

**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

## Meeting Minutes

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98504  
March 22, 2016**Present members:**David Taylor, Vice-chair  
Ron Schmitt  
Bob Beaumier  
Greg Baruso  
Juliana Williams  
Janet Alderton  
Randy Tarter  
Jody Morehouse  
Nick Peelo**Absent members:**Ron Bowen, Chair  
Carl Weimer  
Erik Poulsen**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  
Lynda Holloway, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Derek Norwood, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Dennis Ritter, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
David Cullom, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Jason Lewis, UTC Transportation Policy Advisor  
Nhi Irwin, Dept. of Ecology  
Jared Ellsworth, Williams  
Rob Harmon, Northwest Pipeline, Williams  
Von Studer, Williams  
John Main, City of Ridgefield  
Charlie Gadzik, Puget Sound Energy  
Pat Haworth, Puget Sound Energy  
Ron Roberts, Puget Sound Energy  
David Mills, Puget Sound Energy  
Clay Riding, NWIW**Agenda Items:**

1. **Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction and Adoption of December 3, 2015 and January 8, 2016 Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order by Dave Taylor who welcomed all attendees.

**Action:**

Dave Taylor motioned for approval on the absence of Ron Bowen and Carl Weimer from the meeting today. This was seconded and approved by the members. Dave noted that Carl will be joining us after lunch, via the conference bridge line to discuss item 5.

In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the December 3, 2015 and January 8, 2016 meeting minutes as written.

2. **Northwest Pipeline, Plymouth LNG March 31, 2014 Incident**

Von Studer of Northwest Pipeline, presented the Plymouth LNG Plant incident Investigation. *(This document posted on CCOPS website)* Von Studer and Jared Ellsworth answered questions throughout the presentation.

3. **PSE Jackson Prairie Operation**

David Mills, Ron Roberts and Pat Haworth presented a PowerPoint on the Jackson Prairie Operation. *(This document posted on CCOPS website)*

4. **Department of Ecology Update**

Nhi Irwin provided the Ecology update to members. *(This document posted on CCOPS website)*

Bob Beaumeier questioned if there has been a carbon analysis done on some of the impacts of the conversion from “dirty fuels” to natural gas and if the Department of Ecology has a perspective on this.

Nhi will follow up with staff members in Ecology to get an answer.

**NOTE: Agenda item number 7 was moved up in order. Therefore, the minutes reflect the amended order in which items were considered.**

5. **PHMSA Reauthorization Update**

Carl Weimer provided a brief update on the PHMSA Reauthorization. *(This document posted on CCOPS website)*

6. **UTC Update**

Joe Subsits provided the following UTC Updates:

- **Bremerton and Bellevue 2015 Pipeline Incidents**  
Joe Subsits presented a PowerPoint on the Bremerton and Bellevue federal reportable incidents. *(This document posted on CCOPS website)*
- **Greenwood Incident**  
On March 9, 2016, UTC staff responded to a natural gas explosion in Seattle’s Greenwood neighborhood. This incident remains under investigation.

Alan Rathbun provided the following UTC Updates:

- Operator Meetings held January 6-7, 2016  
Alan Rathbun reported that the operator meetings were very well received. It was a good opportunity for the operators and staff to have informal discussions. Staff plans to continue to have these meetings on an annual basis. We hope to hold operator meetings in eastern Washington to accommodate the operators east of the mountains.
- PHMSA Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipeline Rule  
Staff is currently reviewing the new Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipeline Rule. Staff will share our perspective of the rule with the committee after staff has finished reviewing the rule. If the committee would like to discuss whether or not they would like to comment, we can arrange for a telephone conference meeting. The comment period expires 60 days after the rule has been published in the Federal Register. As of today, the rule has not yet been published.
- \*Pipeline Safety Fee Rulemaking - Dockets PG-160121 & PL-160122  
The commission commenced the Pipeline Safety Fee Rulemaking in January. This rulemaking amends the methodology that we use to establish the pipeline safety fees that are charged to each operator. The first phase of the comment period, CR-101 expired yesterday. At this point, we have not received any comments. The next step in this process will be to have a workshop, in which all interested parties will be invited. The workshop will be held here on April 20, 2016 at 9:30am.

