating the depleted deep well anode bed and rectifier located at 6th Avenue and Pine Street in an effort to provide additional CP to the City’s pipelines. The installation of a new deep well anode bed, rectifier, and associated facilities was completed in February 2015.

The benefits of having an independent evaluation in 2013 on the corrosion control led to the City Gas Division making the decision to have this type of evaluation done every six years.

In 2019 Coffman Engineers carried out the evaluation. There were no major threats to the system and the system was said to be adequately protected.

In 2025 Norton Corrosion Limited carried out the evaluation. There were no major threats to the system and the system was said to be adequately protected.

- D.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of corrosion (including atmospheric) is as detailed in Section 4.2.1 of the DIMP and Table 1 of this Section.

Corrosion Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Leaks due to external or internal corrosion.	The City has maintained good CP coverage across all its system and corrosion is localized.	Continue to monitor – no further action required.
Exposed pipe condition reports that found corrosion or coating damage.	Investigate, remediate and record instances where this is a problem.	Continue to monitor – no further action required.
Repairs required due to non-leaking pitting or coating damage (above and below ground).	Investigate, remediate and record instances where this is a problem.	Continue to monitor – no further action required.
Cathodic protection zones found with low protection levels.	Investigate, remediate and record instances where this is a problem.	If CP levels fall below -0.85VDC recheck and then monitor monthly. If it is an isolated occurrence revert to normal CP monitoring, otherwise investigate.
Areas of active corrosion found (unprotected pipe).	The City has no unprotected underground pipe nor areas of active corrosion.	If pipe is discovered with active corrosion or poor wrap, expose pipe until no corrosion and/or good wrap. Remediate as necessary.
Service risers showing corrosion. – Atmospheric Corrosion	Any identified risers are remediated or have the services inserted or replaced.	No additional action above the annual atmospheric corrosion survey.

Table 1 – Corrosion Threats

23.3.2 – EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS

- A.** Equipment at regulator stations is typically maintained at a greater frequency than required under minimum federal requirements and no failures of equipment have ever been reported to date.
- B.** There were four locations within the system that at one point utilized a Heath Data Recorder (HDR) for pressure recording. These units quickly became legacy units as Heath stopped production and support for them. The accuracy seemed questionable at times and the units would quit working regularly. Several were changed out with old Chart Recorders. With standardization and support being critical, Signal-Fire Ranger units were installed in 2023 for all pressure monitoring/recording sites outside of regulator stations.
- C.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of equipment malfunctions is as detailed in Section 4.2.2 of the DIMP and Table 2 of this Section.

Equipment Malfunctions Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Main regulator failures.	No failures reported. Main regulators are maintained at or above the minimum federal requirements.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Main relief valve failures.	No failures reported. Main relief valves are maintained at or above the minimum federal requirements.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Seal, gasket or O-ring failures.	No failures reported. Main regulators and other station equipment are maintained at or above the minimum federal requirements.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Main regulators or relief valves found with set points outside of acceptable range.	None reported. Main regulators are maintained at or above the minimum federal requirements.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Emergency valves found inoperable.	All emergency valves are maintained annually. All are currently working.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Compression fittings found.	There are no known records of any compression fittings installed within the gas system.	Anytime a compression fitting is found within the system, it is removed.
SCADA failures, system upsets, or false readings.	No SCADA system in use. Poorly functioning HDR's were replaced with Ranger Units. The low/high pressure test point at City Hall is tested three times a year.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.

Table 2 – Equipment Malfunctions Threats**23.3.3 – INCORRECT OPERATIONS**

- A.** There have been no reports of any activity within this threat category.
- B.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of incorrect operations is as detailed in Section 4.2.3 of the DIMP and Table 3 of this Section.

Incorrect Operations Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Service outages due to operator error.	None.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Odor tests finding insufficient odorant.	None. This would affect the amount of public reported leaks, and the City has very few of these.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Response times to leak or odor calls.	Average response times are within 15 minutes, and duration to make the situation safe averages under 1 hour.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.

Table 3 – Incorrect Operations Threats

23.3.4 – MATERIALS, WELDS AND JOINTS

- A.** Material defects are addressed on a case-by-case basis depending upon what the defect is and whether the item in question has been installed or not. Additional items of the same type or items in the same stock delivery may be inspected for similar faults.
- B.** Joint failures are caused by either equipment or operator errors and procedures are in place to address these errors. These include but are not limited to: Re-qualifying welders and procedures; Review of procedures; Peer review of work. All welders re-qualify on welding and fusion procedures annually. During the welding requalification, steel welded joints are externally inspected and destructively tested for all processes and welders.
- C.** All known mechanical couplings (other than service head adaptors) have been identified and removed from the distribution system.
- D.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of materials, welds, and joints is as detailed in Section 4.2.4 of the DIMP and Table 4 of this Section.

