

DISTRICT COURT

VERDICT: \$4,467, sewer back up into basement.

A 6-0 Billings jury found that Billings was negligent in connection with a sewer that backed up into Bryce Williams's house and that its negligence was a cause of his damages, and awarded \$4,467.

The sewer had been cleaned annually, oftener than the national standard, but had not been visually inspected (with a TV camera) since 1977. Although it had functioned properly during that time, after it backed up, it was learned that there was a break in the line.

Plaintiff's experts:none.

Defendant's experts: Gayle Olrich, Spokane (sewer).

Demand, "anything:" no offer. Jury request, \$5,900; jury suggestion, 0.

Jury deliberated 4 ½ hours including dinner 1st day; Judge Fagg.

Williams v. Billings, Yellowstone DV 000-621, 5/4/01.

Scott Green (West, Patten, Bekkedahl & Green), Billings for Williams; Jared Dahle (Nelson Law Firm), Billings, for the City.