



Office of the Governor of Guam

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Lieutenant Governor

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The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Speaker

Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hessler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is **Bill No. 305(EC)**, "AN ACT TO AMEND §66210, SUBPARAGRAPH (7) OF §71101 AND §71105 OF TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE PLACING OF UTILITIES ON PUBLIC EASEMENTS" which was signed into law on January 30, 2009 as **Public Law 29-146**.

<u>S</u>inseru yan Magåhet,

FELIX P. CAMACHO

I Maga'låhen Guåhan Governor of Guam

Attachment: copy of Bill

30-09-0212

Office of the Speaker Rudith T. Won Pat. Ed. D.

Date___

Received by

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 305 (EC), "AN ACT TO AMEND §66210, SUBPARAGRAPH (7) OF §71101 AND §71105 OF TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE PLACING OF UTILITIES ON PUBLIC EASEMENTS," was on the 30th day of December, 2008, duly and regularly passed.

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 305 (EC)

As substituted by the Committee on Judiciary, Natural Resources, Infrastructure And Cultural Affairs.

Introduced by:

1

Frank F. Blas, Jr.

Edward J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
James V. Espaldon
Mark Forbes
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
Frank T. Ishizaki
J. A. Lujan
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
A. B. Palacios, Sr.
R. J. Respicio
Dr. David L.G. Shimizu
Ray Tenorio
J. T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

v.c. pangelinan

AN ACT TO AMEND §66210, SUBPARAGRAPH (7) OF §71101 AND §71105 OF TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE PLACING OF UTILITIES ON PUBLIC EASEMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

- 2 Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds
- 3 that roadwork and other excavations throughout the island have in many instances
- 4 led to the needless damage of utilities. The damage caused creates problems
- 5 oftentimes affecting customers with telephone, communications, video, internet,
- 6 water, or power services. I Liheslatura further finds that these damages could have

been minimized or entirely prevented. While current law requires the location of all underground utilities that would be affected to be identified prior to the start of such projects as excavations, most times the approved plans are changed to reflect actual field conditions. The requirement to submit as built plans at the completion of the project would provide greater accuracy in identifying the field placement of the infrastructure. These drawings will provide the exact field location of underground facilities and lines and give better guidance for future projects.

It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslatura* to require an as built drawing to be submitted to the Department of Public Works upon the completion of any placement of underground facilities and lines on public easements.

Section 2. §66210 of Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

"§66210. Approved Plans: Changes Prohibited. Approved plans and specifications *shall not* be changed, modified *or* altered in any manner affected by the provisions of this *or* other applicable laws, without express written authorization from the building official, and all work *shall* be done in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.

In the event that field conditions require variations to permitted specifications *or* plot layout for ongoing and future projects affecting underground facilities on public easements, permitee *shall* maintain and file an *as built* drawing with the Department of Public Works within thirty (30) days of completion of the work. Failure to file *as built* drawing *shall* waive the permitee's *or* operator's right to recover from a subsequent contractor for any damage to the underground facilities pursuant to Chapter 71 of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated."

Section 3. §71105 of Chapter 71, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"§71105. Response to Notice of Intent to Excavate or Demolish.

(a) Each operator notified in accordance with §71104 of this Chapter, shall, not less than five (5) working days in advance of the proposed excavation or demolition (unless a shorter period is provided by agreement between the person responsible for the excavation or demolition and the operation), supply, by use of maps when appropriate, the following information to the person responsible for the excavation or demolition:

- (1) The approximate location and description of all of its underground utilities which may be damaged as a result of the excavation *or* demolition, including as built drawings of the utilities *or* underground facilities maintained by the operator filed at the Department of Public Works in accordance with §66210 of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, *if* available.
- (2) The location and description of all utility markers indicating the approximate location of the underground utilities.
- (3) Any other information that would assist that person in locating and thereby avoiding damage to the underground utilities including, the provision of adequate temporary markings indicating the approximate location of the underground utility in locations where permanent utility markers do *not* exist.
- (b) For purposes of this Section, the approximate location of underground utilities is defined as a strip of land at least three (3) feet wide but *not* wider than the width of the utility plus 1.5 feet on either side of the utility.
- (c) Failure by the operator to maintain and provide information described in subsection (a) above as built drawings from Department of Public Works' or its own records existing prior to the excavation or demolition, shall preclude operator from recovering for repair of damages to underground

utilities, facilities, or lines as provided for in Chapter 71."

- 2 (d) The operator *shall not* be liable for repair of damages to underground 3 utilities, facilities, *or* lines when it is determined that the damages occurred 4 within an area cleared by the information described in (a) above."
 - **Section 4.** §71101, Subparagraph (7) of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:
 - "(7) Operator means any person, individual, governmental agency or their agents, joint venture, firm, partnership, association, or corporation who owns or operates, a public or private underground facility or utility which furnishes a service or material or stores, transports, or transmits an electronic communication system, telecommunications system, or fiber optic, electricity, oil, natural gas, gases, steam, mixture of gases, petroleum, petroleum products, flammable fluids, or other substances of like nature or water or water systems, sewer systems or traffic, drainage control systems, or other items of like nature.

Operator also means the entities responsible for operating the public utilities of Guam specifically Guam Power Authority, Guam Waterworks Authority and the incumbent local exchange carrier as defined by §12102(e), Title 12, Guam Code Annotated."

Section 5. Severability. *If* any of the provisions of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall *not* affect any other provision or application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.