

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

Meeting Minutes

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98504
December 3, 2015

Present members:

Ron Bowen, Chair
David Taylor, Vice-chair
Bob Beaumier
Erik Poulsen
Carl Weimer
Jody Morehouse
Nick Peelo
Janet Alderton
Juliana Williams

Absent members:

Greg Baruso
Ron Schmitt

Other attendees:

Alan Rathbun, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Joe Subsits, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Marina Woodard, UTC Safety and Consumer Protection Division
Denise Crawford, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Dave Danner, Chairman, UTC
Jason Lewis, UTC Transportation Policy Advisor
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology
Steve Ogle, Dept. of Ecology
Dan Kirschner, NW Gas Association
Verlyn Bailly, TransCanada
Francis Roemer, Williams Northwest Pipeline

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction and Adoption of September 9, 2015 Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order by Ron Bowen who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the September 9, 2015 meeting minutes as written.

NOTE: Due to the delayed arrival of some of the members, agenda item numbers 2 and 5 were switched in order. Therefore, the minutes reflect the amended order in which items were considered

2. **UTC Update**

Alan Rathbun provided the following UTC updates:

- **PHMSA Audit**
PHMSA conducted an audit of our 2014 pipeline safety program. The audit included the on-site office review of written records and procedures, interviews with the Chief Engineer and Pipeline Director. A field audit was performed with two UTC pipeline inspectors. PHMSA's audit findings are posted on our website.
- **Measurable Metrics**
Pipeline Safety staff would like to invite the Committee to discuss and explore what metrics/indications are there that show whether the UTC Pipeline Safety program is doing its job.
- **2015 Workplan**
We are approaching the completion of the 2015 workplan which consisted on 45 intrastate, 6 interstate and 3 master meter inspections. The workplan also included 40 damage prevention investigations.
- **2016 Workplan**
We have submitted our proposed 2016 interstate inspection workplan to PHMSA and we are waiting for their response. Joe is working on the 2016 intrastate inspection workplan.
- **Operator Meeting January 6-7, 2016**
We have invited our interstate operators to a meeting here on January 6, 2016 and our intrastate operators have been invited on January 7, 2016. This is basically an open conversation about our 2016 workplan, regulations and a general discussion about how we are performing as a regulator. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- **New Staff**
We have added 2 new staff members to our program. Debbie Becker is our new Operations Manager and Denise Crawford has been hired as administrative support for the pipeline safety program and she is also the liaison for the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety.
- **Updates – Bremerton Motel Explosion**
On August 18, 2015, UTC staff responded to a natural gas explosion and fire at the Motel 6 in Bremerton. This incident remains under investigation and is nearly completed.
- **Updates – Plymouth LNG 2014 Incident**
This investigation is nearly complete. Since this is an interstate facility, we will be working with PHMSA in making the report.

3. **PHMSA Reauthorization**

Alan Rathbun distributed a copy of the bill that has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. The committee would like to submit comments regarding the PHMSA Reauthorization. Ron Bowen is going to work with and Jason Lewis and the Department of Ecology in drafting a comment letter. *(This document is posted to the CCOPS website)*

4. **Proposed PHMSA Hazardous Liquid CFR Amendment (Docket PHMSA-2010-**

0229) Carl Weimer presented a brief overview of the proposed hazardous liquid rule. Following the presentation, the committee had a lengthy discussion regarding submitting comments on the proposed rules concerning: reporting requirements on gravity and gathering lines, inspections in areas affected by extreme weather and natural disasters, periodic assessment of non-integrity management pipeline segments, expanded leak detection requirements, new repair criteria for integrity management (IM) pipelines and pipelines not subject to IM requirements, requiring IM pipeline segments accommodate inline inspection (ILI) tools within 20 years, and clarifying compliance regulations. *(This document is posted to the CCOPS website).*

Action(s):

Dave Taylor and Ron Bowen will work on drafting a comment letter. When the draft letter is ready for review, the UTC will schedule a conference call meeting in two weeks for further discussion. Comments are due by January 8, 2016.

