



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION

April 11, 2011

Thomas Ashland
Ashland Brothers Landscaping, Inc.
2633 Old Midland Road
Klamath Falls OR 97603

Thomas Ashland, Registered Agent
Ashland Brothers Landscaping, Inc.
PO Box 130
Woodburn OR 97071

Re: Violation of Oregon Utility Notification Center Rules
DOJ File No.: 860-100-GB0263-11 / Docket No.: NC 307

**PLEASE READ ALL DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY –
DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON**

On March 16, 2011, a representative from your company met with the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) Enforcement Committee to discuss an alleged rule violation. At that meeting, an agreement was reached regarding penalties for the violation.

Enclosed are two sets of documents that formalize the allegation and the agreement. One set is made up of original documents. The other set is a set of copies for your files.

Please refer to the originals. The complaint simply serves as a formal notice to you of the violation you were charged with and requires that you submit an Answer to the **Public Utility Commission** responding to the allegation. You must serve your Answer on the Commission by mailing it to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon, Administrative Hearings Division, PO Box 2148, Salem, OR 97308-2148. Filing an answer would be your opportunity to admit or deny the allegation and, if denied, to ask for a formal hearing. Because you already reached an agreement with the OUNC Committee, you do not need to submit an answer. Instead, you need only sign and return the enclosed Stipulation in order to answer the Complaint.

The Stipulation sets forth the terms and conditions of the agreement you reached with the committee. **You must sign and return the Stipulation within 20 days of the date of this letter in order for it to be approved by the Public Utility Commission as a resolution to the pending Complaint. You need not make payment until the Commission has issued a final order in this matter.**

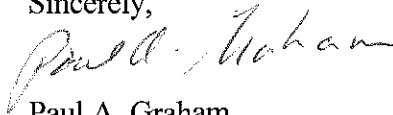
If for some reason you no longer agree to the terms of the Stipulation, you MUST FILE AN ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT, admitting or denying the allegation.

If there is a discrepancy between the formal Stipulation and the agreement reached at the meeting that causes you concern, please contact Michael Thompson at (503) 378-6760.

Otherwise, please return the signed Stipulation to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon at the following address so this matter can be resolved:

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Administrative Hearings Division
550 Capitol St NE – Suite 215
PO Box 2148
Salem OR 97308-2148

Sincerely,



Paul A. Graham
Attorney-in-Charge
Business Activities Section

Enclosures
PAG/nal/#2635597

1 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**
2 **OF OREGON**

3 NC 307

4 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
5 OREGON,

6 Complainant,

COMPLAINT

7 v.

8 ASHLAND BROTHERS LANDSCAPING,
9 INC. (an Oregon corporation),

10 Defendant.

11 1.

12 This proceeding is initiated by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (hereinafter
13 “Commission”) to determine whether civil monetary penalties should be assessed as provided in
14 ORS 757.993. The Commission maintains its office at:

15 550 Capitol St NE – Suite 215, PO Box 2148, Salem, OR 97307-2148.

16 2.

17 At all times herein relevant, the defendant was doing business in this state.

18 3.

19 Under ORS 757.993, the Commission has discretion to seek penalties for violations of
20 rules adopted by the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC).

21 4.

22 Under ORS 757.552, OUNC has adopted rules that prescribe requirements for
23 notification to OUNC of excavation activity and marking of underground facilities for the
24 purpose of preventing damage to such facilities.

25 ///

26 ///

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

5.

OUNC adopted OAR 952-001-0050 which was in effect at all times herein relevant. The rule provides in relevant part:

(1) * * * [A]t least two (2) business days, but not more than ten (10) business days before commencing an excavation, the excavator shall notify the Oregon Utility Notification Center of the date and location of the proposed excavation, and the type of work to be performed.

6.

On or about October 7, 2010, defendant violated OAR 952-001-0050 in that the defendant failed to notify the Oregon Utility Notification Center of a proposed excavation before commencing the excavation.

7.

ORS 757.993 provides, in relevant part, that:

“* * * every person who violates or who procures, aids or abets in the violation of any rule of the Oregon Utility Notification Center shall incur a penalty of not more than \$1,000 for the first violation and not more than \$5,000 for each subsequent violation.”

8.

Defendant has not violated OUNC rules in the past.

9.

WHEREFORE, the Commission directs the defendant to file a verified answer to this complaint within twenty (20) days from the date this complaint is mailed to the defendant. If no verified answer or other written appearance raising a question of fact or law is filed with the Commission at its office in Salem, Oregon, within the 20-day period, the allegations of the

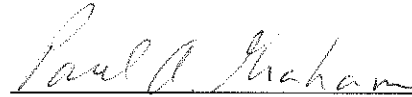
///
///
///
///

1 complaint shall be deemed admitted, and a penalty shall be imposed in the amount of \$1,000 for
2 each violation alleged, for a total of \$1,000.

3
4 DATED this 11th day of April, 2011.

5 Respectfully submitted,

6 JOHN R. KROGER
7 Attorney General

8 

9 Paul A. Graham, OSB #77190
10 Assistant Attorney General
11 Of Attorneys for the Public Utility Commission
12 of Oregon
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

1 4.

2 The parties further agree that the Commission may enter an order assessing civil
3 monetary penalties against the defendant in the amount of \$1,000 under the following terms and
4 conditions:

- 5 A. Defendant shall sign and return this stipulation within 20 days of the date it was served
6 upon (mailed to) defendant.
- 7 B. \$200 shall become due and payable on or before the 30th day following the
8 Commission's entry of a final order in this case.
- 9 C. Payment shall be by money order made out to the Public Utility Commission of
10 Oregon, and the memo line of the cashier's check or money order shall state the "NC"
11 docket number in the caption of this stipulation.
- 12 D. Payment of the balance of the penalties (\$800) shall be permanently suspended and no
13 further penalties shall be imposed for the violation alleged in the Complaint unless
14 defendant fails to comply with all of the terms of this stipulation and all of the rules
15 adopted by the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) under ORS 757.552 for a one
16 year period following the date of the Commission's entry of a final order.
- 17 E. Defendant shall contact the OUNC Speakers Bureau online at www.digsafelyoregon.com
18 or by calling (503) 232-1987 to arrange for and attend a training session on Oregon
19 excavation laws within 45 days following the entry of a final order.
- 20 F. In the event that complainant contends that the defendant has not complied with all of the
21 terms of this stipulation and all OUNC rules for that one year period, complainant may
22 reopen this proceeding and petition for imposition of all or a portion of the suspended
23 penalties. In such case defendant shall be entitled to a hearing and to be notified of the
24 basis upon which complainant contends that compliance has not occurred.

25 ///

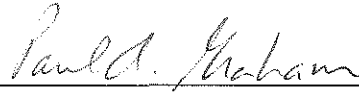
26 ///

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

5.

This stipulation is conditioned upon final approval of its terms by the Commission. If the stipulation is not accepted in its entirety, it shall be deemed withdrawn.

DATED this 11th day of April, 2011.



Paul A. Graham, OSB #77190
Assistant Attorney General
Of Attorneys for the Public Utility Commission
of Oregon

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Representative for Defendant (signature)

(Print name)