

Public Involvement

The committee received public comment and participated in several legislative and rulemaking processes.

- Reviewed the PIPES Act of 2006 and provided comment to the U.S. DOT regarding “Maintenance of Effort Clause.”
- Provided public testimony in support of the City of La Center Special Overlay District Ordinance
- Reviewed and provided comments on PHMSA’s draft Federal Rule proposal on Distribution Integrity Management Program
- Reviewed the PHMSA Integrity Management Program Special Permit Process and submitted comments to the U.S. DOT.
- Reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the pipeline associated with the proposed Bradwood Landing LNG facility on the Columbia River, and expressed concern to DOE.

Public Right-To-Know Initiative

The committee serves to shine the light on the activities of the pipeline industry and the state and federal regulators that monitor the industry’s operation of the pipelines. All meetings are open to the public with time devoted to public comment. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the committee’s website as are all correspondence and presentation.

The committee’s bylaws make it clear that all comments, presentations and materials provided at committee meetings are public records and must be provided in a manner that makes it easy to share with the public. To communicate with the committee, e-mail at: mwoodard@utc.wa.gov.

Members

In 2008/2009, the committee lost and gained members as terms expired and new members were appointed.

As of December 31, 2009, members were:

Voting members:

Bob Archey, chair, Seattle
VaNessa Duplessie, vice-chair, Ridgefield
Carl Weimer, Bellingham
Pete Kmet, Tumwater
Arthur Coulombe, Walla Walla
Ron Schmitt, Tacoma
Bill Rickard, Spokane

Non-voting members:

Duane Henderson, Puget Sound Energy
Grant Jensen, Williams Pipeline Northwest
George Hills, McChord Pipeline
David Knoelke, BP Pipelines North America

Other members serving during this period include:

Leo Bowman, Prosser
Richard Kuprewicz, Sammamish
Shirley Olson, Graham
Jean Buckner, Bellevue
Bob Bandarra, Lake Stevens

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
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Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety

Stakeholder Report on Activities

2008-2009

What is the Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety

The citizen’s 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 90 days to any pipeline safety recommendations made by a state pipeline safety advisory committee. (HR 3609, Section 24)

The committee has nine voting members representing the public, including 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.

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 (DOE), and the federal pipeline safety program in the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Committee Structure & Process

Leadership positions are filled by voting members of the committee. The chair serves for one or two years and is usually 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 an as needed basis. Subcommittees formed in 2008-2009:

- Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) committee. *(Carl Weimer, Bob Archey)*
- Committee Response to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re: Bradwood Landing LNG Terminal. *(Rick Kuprewicz, Pete Kmet)*
- RCW 19.122 "Dig Law" Rewrite Committee. *(Ron Schmitt, Carl Weimer)*
- DOE SEPA Checklist guidance language *(Bill Rickard, Bob Archey)*
- Workgroup for Damage Prevention (Virtual DIRT)

Meetings

The committee met 10 times over the 2008-2009 period. Meetings are generally conducted 4-6 times a year and fill most of a business day. Agendas and minutes can be found on the committee's webpage <http://www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops>. Here is a listing of the meetings and topics that occurred in 2008 and 2009.

- January 24, 2008: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
PHMSA updates, Pipeline safety funding.
- April 3, 2008: UTC, Olympia WA
Pipeline Safety Exemptions, Land Use, Damage Prevention.
- July 17, 2008: UTC, Olympia WA
PHMSA increasing operating pressures, Distribution Integrity Management Program, Dig Law.
- September 25, 2008: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
WA State Dig Law, Columbia River Liquefied Natural Gas terminal proposal.
- December 4, 2008: UTC, Olympia WA
PHMSA oversight, Pipeline Anomalies, Damage Prevention.
- March 3, 2009: UTC, Olympia WA
Update on SHB 1996 – proposed bill to amend RCW 19.122.
- April 17, 2009: UTC, Olympia WA
New Members, Pipeline Rupture (Appomattox, VA), PIPA grants.
- May 28, 2009: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
Land Use & Planning, SEPA guidance language, New Dig Law Damage prevention group.
- September 24, 2009: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
Damage Prevention, Pipeline Safety and Budget cuts.
- November 12, 2009: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
PHMSA Damage prevention program evaluations, Letter to the U.S. DOT Secretary, SEPA update.

Key Activities

The committee was actively involved in monitoring and commenting on the following events and investigations:

- Legislation regarding possible changes to the State "Call Before You Dig" or One-Call Program.
- Legislation regarding elimination of Boards and Commissions.
- Development of Oil Spill Contingency Plan Rules, DOE.
- Results of the PHMSA audits of the UTC pipeline safety program

Formal Presentations

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

- PHMSA Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM), by Alan Lundeen, UTC
- Damage Prevention and Virtual DIRT Presentation, by Alan Lundeen, UTC
- Transco Appomattox Pipeline Rupture and Fire Presentation, by Richard Kuprewicz, Accufacts
- Pipeline Assessment & Anomaly Reporting, by Richard Kuprewicz, Accufacts
- Incident Reporting/Data Collection Rulemaking Presentation, by David Lykken, UTC
- Hydrocarbon Explosion Myths Presentation, by Richard Kuprewicz, Accufacts
- Update on PHMSA Public Meeting, by Richard Kuprewicz, Accufacts
- Comparison Report on Washington's One-Call Law vs. Pennsylvania, by Grant Jensen, Williams Pipeline Northwest