5. **Department of Ecology (ECY) Update**

Scott Zimmerman provided an Ecology update to members. *(This document is posted on CCOPS website).*

6. **Damage Prevention Update**

Linda Holloway provided the Damage Prevention update to members.

- **Monthly review of Virtual Damage Incident Reporting Tool (DIRT) reports** – The Virtual DIRT reports are reviewed each month for natural gas damage without locates. The UTC send letters to offenders providing technical assistance and reminds them about the Dig Law and to get locates prior to excavating.
- **Repeat offenders** - The UTC is taking a closer look at offenders who have had more than one natural gas damage incident without calling for locates. We are assigning these cases to our engineers to investigate. If our engineers find that the Dig Law was violated, we are issuing penalty assessments. The penalty assessments can carry a maximum of \$10,000 for violating the Dig Law. The cases where there are multiple violations of the Dig Law, we are assessing as follows:
 - \$1,000 for first violation
 - \$2,000 for second violation
 - \$3,000 for third violation

We are not only looking at damage without locates, but incidents where damage has resulted in two hours of blowing gas or evacuation. So far, we have completed 13 investigations. A few of the investigations found that the excavator

did have a dig ticket, therefore they were not assessed a penalty. We have another 26 investigations that are currently in process.

- Change in damage assessment policy – The Dig Law has been in effect for over two years now and it is every excavator’s job to know the law and regulations. We are now looking into investigating every DIRT report that comes in and assessing a penalty if there are violations.
- Review of Q3 2015 DIRT Analysis - (*This document is posted on CCOPS website*).

7. **Damage Prevention Legislative Report Update**

Linda Holloway provided the UTC’s report to the Legislature on The Effectiveness of the Damage Prevention Program. The UTC was required to report to the legislature by December 1, 2015, regarding the effectiveness and progress made since the revised dig law was passed by the 2011 legislature and took effect in January 2013. (*This document is posted on CCOPS website*).

8. **Consideration of current workplan and CCOPS going forward**

Members discussed the topics to be considered for the work plan and future agenda items. Alan Rathbun would like to see measurable metrics and land use/land development around pipelines on the agenda. Ron Bowen asked that if you have a topic or topics of interest to please email him with your ideas.

9. **Pipeline Trust Conference Briefing**

Carl Weimer provided a brief on the 10th Annual Pipeline Trust Conference that was held in New Orleans in November 2015. The conference brought together people from the industry, state/federal regulators, local governments and the concerned public. The Trust raises money to pay for about 20-30 advocates/concerned citizens to attend the conference each year. The next conference is scheduled for October 20-21, 2016.

10. **Other Business**

Dave Taylor would like committee members to email him with their ideas for the liquid rules letter.

Chairman Danner advised CCOPS members that the commission’s dig law report to legislature has recommendations that they may take up in proposed legislation. The committee will not be meeting again until after legislature has met, so it’s quite possible that we get a call from legislature requesting that we draft a bill. If/when we get to that point, Alan Rathbun will be contacting you, as appropriate, if we need assistance with citizen input as any proposed legislation goes forward.

11. **Public Comments**

No public comment were provided.

12. **Review of Action Items and Topics for Next Meeting**

Ron Bowen reminded the committee to get their comments regarding the liquid rules to Dave Taylor as soon as possible. Ron Bowen will be working with Jason Lewis and the Department of Ecology on drafting comments regarding PHMSA Reauthorization.

The committee proposed the following topics for consideration in the next scheduled meeting agenda:

Cybersecurity – Juliana Williams presenting

How does the UTC establish inspection schedules?

EFSEC – How do they site energy facilities?

13. **2016 Meeting Dates**

Members voted the 2016 meeting dates as follows. These meeting dates may change subject to meeting room availability.

March 17, 2016*

May 5, 2016

September 15, 2016

November 17, 2016*

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2016*. The meeting will be held at the UTC.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

*The March and November meeting dates have been rescheduled for:

March 22, 2016

November 2, 2016