Electric Fence Code Amendment Proposal

Application: Z1500056COMP
Applicant: Electric Guard Dog Fencing LLC

Municipal Code Amendment
November 18, 2015 Plan Commission Workshop
Background

Applicant:

Electric Guard Dog LLC
121 Executive Center Dr. Suite 230
Columbia, SC 29210
Request:
Electric Guard Dog LLC is seeking a Text Amendment to the Spokane City Fence code, to allow business owners in Commercial and Industrial zones to install electric fence security systems inside their existing perimeter fence.

Purpose:
Provide secure locations for businesses to operate and store equipment and merchandise outdoors.
The text amendment is to install electric fence security systems with the following features:

- 10 -feet high
- 4”-12” inside an existing perimeter fence
- Perimeter fence of 6’ minimum height
- Independent of City’s electrical grid
Features

• Powered by 12-Volt Marine battery and solar panel
• Pulsed current, shock delivered every 1.3 seconds for one-tenth thousandth of a second
• Shortness of duration makes it safe to use
• Tested & Approved by MetLabs, Nationally recognized testing lab with equal authority as UL
  • Dr. Webster, University of Wisconsin, leading expert in pulsed electricity
  • Adheres to International Standard IEC 60336.2.76
• Signage posted a minimum of every 60’ warns of electric fence
Current Spokane City Code

Residential Zones

SMC 17C.110.230 (E)

(2) No person may construct or maintain a fence or barrier charged with electricity in the RSF, RTF, RMF, or RHD zones. In the RA zone, the use is permitted for the containment of livestock only.
Current Spokane City Code

Commercial and Industrial zones

SMC 17C.120.310 (D) – Commercial;
SMC 17C.124.310 (D) – Downtown;
SMC 17C.130.310 (D) – Industrial;

(2) No person may maintain a fence or barrier charged with electricity.
Division & Rockwell
Division & Gordon
Nevada and Lincoln
Lyons & Perry
Desmet and Lacey
Proposed Electric Fence Ordinance

SMC 17C.120.310 General Commercial
SMC 17C.130.310 Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial

The construction and use of electric fences shall be allowed in the city only as provided in this section, subject to the following standards:

1. **Permit**: Prior to the installation or use of any electrified fence, the property owner or tenants of the property upon which such fencing will be installed or used shall submit a completed application for review of such fencing as a building permit review to receive approval for the fence and electrical permits for the project. The application shall include:
   a. **Site plan showing the location of the protective barrier and the electrified fence** on the property in relation to the property lines, walkways, existing buildings, and curb;
   b. **Fence details showing both the electrified fence and protective barrier, including all gates**;
   c. **All supporting documentation from the electric fence manufacturer, equipment to be used, and certification of service from the monitoring provider**.

SMC 17C.120.310 General Commercial
SMC 17C.130.310 Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial
Proposed Electric Fence Ordinance

The construction and use of electric fences shall be allowed in the city only as provided in this section, subject to the following standards:

2. **IEC Standard 60335-2-76:** Unless otherwise specified herein, electric fences shall be constructed or installed in a conformance with the specifications set forth in International Electro technical Commission (IEC) Standard No. 60335-2-76.

3. **Electrification:**
   a. The energizer for electric fences must be driven by a commercial storage battery not to exceed 12 volts DC. The storage battery is charged primarily by a solar panel. However the solar panel may be augmented by a commercial trickle charger.

   b. The electric charge produced by the fence upon contact shall not exceed energizer characteristics set forth in paragraph 22.108 and depicted in Figure 102 of IEC Standard No. 60335-2-76.
Proposed Electric Fence Ordinance

The construction and use of electric fences shall be allowed in the city only as provided in this section, subject to the following standards:

4. **Perimeter fence or wall**: No electric fence shall be installed or used unless it is completely surrounded by a non-electrical fence or wall that is not less than six feet tall.
   a. There shall be a space of four (4) to twelve (12) inches between the electric fence and the perimeter fence or wall; and
   b. The exterior fence has solid covering (e.g. solid mesh, slats, etc.) to protect the aesthetics of commercial areas and to further prevent contact with the electric fence. (General Commercial only)
   c. **Electric fences shall be subject to the screening requirements of SMC 17C.200.070.**
5. **Location:**
   a. Electric fences shall be permitted on any non-residential outdoor storage areas.
   b. Electric fences shall not be installed within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a property line for a residence, or from a school, or day care facility, unless the exterior perimeter non-electrified fence is covered with a solid covering (e.g. solid mesh, slats, etc.) to further prevent contact with the electric fence. *(Industrial Only)*

6. **Height:** Electric fences shall have a minimum height of 8 feet and a maximum height of 10 feet.

