

Demolition Safety Stakeholder Group Meeting:
12806 Gateway Drive S, Tukwila, WA; September 7, 2018 9:00am-12:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Organization represented (in no particular order):

Walsh Group
NW Laborers Employers Training Trust (NWLETT)
Associated General Contractors of Washington (AGC)
NW Laborers Employers Training Trust (NWLETT)
NW Laborers Employers Training Trust (NWLETT)
Laborers 252
Atkinson Construction
Venture General Contracting (Venture GC)
ABC of West Washington
TW Clark Construction

Welcome/Introductions:

A representative of Labor and Industries Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) called the meeting to order at 9:02am. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Discussion:

DOSH informed the group DOSH intends to conduct rulemaking to update the requirements in Chapter 296-155 WAC, Standards for Construction Work, Part S, Demolition.

DOSH staff informed the group DOSH is initiating this change to remove confusing and unnecessary language as well as add clarification where necessary throughout the rule to improve safety.

Some rule sections that may be updated include: preparatory operations; stairs, passageways, and ladders; chutes; removal of materials through floor openings; removal of walls, masonry sections, and chimneys; catch platforms; removal of steel constructions; and, mechanical demolition.

During the meeting, DOSH staff reviewed the WAC as currently written (attached); and, presented the changes proposed by the agency. Each of the proposed changes was discussed among attendees. Suggestions contributed by attendees were discussed; and, documented for further discussion at future stakeholder meetings. Only sections in which stakeholders voiced concerns, comments and questions are documented below.

Detailed Review of WAC 296-155 Part S Demolition: WAC 296-155-775 Preparatory operations

WAC 296-155-775 (1)(a) DOSH staff reviewed the WAC as currently written; and, shared with attendees the proposed changes to this section.

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: To whom does “you” refer? Does “you” refer to the “employer” or the “owner of the building?” The stakeholder also brought up concerns with bidding for contracts dependent upon who is responsible for hazards identified during demolition; such as asbestos, silica etc.

DOSH Response: “You” refers to “the employer.”

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: Who is required to complete the Demolition Pre-Start Survey? Engineer or competent person?

DOSH Response: The regulation does not require an engineer.

WAC 296-155-775 (5)(b)

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: Suggest adding “safe place” language from Chapter 296-800 WAC Safety Standards for Core Rules.

DOSH Response: Section may need further updating.

WAC 296-155-775(9)

DOSH staff reviewed the WAC as currently written; and, shared with attendees the proposed changes to this section. Proposed changes include separating into two sub-sections. The purpose is to determine if hazards present.

WAC 296-155-775(9)(a)

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: Is “you defined?” Group discussed definition; and, placement of definitions in the WAC.

DOSH response: “You” is defined as the employer.

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: Any reference to good faith survey?

DOSH Response: If asbestos discovered, follow asbestos WAC.

DOSH question to group: Would it help to include sections of other rules in this section?

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: At least the good faith by owner of property and have available during bidding process. Don’t want to lead to decrease in safety.

DOSH Response: Owner has to ensure.

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: Regarding good faith; need definition to identify what is there; and, have available.

WAC 296-155-775(10 and 11)

DOSH staff reviewed the WAC as currently written; and, shared with attendees the proposed changes to this section.

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: The group discussed in detail “removal of hazards prior to starting demolition” when hazards may be identified during demolition process; for example, broken glass.

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: A stakeholder identified the discrepancy between 296-155-775(10) and 296-155-775(11) whereby #10 refers to a “hazard,” and, #11 refers to “hazards to employees.”

WAC 296-155-800(4) Manual removal of floors

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: The group discussed “ample strength” and asked that it be defined. Ambiguous terms such as “efficient,” “ample,” and “effective,” and “competence” leave open for interpretation of the reader.

WAC 296-155-805(1) Removal of walls, floors, and material with equipment.

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: The group discussed the term “sufficient strength” and noted it also was open for interpretation.

Additional discussion:

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: One attendee suggested moving definitions to the front of Part S.

Stakeholder(s) questions/comments: Attendees discussed terms such as “qualified,” “competent,” and “competent supervision” and, noted terms should be defined or not used.

Recap:

DOSH staff and attendees discussed the changes being proposed by Labor and Industries; and, the concerns and suggestions provided by stakeholders.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, attendees were encouraged to provide additional thoughts and/or suggestions via email to discuss at future stakeholder meetings as well. It was requested suggestions and/or comments be submitted by close of business September 21, 2018 in order to process and have available at the next stakeholder meeting. No changes were submitted.

Next meetings:

DOSH staff provided the dates and locations of upcoming stakeholder meetings.

Date: Tuesday October 16, 2018

Time: 9:00-12:00; 8:30 sign in

Location: Labor and Industries, Kennewick

4310 W 24th Avenue

Kennewick, WA, 99338

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Time: 9:00-12:00; 8:30 sign in

Location: Enduris Training Facility

1610 S Technology Boulevard, Suite 100

Spokane, WA, 99224

Attachments:

Documents available for attendees at the start of the meeting:

- Agenda
- Agency proposed changes for Chapter 296-155 WAC, Standards for Construction Work, Part S Demolition
- Stakeholder comments/proposed changes for Chapter 296-155 WAC, Standards for Construction Work, Part S Demolition
- National Demolition Association Project Pre-Start Survey