Materials, Welds and Joints Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Pipe failures during pressure tests.	None reported. Would be replaced and pipe of the same stock investigated.	Continue to monitor - no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Joint failures during pressure tests.	None reported. Joints failing would be cut out and replaced. Examination of the welder and process used would be undertaken. All welders re-qualify every year on both PE and steel.	Continue to monitor - no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
In-service pipe or joint failures (not caused by outside force or excavation damage).	None reported. Would be replaced and pipe of the same stock investigated as well as joints made by the same welder if the welder was discovered to be at fault.	Continue to monitor - no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Production joints rejected by an inspector other than the joiner.	None reported internally. Contractor fusions have been rejected multiple times during inspection on contractor jobs.	Continue to inspect all contractor work - no further action required. Address new occurrences and review program.
Joiners failing re-qualification.	None. Retraining would take place if ever this occurred.	Continue to monitor - no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.

Table 4 – Materials, Welds and Joints Threats**23.3.5 – NATURAL FORCES**

- A.** To the best of our knowledge, leaks caused by weather and other natural forces have never taken place within the City of Ellensburg's natural gas system. There are exposed bridge crossings within the system, and these are inspected after each relevant weather event and monitored bi-monthly during Pipeline Patrol. However, there have been occasions where snow and ice have fallen from roof tops and damaged a meter set.
- B.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of natural forces is as detailed in Section 4.2.5 of the DIMP and Table 5 of this Section.

Natural Forces Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Leaks due to weather or other natural forces.	An extremely rare occurrence.	Continue to monitor - no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Repair, replacement, or relocation actions due to natural forces.	An extremely rare occurrence.	Continue to monitor - no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.

Table 5 – Natural Forces Threats

23.3.6 – EXCAVATION DAMAGE

- A.** Damage by excavation is the City of Ellensburg’s most frequent cause of leaks and damages requiring action by the City’s operatives. It is also the area where there is the greatest release of gas and potentially the most dangerous source of leaks within the City’s service territory. Work is continually ongoing to educate contractors and excavators involved in work within the City of Ellensburg’s Gas Division Service Territory.
- B.** In addition to the requirements of API RP 1162, the City proactively has many ongoing programs to educate contractors of the dangers of working near natural gas facilities. Part of the program is to offer training to contractors on safe digging practices. Developer information packets have also been created and are distributed to contractors at the time of application and at pre-construction meetings. The City’s full Public Awareness and Damage Prevention Program can be found in Section 14 of the Manual.
- C.** Gas Division staff actively participates in the local Kittitas County Utility Coordinating Council (KCUCC) and in the Yakima and Washington State UCC. Staff also participated in the work to modify RCW 19.122 and sat on the committee formulating API 1173 – Pipeline Safety Management Systems.
- D.** The design has also been changed for the installation of mains to mitigate some of the damages made in the past by contractors or local homeowners. Mains, previously installed in open ground, utility easements, off the road are now laid under the roads to be constructed and are therefore protected by asphalt when completed. Valves are installed at regular intervals to facilitate easy shut-off in the event of any escaping gas.
- E.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of excavation damage is as detailed in Section 4.2.6 of the DIMP and Table 6 of this Section.

Excavation Damage Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Excavation-caused damages.	Developer Information Packs, Pre-Application Meetings, Pre-Construction meetings, Contractor Training Sessions, Public Education Program	See Section 14 of this Manual – Damage Prevention and Public Awareness Program.
Damages by cause, facility type (mains, services), and responsible party. Cause categories include the following. (i) Excavator’s failure to call. (ii) Excavator’s failure to provide accurate ticket information (e.g., wrong address). (iii) Operator’s failure to mark. (iv) Operator’s failure to mark accurately. (v) Excavator’s failure to wait required time for marking. (vi) Excavator’s failure to protect/maintain marks. (vii) Excavator’s failure to utilize precaution when excavating within the tolerance zone.	Developer Information Packets Pre-Application Meetings Pre-Construction Meetings Contractor Training Sessions Public Education Program Financial Penalties	In all cases of excavation damage, the following progression will be followed based on reoccurrence and negligence: 1. Send a letter and education material to excavator and monitor for future compliance with Dig Laws. Submit a DIRT report. 2. Impose financial penalties for the cost to evaluate and repair the damage. Suggest training and monitor for future Dig Law compliance. Submit a DIRT report. 3. Impose triple financial penalties for the cost to evaluate and repair the damage (RCW 19.122.070). Strongly suggest training and monitor for future Dig Law compliance. Submit DIRT report. File complaint to WA State Dig Law Safety Committee.

