# NAAPDC and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission



## **Service Territories and Franchises**

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**October 17, 2006** 

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## **Territory Allocation**

- All but handful of states have allocated service territory
  - Reduces conflict
  - Promotes planning
  - Eliminates duplication of services
  - Enhances safety
- Some areas still unallocated
  - If issue is between Investor Owned Utilities (IOU): Determine who is closest, least expensive to serve; seek commission approval
  - If issue is between IOU and public utility: Determine who's closest and seek mutual agreement





## **Territory Allocation**

- State of Washington has no allocation
  - Promotes "competition" but at a cost
  - Promotes duplication of service
  - Reduces predictability and planning
  - Can be overcome by reaching mutual agreements





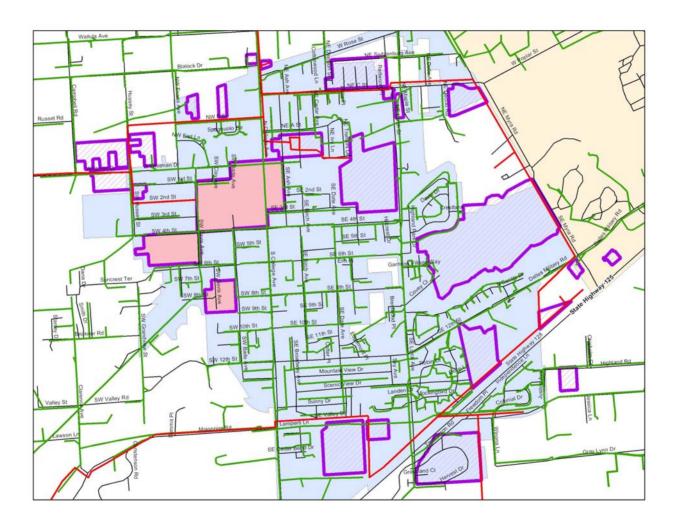
#### What can happen when there's no allocation and no agreement



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### **Patchwork Creates Inefficiency**







#### **Miscommunication**



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#### **Mutual Agreements**

- Both sides recognize the value of rationalizing capital investments
- Elements of an agreement
  - Preserve existing customers
  - Whoever is closest gets the customer
  - Dispute resolution process
- Not perfect, but better than free-for-all





#### **Franchise Agreements**

- Contract with cities for use of their rights of way
- Typical elements
  - Non-exclusive
  - Sets franchise fee level
    - 3-3.5% of revenue incorporated into base rates (not a separate line item)
    - Additional fee over 3-3.5% displayed as a separate line item: "city tax"
    - Most on "gross revenue"
  - Terms and conditions of use
    - Notification of street openings
    - Restoration of streets
    - City use of utility facilities for lights, signals, signs
    - Relocate at city's request
  - Limits liability of city, spells out rules for use of road rights of way
  - 20 year term
  - Does NOT set rates or tariffs



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## Closing

- Questions
- Closing Comments



