

January 15, 2014

Greetings:

Our state's system of interstate and intrastate pipelines are a vital part of our infrastructure, safely and effectively moving vast quantities of gas and fuels essential to our state's economy. Pipelines are our underground highways, transporting energy to where it's needed. Yet, most people do not think about our pipeline systems except when an incident makes the news. For over 13 years, the Citizen Committee on Pipeline Safety has maintained a high level of awareness and understanding of pipelines as a way to reinforce industry and regulator efforts to ensure pipeline safety.

The Citizen Committee on Pipeline Safety is the only forum in our state that routinely brings together industry pipeline safety professionals, state regulators, and laypersons with a stake in pipeline safety to listen and share information and ideas. The committee is empowered by state law to advise policymakers and by federal law to receive a direct response from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This letter is our annual report of the committee's mission, knowledge and activities. Committee members include residents who care about pipeline safety, local government officials and pipeline professionals. As a committee, we stand ready to assist you in your questions and to foster further discussion and understanding of pipeline safety considerations.

What is the Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety?

State law created the Citizen Committee in 2000 to "advise the state agencies and other appropriate federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation and maintenance." (RCW 81.88.140).

In 2002, Congress referenced the importance of such state advisory committees by requiring that the federal Secretary of Transportation respond in writing within 90 days to any pipeline safety recommendations made by a state pipeline safety advisory committee. (Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, HR 3609, Section 24).

The Committee has nine voting members representing the public, local government and elected officials. Four non-voting members represent owners and operators of hazardous liquid and gas pipelines. The members are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year staggered terms. The director of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) pipeline safety program and members of staff assist the Committee.

2013 Stakeholder Report

2013 Issues

The Citizen Committee met four times in 2013. The meeting agendas, materials and minutes are available online at www.utc.wa.gov/ccops. Below are some of the issues considered by the Committee this year.

- **Damage Prevention** - The Committee monitored the progress of the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) as it implemented the new damage prevention law (RCW 19.122) that took effect at the beginning of the year. Of particular interest is the availability of better data through a damage reporting tool and the increased role of the UTC in enforcement of the law.
- **Emergency Response** – The Committee received regular briefings from Department of Ecology’s spill response team on their ongoing activities. Additionally, the Committee heard from the operators of McChord Pipeline and Olympic Pipe Line on how they handle emergency response. The Committee also was briefed on the potential of an early earthquake warning system to help pipeline operators in limiting the consequences of damage from an earthquake.
- **Leak Detection** – With the assistance of Avista and the participation of other industry participants, the Committee became reacquainted with natural leak detection systems.
- **Whistleblower Protection** - The UTC Pipeline Safety Program staff provided an overview of federal and state protections available to employees when identifying unsafe or unhealthful conditions in the workplace.
- **Small Gas Pipeline Systems** – The UTC staff provided information regarding their review of master meter systems and other small gas pipeline systems. While these systems serve only a small population, owners of this system might not always provide the same monitoring and maintenance that owners of larger systems provide.
- **State Pipeline Safety Program** – The Committee received regular briefings from the UTC Pipeline Safety Program, including details about enforcement actions, rulemakings, federal audits and other news that affect pipeline safety.
- **Anonymous Complaint** – The committee received an anonymous complaint regarding a pipeline company. Pipeline safety staff investigated and found no substantiation. Without any additional information or way to respond to the complainant, the Committee set the complaint aside.
- **Committee Policy Support** – In response to a discussion with the Committee about future tasks and the need for staff support, new UTC Chairman David Danner announced the agency would be providing staff support to the Committee through the commissioner’s policy office.

2013 Stakeholder Report

As of December 31, 2013, members were:

Voting members:

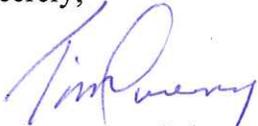
Tim Sweeney, chair, Olympia	Public
Bob Beaumier, vice-chair, Spokane	Public
David Taylor, Ridgefield	Cities Representative
Carl Weimer, Bellingham	Washington State Association of Counties
Bill Rickard, Spokane	Public
Arthur Coulombe, Walla Walla	Public
Ron Schmitt, Tacoma	Public
Terrill Briere, Renton	Public
Christian Amend, Pasco	Public
Robert Oenning, Tacoma	Public

Non-voting members:

Rosalie Ann Lopez, Seattle	BP Pipelines
Corey Herrick, Tacoma	McChord Pipeline
Jody Morehouse, Spokane	Avista Utilities
Nick Peelo, Tacoma	McChord Pipeline
Randy Craig Tarter, Bellingham	Williams Northwest Pipeline
Edward Cimaroli, Maple Valley	BP Pipelines

For more information about the Citizens Committee activities, please visit our website at:
www.utc.wa.gov/ccops

Sincerely,



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