(viii) Excavator's failure to properly support and protect facility.		
Leaks or failures on previously damaged pipe.	Previously damaged pipe is not usually permitted to remain in the system and is replaced or repaired.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Mis-locates later identified.	None have fallen into this category to date.	Retraining of Locator if it occurs. Locators are Gas Division staff and not outside contractors.

Table 6 – Excavation Damage Threats**23.3.7 – OTHER OUTSIDE FORCES**

- A.** Damages by other outside forces are difficult to predict, especially when caused by vandalism, fire or explosions, or vehicular damage. However, measures can be taken to minimize this risk. For example, protective barriers can be placed around meters that are susceptible to vehicular damage.
- B.** Damaged pipe that has been reported to the City has been addressed within the previous six threat assessments. The only pipes falling into this category are pipe damages that are not reported.
- C.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of other outside forces is as detailed in Section 4.2.7 of the DIMP and Table 7 of this Section.

Other Outside Forces Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Leaks or failures caused, or repairs necessitated, by vandalism.	Very few ever reported or discovered. Addressed on a case-by-case basis. This kind of activity cannot be predicted.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Leaks or failures caused, or repairs necessitated, by vehicular damage.	Barriers installed to protect facilities.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Instances of damage secondary to non-pipeline fire or explosion.	Dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Cannot be predicted.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Leaks, failures, damage, or movement caused by blasting.	No blasting is allowed to take place without the use and review of a blasting program. Mitigation measures are formulated on a case-by-case basis.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Leaks, failures, damage, or movement caused by heavy vehicle traffic over or near pipelines.	No leaks have ever been reported due to heavy traffic. There are no areas where this occurs. Railroad crossings are sleeved and deep.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Animals eating/damaging pipe.	A very rare occurrence.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.
Earth Movement/Earth Moving.	No leaks have ever been reported due to any earth movement.	Continue to monitor – no further action required. Address any occurrence and review program.

Table 7 – Other Outside Forces Threats**23.3.8 – OTHER THREATS**

- A.** There have been no reports of any activity within this threat category.
- B.** A full threat assessment on all aspects of other threats is as detailed in Section 4.2.8 of the DIMP and Table 8 of this Section.

Other Threats		
Activity	Occurrence/Acceptance	Remarks/Requirements
Cyber Attacks	The City of Ellensburg was the victim of a ransomware attack on December 20, 2020, where all files were not accessible until January 7, 2021.	The City has enhanced its security measures and the Gas Division has moved its file base to a Cloud-based Storage. There is no remote control for any devices, valves, equipment, etc. within the City's Gas Utility. If any remote control/SCADA is installed, it will be monitored and protected.

Table 8 – Other Threats

23.4 – SYSTEM INTEGRITY THREATS – RISK PRIORITIZATION

{49 CFR §192.1007(c)}

Chapter 5 of the DIMP determines the relative importance and ranks the risks posed to the distribution system. Out of the 45 threats that are assessed in Section 4.2 of the DIMP, only 18 are identified as requiring consideration for the Risk Ranking. A Relative Risk score (ranging from 0-30) is applied to each risk based on four factors – Probability, Consequence, Leak Cause Factor, and Incident Probability Factor. Of the 18 threats prioritized on the four factors, only one (1) recorded a Relative Risk score above 7.5 or 25%. This threat is as follows:

- Excavation Damages – Third Party Damages, Score of 16.51

23.5 – MEASURES TO ADDRESS RISKS

{49 CFR §192.1007(e)}

- A.** In order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the DIMP, the City of Ellensburg's Gas Division will keep and annually report records of the following performance measures:
1. The number of hazardous leaks either eliminated or repaired, categorized by cause and material
 2. The number of leaks either eliminated or repaired, categorized by cause
 3. The number of excavation tickets received
 4. The number of excavation damages
 5. The number of excess flow valves installed on the system
 6. The number of hazardous leaks resulting from the failure of a mechanical fitting
 7. The number of manual service line shut-off valves installed on the system
- B.** The information required to monitor these performance measures is obtained from the following:
1. Leak Investigation Report (LIR) and Leak Repair Reports (LRR).
 2. Leak Investigation Reports are all entered into a database which totals the number of leaks, categorized by cause and material. Underground leaks are additionally entered into our GIS system map. Leak Investigation Reports are also put into the main or address file along with any necessary Leak Repair Reports.
 3. Locate tickets are done through a WA One-Call application, ITIC. The ticket information is gathered/monitored through the National Ticket Management System (NTMS).
 4. Excess flow valves are recorded on the Work Orders, Work Order database, and on the Services database.
 5. Service Line Shut-off Valves are recorded in the Valve Catalog and the Services Database. Additionally both are shown on the Gas System Map in AutoCAD and ArcGIS.
- C.** Section 6.2 of the DIMP lists additional measures that will be taken to address the priority risks that have been identified. Section 23.3 Tables 1-7 also lists additional measures that will be taken for those specific identified activities/threats.
- D.** The Leak/Locate Forms shall also record the following information:
1. Leak Investigation Reports and Leak Repair Reports shall record the leak grade when found, but should also include the leak grade when left, if any. In addition, the LIR forms should record the time when made or declared safe.

