

Formal Presentations

The Committee advanced their knowledge of the technical aspects of pipeline safety through presentations during their meetings.

- Public Awareness Study and Industry Perspective by pipeline safety program and the Northwest Gas Association, March 2004.
- Williams Capacity Replacement Project by Grant Jensen
- Update on Ecology's rulemaking on contingency plans
- Corrosion & Cathodic Protection presentation by Farwest Corrosion
- New stakeholder web site by federal pipeline safety program (Kimbra Davis)
- Energy facility siting by Tim Sweeney, UTC representative on the Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council.
- Williams pipeline and interaction with Skamania County quarry

Initiatives

The Committee took on two initiatives deemed important to the core values of the Committee.

- Public Right To Know – Committee identified the type of pipeline information that should be made readily available, specifically by web access, to citizens.
- Rewrote Charter & Bylaws.

Members

The committee has nine voting members representing the public. 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.

As of December 31, 2005, members were:

Katie Hansen, chair, Woodinville
Carl Weimer, vice-chair, Bellingham
Richard Kuprewicz, Sammamish
Pete Kmet, Tumwater
Shirley Olson, Graham
Nate Moxley, Seattle
Bill Rickard, Spokane
Jean Buckner, Bellevue
Leo Bowman, Prosser

Non-voting members:

Duane Henderson, Puget Sound Energy
Grant Jensen, Williams Pipeline
Jim Clark, BP Olympic
George Hills, McChord Pipeline Co.

Other members serving during this period include:

Chuck Mosher
Don Evans
Pat Morgan

Ken Thomas
Les Olson

Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
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Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety Stakeholder Report on Activities 2004-2005

The Citizen Committee was created by state law 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 60 days to any pipeline safety recommendations made by a state pipeline safety advisory committee. (HR 3609, Section 24)





Goals & Expectations

The Committee's primary goal is to maintain and improve the safety of pipelines in Washington State. In pursuing this goal, the committee expects to:

- Raise understanding and awareness of pipelines and pipeline safety;
- Review, comment and make recommendations on proposed local, state and federal pipeline laws and regulations;
- Give counsel and advice to local governments, the state pipeline safety program, the state spill prevention and response program (Department of Ecology), and the federal pipeline safety program in the U. S. Department of Transportation (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration);

Major Events

Pipeline events continued to occur during the tenure of this report and included the events listed below.

- Williams Pipeline ruptures and subsequent Corrective Action Orders
- UTC Public Awareness study
- UTC map atlas project
- Land use and pipeline workshops and report
- Bellevue house explosion and fatality
- Williams Capacity Replacement Project
- Northern Star application for LNG facility on Columbia River
- Lewis County earth movement
- UTC launch of small gas pipeline study

Meetings

In 2004 and 2005, the committee met 15 times and conducted two tours of gas facilities. Meetings generally are conducted every other month and fill most of a business day. Agendas and minutes can be found on the committee's web page at <http://www.wutc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops>. Here is a listing of the meetings and locations for 2004-05

- February 19, 2004: UTC, Olympia WA
- March 23, 2004: Bellevue City Hall, Bellevue WA
- April 20, 2004: King Oskar Hotel, Lacey WA
- June 15, 2004: PSE Tacoma Office, Tacoma WA
- June 15, 2004: Tour PSE LNG Facility in Gig Harbor
- August 19, 2004: UTC, Olympia WA
- October 19, 2004: UTC, Olympia WA
- December 7, 2004: UTC, Olympia WA
- January 18, 2005: WSIB, Olympia WA
- March 15, 2005: UTC, Olympia WA
- May 17, 2005: Bellevue City Hall, Bellevue WA
- July 19, 2005: UTC, Olympia WA
- October 19, 2005: Tour Williams LNG Storage Facility, Plymouth, WA
- October 20, 2005: Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick WA
- December 5, 2005: UTC, Olympia WA

Recommendations & Correspondence

One of the most effective aspects of the Citizens Committee is the impact of recommendations and correspondence. Any communication with the federal government must be addressed by the federal government within a specific time frame.

- Letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary, Norman Mineta recommending that the federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) collect the \$3.05 million dollar civil penalty against Olympic Pipeline Company.
- Letter to federal OPS administrator commenting on SCADA Controller Certification Project.
- Letter commenting on Public Awareness rule, Docket No RSPA-03-15852;.
- Letter to UTC endorsing agency's hazardous material/rail safety legislation.
- Response to rock quarry in Skamania County inquiry asking for information from Williams Northwest and federal and state regulator.
- Letters in support of state legislation making it a crime to excavate without notification near a transmission pipeline.

Committee Structure & Process

Leadership positions are filled by voting members of the committee. The chair serves for one year and is succeeded by the vice-chair. The Committee strives for consensus decision-making. When this cannot be accomplished, a decision is made by a simple majority. No decision can be made unless a majority of the committee's voting members are in attendance. Non-voting members are encouraged to participate in all discussions. Subcommittees are formed on as needed basis.