Bob Beaumeier asked if there will be a report on the Plymouth LNG incident from the UTC. Alan explained that Plymouth LNG is an interstate facility and UTC staff investigated the incident with PHMSA as an interstate agent. A report has been drafted and submitted to PHMSA for their review. PHMSA will make the decision on any enforcement action they deem appropriate.

7. **Damage Prevention Update**

Lynda Holloway provided the following Damage Prevention updates:

- Common Ground Alliance Excavation Safety Conference - Las Vegas, NV  
Lynda attended the Common Ground Alliance Excavation Safety Conference. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for networking with Damage Prevention professionals from other states and countries.
- Damage Prevention Presentations  
Lynda provided Damage Prevention presentations to the Skamania County Utility Coordinating Commission and the Yakima/Klickitat UCC in January 2016. She has a presentation scheduled for the Pierce County UCC at the end of April 2016.

- Lawn and Garden Shows  
The UTC recently attended Lawn and Garden shows in Seattle and Yakima where 811 promotional items were handed out during these events for education and outreach purposes. Staff members from Williams and Puget Sound Energy were on hand to answer consumer questions.
- Excavator/Contractor Training Opportunities  
The Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee provided a NUCA Contractor class and Staking University Locator training with One-Call grant money that they received from PHMSA. These classes will be offered again in April/May 2016.
- Safety Committee Review Hearing  
There will be a Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee review hearing tomorrow, here at the UTC. If you would like to sit in on any future hearings, please contact Lynda Holloway for dates and times.
- Review of Q4 2015 DIRT Analysis  
Lynda provided a brief overview of the damage events that occurred in the fourth quarter of 2015 (*This document is posted on CCOPS website*).
- PHMSA One-Call Grant  
The UTC Damage Prevention program recently applied for a PHMSA Damage Prevention Grant. The program requested \$100,000 to be used for billboards in the counties with high damage statistics and state wide advertising through the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.
- Governor Proclamation “Safe Digging Month”  
Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed April as Safe Digging Month. Lynda provided committee members and attendees with a copy of the Governor’s Proclamation. She encouraged everyone to share this document by displaying it on their website or in their office. (*The Proclamation is posted on CCOPS website*)
- PHMSA Damage Prevention Evaluation  
PHMSA will be conducting an evaluation of the UTC’s Damage Prevention program in late April 2016.
- New Damage Prevention Position  
Program staff commenced interviewing for the Damage Prevention Compliance Investigator 3 position and hope to hire someone in the next few weeks. Currently, three of our engineers are performing the damage prevention investigations and processing the penalty assessments. This position will take over processing the natural gas/hazardous liquid damage without locates as well as the Washington State Dig Law Safety Committee Referrals that are currently being processed by UTC staff in Consumer and Safety Protection Division.

- Dozer Days  
The UTC planning on participating in a Dozer Days event in June 2016. This is an event where the kids can come out and check out the equipment and play in the dirt. This is a good opportunity for the UTC to provide 811 educational materials and outreach to the public.
- Dig Law Violators  
The program continues to experience repeat Dig Law offenders that have had more than three violations. Where warranted staff has begun seeking the maximum statutory penalty of \$10,000 per violation. The commission has also started issuing press releases announcing the Dig Law penalty assessments. These announcements include the name of the company that violated the law and the penalty amount. An alternative strategy being considered includes reporting violations to WA Labor & Industries, so that they can post this information for consumers on their website.

8. **Pipeline Safety Fee Rulemaking**

\* This item was discussed in item 6, UTC Update.

9. **Other Business**

Review of UTC's website.

**Action(s):**

Staff invites our committee members to take a look at our website and report back to us with any ideas for improvements. Members were asked to review the UTC website to give guidance on what improvements can be made. What information would should be available on the website? How easy is it to find information? This topic will be added to the next agenda to review findings and recommendations.

10. **Public Comments**

No public comment were provided.

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

- UTC Pipeline Safety website  
Ease of use and transparency
- Election of Vice Chair
- Update on UTC Rulemaking  
Dockets PG-160121 & PL-160122
- The Pipeline Safety Inspection Schedule  
Joe Subsits will present how we establish our annual pipeline safety inspection schedule

- Cybersecurity  
Presented by committee member, Juliana Williams

The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2016. The meeting will be held at the UTC.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.