2. Locate tickets have been modified to record additional information at the bottom of the locate form, as shown in Appendix B of this Section under the 2014 Pro-Active Actions. This dictates if any subsequent work will be required at this location.

23.6 – MEASURE PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS

- A.** Chapter 7 of the DIMP lists performance measures that will be tracked to evaluate the effectiveness of the measure. With each update of the DIMP it will be determined if there are any trends that indicate the performance measures are not effective. Implementing additional measures will be considered to address any changes in the threat assessment.
- B.** The data collected annually from the performance measures in 23.5(A) of this Section is used to establish a baseline and monitor year-to-year effectiveness of the DIMP. The current baseline is an average of the data collected from 2013 to 2018. The previous baseline was an average of the data collected from 2004 to 2009. This baseline is still shown where applicable to provide a more historical look at the trending of the data and the effectiveness of the City's DIMP over a larger period of time.
- C.** The following tables show the performance and effectiveness through the lens of the data measures used to evaluate the DIMP. When inconsistencies in the data indicate a negative trend, then the data will be analyzed by the Gas Engineer and Gas Operations Supervisor. Analysis may lead to more discussion with additional Gas Division staff to better understand the negative trend and whether this is an issue that needs to be addressed through additional actions within the DIMP or whether the trend is an outlier that just needs to be monitored and reviewed the following year.
- D.** At any time during review and analysis of the DIMP or throughout the year as tasks are performed and a threat or potential threat is identified and determined to be outside of the expertise of City Gas Personnel, a Subject Matter Expert (SME) shall be promptly consulted to determine if and what steps the City Gas Division needs to take to mitigate the threat or potential threat.

HAZARDOUS LEAKS					
By Cause	Baseline (2013-2018)	2022	2023	2024	2025
Corrosion Failure	0.0	0	0	0	0
Natural Force Damage	0.0	0	0	0	0
Excavation Damage	1.7	5	4	7	1
Other Outside Force Damage	1.5	1	1	1	0
Pipe, Weld or Joint Failure	0.3	0	0	0	0
Equipment Failure	0.0	3	0	0	2
Incorrect Operations	0.0	0	0	0	0
Other Cause	0.0	0	0	0	0
Total Hazardous Leaks	3.5	9	5	8	0
By Material	Baseline (2013-2018)	2022	2023	2024	2025
HDPE	1.8	6	4	7	1
Steel	0.5	0	0	0	0
Other	1.2	3	1	1	2

Table 8 – Details of Hazardous Leaks

ALL LEAKS FROM PUBLIC CALL-OUTS						
	Previous Baseline (2004-2009)	Current Baseline (2013-2018)	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Leak Calls from the Public	133.2	116.3	142	160	190	149
Minor Leaks on Meters	43.3	24.7	18	21	31	33
Excavation Damages	7.2	1.7	5	4	7	1
Valve Leaks	3.8	2.3	1	1	4	1
All Other Sources and Causes – Mains/Services	1.3	2.2	0	2	2	0
Total Leaks	55.6	30.8	24	28	44	35

Table 9 – Details of Leaks Found from Public Call-Outs

LEAK SURVEY LEAKS						
	Previous Baseline (2004-2009)	Current Baseline (2013-2018)	2022	2023	2024	2025
Customer Piping	0.7	0.0	1	0	0	0
Meters	11.2	10.5	24	8	17	7
Valve Leaks	0.0	0.2	0	3	0	0
Mains and Services	1.7	1.3	1	0	0	0
Total Leak Survey Leaks	13.6	12.0	26	11	17	7

Table 10 – Details of Leaks Found During Annual Leak Surveys

ADDITIONAL DATA ANALYSIS						
	Previous Baseline (2004-2009)	Current Baseline (2013-2018)	2022	2023	2024	2025
Excavation Tickets Received	840	1127	1977	1592	1939	1944
Excavation Damages	7.2	1.7	7	6	10	2
Excavation Damages Per 1000 Tickets	8.57	1.46	3.54	3.77	5.16	1.02
Hazardous Leaks due to Mechanical Fitting Failure	n/a	0.0	0	0	0	0
EFV's Installed	n/a	59.0	102	135	119	23
Manual Service Line Shut-Off Valves Installed	n/a	1.0	3	5	3	2
Emergency Response Time to Call-Outs	n/a	n/a	11 Min	11 Min	10 Min	11 Min
Days Without a Reportable OSHA Incident	n/a	0	365	365	366	365
Number of Mislocates/Mismarks per 1000 Tickets	n/a	0	0	0.63	0	0
Letters Sent to Contractors/Homeowners	n/a	n/a	21	12	15	7

