Readers

This document was prepared at the direction of the Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety with the assistance of the Pipeline Safety Trust and the Washington State Utilities Commission (WUTC). It offers a clear understanding on how and why the Citizens Committee was established and that it is solid documentation showing the importance of the responsibility we as a committee, the WUTC, and the Pipeline Safety Trust have in assuring that the citizens of Washington State are informed, thus holding all principle owners and operators of pipelines accountable for the design, construction, maintenance and continuing inspection of all pipelines throughout the region and how the expectation of that accountability is measured.

The document is a report to the Governor who appointed the committee members, the Legislature who authorized the committee, and the Citizens of the State of Washington as to the activities of the Committee and the recommendations that have come out of the efforts by the committee to help improve the safety of underground pipelines carrying hazardous materials. It is hoped that the document will be used by local elected officials, planning departments and developers as a primer at a high level to understand the importance of working with the energy suppliers that provide energy to our residences, our businesses, and our industries, in developing and maintaining safe locations for the pipelines transporting these fuels for their consumption.

The overall goal of all the participating parties is to assure a safe and reliable operation of all pipelines operating within the State of Washington carrying hazardous materials.