7. **Warning signs:** Electric fences shall be clearly identified with warning signs that read: “Warning-Electric Fence” at intervals of not less than sixty feet.

8. Electric fence burglar alarms shall be governed and permitted under Title 10 Regulation of Activities, Chapter 10.48 False Alarms.
9. **Hours of Activation:** Electric fences shall not be activated between the hours of 8am and 5pm, except:
   a. On days when the business is closed, such as weekends or holidays;
   or
   b. When security personnel is available on-site to deactivate the electric fence

10. **Key Box**
    a. Electric fences shall have installed a key box system in accordance with the Spokane Fire Department standards
    b. The electric fence controller and emergency key safe for the electric fence must be located in a single accessible location for the entire fence

11. **Fire Department Registration:** Prior to the installation or use of any electrified fence, the property owner or tenants of the property upon which such fencing will be installed or used shall submit a completed registration for such fencing to the Fire Department using forms provided by the Fire Chief.
12. **Indemnification:** All applicants issued a permit to install or use an electric fence as provided in this section shall agree, as a condition of permit issuance, to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Spokane and its agents, officers, consultants, independent contractors and employees from any and all claims, actions or proceedings, including but not limited to those arising out of any personal injury, including death, or property damage caused by the electric fence.
13. **Emergency Access:** In the event that access by the City of Spokane Fire Department and/or Police Department personnel to a property where a permitted electric fence has been installed and is operating, is required due to an emergency or urgent circumstances, and the Knox Box or other similar approved device referred to in this section is absent or non-functional, and an owner, manager, employee, custodian or any other person with control over the property is not present to disable the electric fence, the fire or police personnel shall be authorized to disable the electric fence in order to gain access to the property. As a condition of permit issuance, all applicants issued permits to install or use an electric fence as provided in this section shall agree in writing to waive any and all claims for damages to the electric fence against the City of Spokane and/or its personnel under such circumstances.

14. It shall be unlawful for any person to install, maintain or operate an electric fence in violation of this section.
Jurisdictions that **ALLOW** electric fences in Industrial zones

- Vancouver
- Renton
- Lynwood
- Bellevue
- Newcastle
- Pasco
- Sammamish

Jurisdictions that **PROHIBIT** electric fences in Industrial zones

- Richland
- Federal Way
- Buckley
- Redmond
- Everett
- Kennewick
- Spokane Valley
Plan Commission Feedback

• Feedback on SMC Language Proposed
• Next Steps
• Questions
Thank you
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zones Allowed</th>
<th>Barrier Requirements</th>
<th>Flow</th>
<th>Signage</th>
<th>Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vancouver</strong></td>
<td>Commercial Industrial Non-residential</td>
<td>No specs</td>
<td>Only allowed at the top to a security fence as an accessory. 2’ of such wire can be attached to the top of a 6’ wall or fence, as long as it is vertical or angled in toward the enclosure.</td>
<td>No specs</td>
<td>National Electrical Code</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lynnwood</strong></td>
<td>All zones</td>
<td>No specs</td>
<td>1 and 2 sec intervals. 2,000 volts at 17 milliamp. Continuous current limit to 1,500 volts at 7 milliamp</td>
<td>100 feet</td>
<td>U.L.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bellevue</strong></td>
<td>All zones</td>
<td>Additional fencing</td>
<td>1 and 2 sec intervals. 2,000 volts at 17 milliamp. Continuous current limit to 1,500 volts at 7 milliamp</td>
<td>15 feet</td>
<td>ANSI</td>
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<td>Commercial Industrial</td>
<td>Perimeter fence min of 6’</td>
<td>Pulsed current, every 1.3 sec for one-ten thousandth of a second</td>
<td>60 feet</td>
<td>MetLabs</td>
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<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>All zones</td>
<td>R-4 through R-48 zones, additional fencing or other barriers shall be constructed to prevent inadvertent contact with the electric fence from abutting property</td>
<td>Intervals of 1 and 2 sec off limited to 2,000 volts at 17 milliamp</td>
<td>50 feet</td>
<td>ANSI</td>
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<td>Richland</td>
<td>Agriculture, C-3 district, Business, Industrial zones around storage areas</td>
<td>All zoning set backs and behind property line</td>
<td>No specs</td>
<td>No specs</td>
<td>No Specs</td>
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<td>Sammamish</td>
<td>All zones</td>
<td>R-4 through R-18 require additional fencing or other barrier</td>
<td>Intervals of 1 and 2 sec off limited to 2,000 volts at 17 milliamp. Continuous current is limited to 1,500 volts at 7 milliamp</td>
<td>50 feet</td>
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<td>Renton</td>
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