Table 11 – Additional Performance Measure Data Analysis

23.7 – APGA SOAR EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

The American Public Gas Association (APGA) has a Program designed to recognize natural gas distribution utilities for operational excellence. The System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) award honors natural gas distribution utilities that demonstrate commitment to excellence in four areas:

- System Integrity
- System Improvement
- Employee Safety
- Workforce Development

The City of Ellensburg Gas Division has taken this Program as an opportunity to integrate the application into an annual overall system review. The SOAR Program is built on, and challenges gas utilities to go above and beyond the requirements and move toward progressive and proactive excellence. The exhaustive and thorough list of questions holds the City of Ellensburg Gas Division accountable and enhances all areas of our system including our DIMP. The annual SOAR review is being included in this DIMP Program as an enhancement to overall system integrity.

Some of the areas of improvement and enhancement generated by the use of the SOAR application include:

- Additional safety training categories added to annual safety training
- Inclusion of “Stop the Job” practice through inclusion of pre-job safety meetings, discussion at every monthly Gas Division meeting (including all Gas Division staff), and addition to the O&M Manual
- Contribution to the APGA Research Foundation
- Commitment to adding a Pipeline Safety Management System (PSMS) Program
- Partnership with the EPA through their Methane Challenge and Natural Gas STAR Programs
- Addition and inclusion of the AGA National Mutual Aid Agreement
- Addition of an Environmental Stewardship Program

23.8 – EVALUATION OF INDUSTRY TRENDS

With the City Gas Division being a small gas distribution operator, it is important to have industry partnerships and to evaluate trends in the industry that may not be seen by our smaller sample size. This Sub-Section outlines industry specific data analysis and information that the City Gas Division considers as this Program is reviewed or re-evaluated.

23.8.1 – PLASTIC PIPE DATA COLLECTION (PPDC)

In 2020, the City Gas Division began voluntarily reporting on a monthly basis to the Plastic Pipe Data Collection (PPDC) Initiative. Starting in 2001, a Plastic Pipe Database Committee formed with the purpose to improve the knowledge base of gas utility operators and regulators and to monitor and determine if any trends exist in the performance of plastic piping systems. The committee is comprised of seven stakeholders that include the following:

- American Gas Association (AGA)
- American Public Gas Association (APGA)
- U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR)
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI)

In addition to voluntarily reporting, the City Gas Division periodically reviews the reports available from the PPDC to evaluate trends and timeline updates to see if there are any potential impacts to our system we could be proactive about.

23.8.2 – INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

One of the best ways to gain relevant and current industry knowledge and trends is through active involvement with industry associations. The City Gas Division is an active member of the American Public Gas Association (APGA) and has staff involved in multiple committees and task groups at varying levels. This involvement allows staff to sit in on roundtables, committee meetings, and attend conferences where current and relevant information is discussed openly, allowing members to improve on their own programs and practices.

23.9 – PHMSA ADVISORY BULLETINS

PHMSA utilizes and presents public notices and advisory bulletins as sources of information collection, public meetings, safety advisories and general notices. Additionally, the notices and advisory bulletins are linked to the Federal Register as an official public record.

The City of Ellensburg Gas Division receives, reviews, and responds to the gas distribution related PHMSA advisory bulletins.

1. **RECEIVE** The Gas Division receives the bulletins through multiple sources, including; Direct email subscription through PHMSA, WinDOT Subscription, RCP DOT Pipeline Compliance News emails, APGA Operations and Safety Committee, and notices from our State regulators.
2. **REVIEW** The Gas Division reviews the bulletins during the Monthly Safety Meeting. This meeting includes all Gas Division staff. The bulletins are attached to the meeting agenda and discussed as a full group.
3. **RESPOND** The Gas Division determines if an action is warranted or if the bulletin does not directly apply to our system based on our operations, materials, etc. These decisions and actions are then documented.

Complete and consolidated documentation of this process can be found on the City Gas Division's SharePoint Network under the Advisory Bulletins folder.

