



#### Committee Members

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## Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

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Greetings:

On behalf of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety, I would like to wish you a happy new year and provide a little information about some of our activities. While the enclosed brochure covers the 2004-2005 time period, below is a brief update on the activities of the Committee in the year just completed.

Our Committee met nine times in 2006. Most of our meetings were held in Olympia but we also convened in Bellevue and Spokane. Our meeting schedules and minutes are posted at: [www.wutc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops)

This year we have been actively engaged in a large number of issues important to furthering pipeline safety. Here are some of the most important:

- 1) Following and commenting on the Congressional reauthorization of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration which houses the federal Office of Pipeline Safety.
- 2) The development and release of guidelines to local governments and pipeline companies regarding land use in proximity to major pipelines.
- 3) Review of the Department of Ecology's Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule.
- 4) Review and endorsement of proposed 2007 pipeline safety legislation sponsored by the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission (UTC)
- 5) Review and comment on 2006 legislation which would affect access to pipeline data.

We also worked with the UTC's pipeline safety program on improving the public right-to-know aspects of its website, including helping the program provide more information of interest to citizens.

Using the powers that were granted our type of committee by the federal Pipeline Safety Act of 2002, we wrote the Secretary of Transportation about a long-delayed UTC request for rule interpretation and generated a prompt response from the agency to UTC regarding the five-year-old interpretation request.

We accept public comment at all our meetings, and while in Spokane we engaged in a interesting exchange with the city's fire marshal and city attorney, as well as hearing from local pipeline operators about specific concerns.

I invite you to review enclosed brochure, visit our website, and contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for subjects related to pipeline safety that our committee should address.

Sincerely,



Carl Weimer, Chairman  
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