



Wisconsin Electric-Wisconsin Gas
231 W. Michigan St.
Milwaukee, WI 53290-0001
Phone 414 221-2345

October 2, 2001

Alderman Michael J. Murphy
Milwaukee Common Council
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Murphy:

Wisconsin Electric-Wisconsin Gas (WE-WG) agrees that it is important to inform residents of large projects in the public right-of-way (ROW) that will have a significant impact on their daily lives, yet the proposed ordinance (001675) goes beyond that and will significantly limit Wisconsin Electric-Wisconsin Gas's ability to maintain its facilities.

Currently, WE-WG notifies customers when our work would impede or obstruct access to private property and when our work will result in the interruption of utility services. Both of these instances are part of the proposed ordinance. The burden of the proposed ordinance comes from the notification to property owners and Aldermen for work that will be in progress for more than 48 hours.

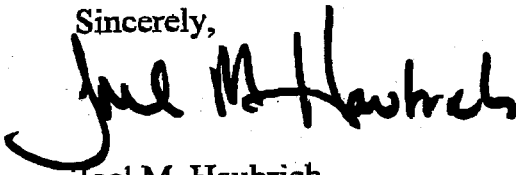
The proposed ordinance require a 72 hour advance notice to adjacent property owners if work will take place longer than 48 hours. This 72 hour requirement will not allow us to efficiently or effectively coordinate our work due to differing work loads, unforeseen interruptions, customer requests, and weather conditions. Often we change work schedules pulling crews off a proposed project and moving them to a different more crucial one. This flexibility would be neutered by the proposed ordinance.

The City of Milwaukee recognizes our need for flexibility in the permit process with – in some cases – a 180 day window to complete a project. The proposed ordinance forces us to pre-plan every job we do (in the City of Milwaukee) and closes that window to three days. More often than not we do not know which project we will begin 72 hours before we do so.

The current permitting process provides the City of Milwaukee with a mechanism to inform council members of pending excavation projects. The Departments of Public Works and City Development administer the City's process for use of public ROW. These departments interface with utilities and contractors conducting excavation projects and have information on these projects that could be easily passed along to council members. Having DPW and DCD notice council members may be a more seamless way to provide information about impending excavation in their districts.

WE-WG has been performing work in the public ROW for over 100 years. We hope you will consider our concerns.

Sincerely,



Joel M. Haubrich

cc: Ald. Annette E. Scherbert,
Ald. Robert G. Donovan,
Ald. Terrance J. Herron,
Ald. Angel Sanchez
Robert Harvey, Committee Clerk