Energy Services Monthly Report

Date: 06/18/2026

Electric:

- Welcome Brittany Holmes! Brittany joined the team as the Sustainability & Energy Coordinator on June 1, 2026.
- The Bonneville Power Administration Provider (BPA) of Choice Above-CHWM Election for Option A was approved by Council on June 15, 2026. The election deadline was moved to July 27, 2026.
- BPA will not be moving forward with the dispute resolution process for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Contract High Water Marks (CHWM) Calculation Process. Preliminary final CHWM were published on May 28, 2026. The City of Ellensburg's Provider of Choice CHWM remains at 25.231 aMW.5.
- A joint emergency tabletop exercise is scheduled for June 15th with both the Gas and Light Divisions.
- The Electric Power Entity (EPE) report was submitted on 5/26/2026, WAC 173-441-124. EPE emissions increased from 3,619 MTCO_{2e} to 10,235 MTCO_{2e}, exceeding the 10,000 MTCO_{2e} threshold identified in Ecology guidance. As a result, the City is now subject to mandatory greenhouse gas reporting for the electric utility under Chapter 173-441 WAC.
- For participating solar customers enrolled in the Renewable Energy Incentive Program (RESIP) - RCW 82.16.170, annual solar production documentation is being collected now for processing and payment.
- The Community Solar Expansion Program (CSEP) - RCW 82.16.183: Is a solar program designed to support community solar projects benefiting income qualified subscribers, their service providers, and tribal or public agencies. Energy Services will be standing this program up and taking new applications for the upcoming cycle (July 2027).
- Staff advertised Bid Call 2026-02 Feeder 7 Construction And Feeder 1 Line Extension to serve WinCo. Bids were opened May 21st at 3:00 pm. We received seven bids and deemed that 3 bids were nonresponsive. The bid is scheduled to be awarded to the apparent lowest responsive and responsible bidder Magnum Power LLC for the bid amount of \$1,055,592.00. The bid submitted by Mangum Power LLC, is below the Engineer's Estimate of \$1,651,800.73, by approximately 56%. The developer (Winco) has signed the Developer's Agreement and will pay all costs associated with this project. The 2026 Electric Utility Budget includes adequate expenditure authority for this bid award.
- Staff conducted substation tours to CWU engineering and construction science students.

Gas:

- Staff participated in the recent Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Auction #14 on June 3, 2026, and successfully obtained allowances at the settlement price of \$64.56/allowance.
- The Asset Management Agreement and Base Contracts for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas with Tenaska Marketing Ventures and Tenaska Gas Storage, LLC was approved by Council on June 15, 2026.

- Crews completed the annual atmospheric corrosion survey and have started the annual leak survey. Crews are performing customer driven work including new services, abandoned service, and service relocations. Crews continue with residential meter change outs as time allows.
- A joint emergency tabletop exercise is scheduled for June 15th with both the Gas and Light Divisions.
- Staff participated in Touch-A-Truck on June 17th.
- Staff is working with consultants on the SR 97/Hwy 10 main extension design.
- Staff is working with Kimley-Horn on the 6-year Gas System Plan.
- Darren Larsen, Gas Operations Supervisor and Marcello Martinez, Gas Foreperson will be retiring at the end of June.
- Interviews took place for the Gas Foreperson on June 11th.

Telecom:

- Staff was approached by Ziplly Fiber's consultant, CBRE, in search for a location for Ziplly fiber's hut. They stated they are searching for underutilized city owned land that they can lease and place a 1,500 sqft fiber hut with a backup generator.
- Staff revisited quote for Fieldhouse Dark Fiber. Corrections were made and quote was resent in the amount of \$22,518.66.

STAY 10 FEET AWAY FROM OVERHEAD LINES

IT'S THE LAW. FOR YOUR SAFETY

Always keep yourself, your equipment, and what you're carrying at least 10 feet away from overhead utility lines.



10 FEET MINIMUM CLEARANCE

Required by OSHA/WAC for the general public, construction, and unqualified workers around energized lines 50 kV and below.

WAC 296-54-529

Overhead electrical lines clearance



PLAN AHEAD

Look up and identify overhead lines before you start. Plan your work to stay outside the 10-foot zone.

WAC 296-307-15006

Working near overhead lines



KEEP IT 10 FEET AWAY

Keep ladders, lifts, tools, paint rollers, and anything you're holding at least 10 feet from overhead lines.



ELECTRICITY CAN JUMP

Electricity can arc or jump. Staying outside the 10-foot zone helps protect you from serious injury or death.



REMEMBER

- ✔ It's not just the lines.
- ✔ It's everything around them.
- ✔ Stay 10 feet away.



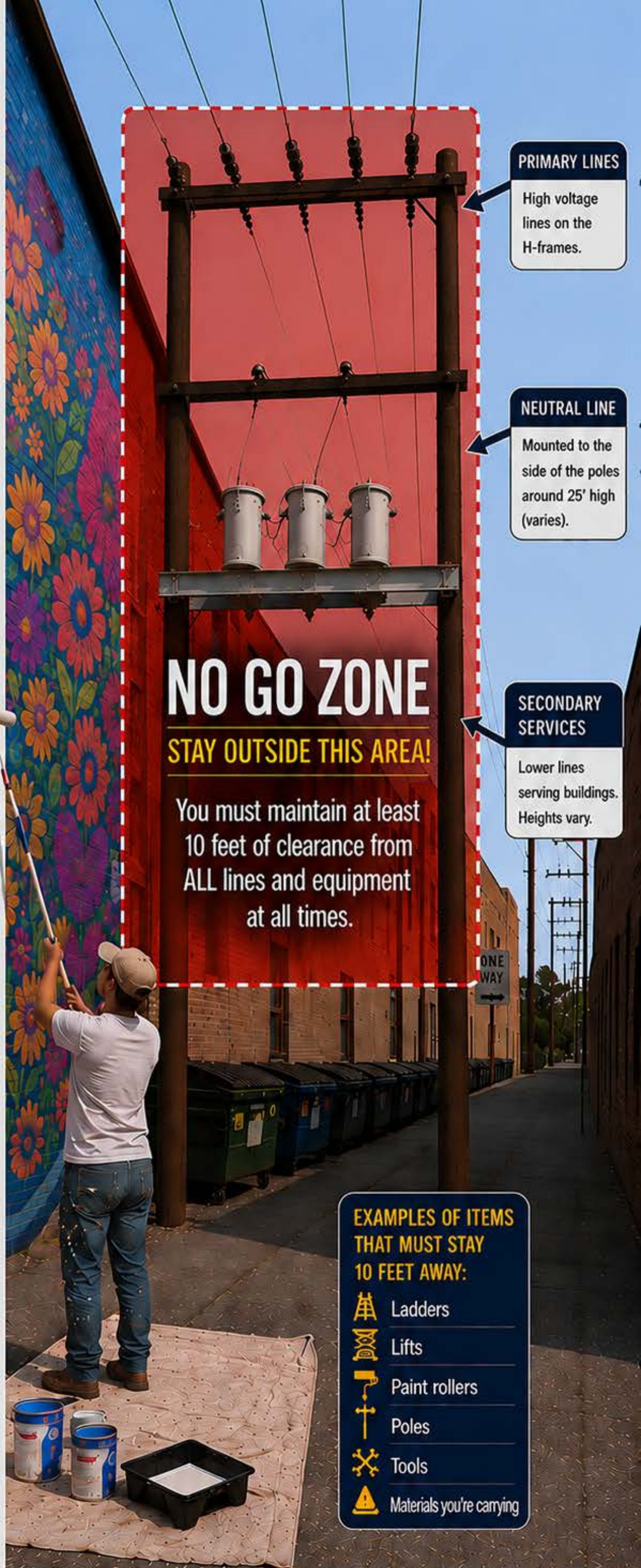
WORK SAFE. STAY SAFE.

Thank you for helping keep our community safe.



LIGHT DIVISION

(509) 962-7124



PRIMARY LINES

High voltage lines on the H-frames.

NEUTRAL LINE

Mounted to the side of the poles around 25' high (varies).

SECONDARY SERVICES

Lower lines serving buildings. Heights vary.

NO GO ZONE

STAY OUTSIDE THIS AREA!

You must maintain at least 10 feet of clearance from ALL lines and equipment at all times.

EXAMPLES OF ITEMS THAT MUST STAY 10 FEET AWAY:

- Ladders
- Lifts
- Paint rollers
- Poles
- Tools
- Materials you're carrying



CONTACT WITH POWER LINES CAN BE FATAL.

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911



NATURAL GAS SAFETY

Be aware of Natural Gas Infrastructure

Always keep yourself, your equipment, and what you're carrying away from natural gas infrastructure.

Damage to gas lines or equipment can cause leaks, fires, explosions, serious injury, or death. Keep access clear at all times.



KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Natural gas infrastructure may include meters, regulators, vents, valves, piping, and other appurtenances. Know what's near your work area.



LOOK BEFORE YOU WORK

Identify natural gas lines and equipment before you start. Plan your work to avoid contact or damage. Keep yourself and others safe.



KEEP AWAY AND KEEP CLEAR

Do not paint over, lean on, or place ladders, lifts, tools, or materials on or against gas infrastructure. Keep equipment and supplies away. Maintain clear access at all times.



AVOID IGNITION SOURCES

Natural gas is flammable. Do not smoke, use open flames, or operate spark-producing tools or equipment near gas infrastructure.



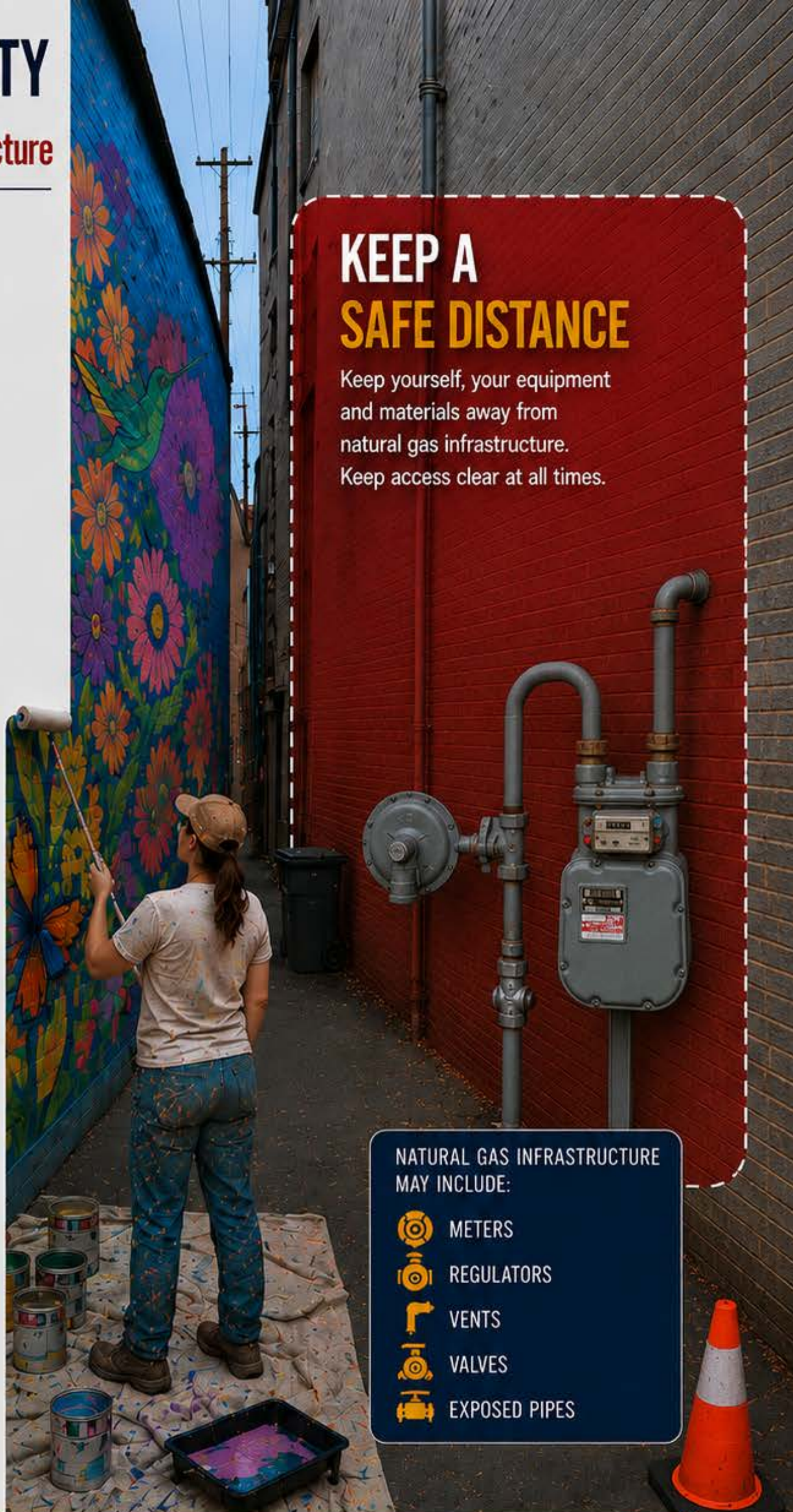
CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Planning any excavation or ground disturbance? Call 811 at least 2 business days before you dig, grade, or trench.



RECOGNIZE A LEAK

You may hear a hissing sound or smell a rotten egg odor. Leave the area immediately and call 911.



KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE

Keep yourself, your equipment and materials away from natural gas infrastructure. Keep access clear at all times.

NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE MAY INCLUDE:

- METERS
- REGULATORS
- VENTS
- VALVES
- EXPOSED PIPES

REMEMBER

- It's not just the pipes.
- It's your safety, your crew, and your community.
- Do not obstruct or block access to gas infrastructure.

IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SEE DAMAGE:



Leave the area immediately



Call 911 from a safe location



Do not light anything



Do not return until it's safe



GAS DIVISION
(509) 962-7124



CONTACT WITH POWER LINES CAN BE FATAL.

IN AN EMERGENCY
CALL 911

