

**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

## Meeting Minutes

Washington Utilities &amp; Transportation Commission

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98504

March 7, 2013

**Present members:**David Taylor, Chair  
Tim Sweeney, Vice-Chair  
Carl Weimer  
Bob Beaumier  
Christian Amend  
Rosalie Ann Lopez  
Jody Morehouse  
Corey Herrick  
Ron Schmitt**Absent members:**Bill Rickard  
Art Coulombe  
Terrill Briere**Other attendees:**David Lykken, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Joe Subsits, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Jim Fernald, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Marina Woodard, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology  
Brain Felczak, Kent OEM  
Ryan Paulsen, Dept. of Ecology  
Cheryl McGrath, Puget Sound Energy**Agenda Items:**

1. **Welcome, Introduction and Adoption of November 19, 2012 Meeting Minutes**  
The meeting was brought to order by Dave Taylor who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the November 19, 2012 meeting minutes as written.
2. **Industries Presentation on “Emergency Response – Distribution & Transmission” (Presentation by Liquids Industries – McChord & Olympic)**  
Corey Herrick with McChord Pipeline and Rosalie Ann Lopez with Olympic Pipe Line briefed the committee as to how they handle emergency response situations as it pertains to their respective companies. (*Handout materials were not provided for either discussion*).

**Industries Presentation on “Emergency Response – Distribution” (Presentation by Gas Industry – Avista)**

Jody Morehouse with Avista provided a PowerPoint presentation on an overview on gas distribution of leakage surveys as it pertains to her company. (*This document is posted on the CCOPS website*).

3. **Damage Prevention Update - David Lykken**

- **Damage Prevention Update.** As the new Dig Law became effective January 1, 2013, a recent report ran on Virtual Dirt Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) shows that as of March 6, 2013, there are 104 reportable damages. Sixty-seven were related to gas (25 involved no locates requests), 14 reportable electric, 13 telecommunications, 2 cable, 3 water, 3 sanitary sewers, 2 other signal wire, and one incident involving irrigation pipe. There are a total of 150 DIRT subscribers so far.
- **PHMSA** – We were on the watch list for ineligibility for the one call grants for the revised dig law. The issue has been resolved with PHMSA and we will remain eligible for One Call and State Damage grants. Next week there will be more discussion and information regarding exemptions at the CGA meeting in Florida.
- Dave will attend American Public Works Association meeting in Vancouver and will provide more outreach on the dig law.
- There are additional reporting and information rules to the dig law pertaining to excavators and pipeline operators that will become effective on April 1, 2013.
- Carl asked Dave whether an excavator could be turned in for enforcement for digging without a locate request, but didn't cause any damages? Dave stated that the commission has enforcement authority for excavators that do not notify the one-call center to request a locate prior to excavation and which results in damage to a pipeline facility. In addition, enforcement actions can be taken against excavators failing to have a valid dig confirmation code when excavating within 35 feet of a transmission pipeline. Finally, enforcement actions can be taken for individuals that willfully removes locate marks.

4. **Public Comments**  
No public comments.

5. **UTC Update – David Lykken**

- David Danner has been appointed by Governor Inslee as the new chairman of UTC. Jeff Goltz will fulfill his remaining two year term as a commissioner. Steve King is acting as UTC's Executive Director and Secretary in place of David Danner until position is filled permanently.
- We have not heard from PHMSA regarding sequestration and any impacts for the pipeline safety program, or the technical assistance grants.

- Annual Certification - The pipeline program certification audit has been scheduled during the week of August 26. The audit is for one week. PHMSA will attempt to complete the records and field check portions for both hazardous liquids and gas within the one week time period.
- PHMSA Funding - Staff has successfully submitted our progress report and year end payment request for CY 2012 to PHMSA.
- Staffing/Personnel – UTC is still in the process of filling two vacant pipeline safety engineer positions. More than 23 applicants have applied and interviews will be conducted in the next few weeks.
- WAC Rulemaking - UTC plans to hold stakeholder workshops this year with pipeline operators and the public to discuss needs for updating hazardous liquids and gas rules.
- PHMSA Rulemaking - PHMSA has indicated that final rules dealing with operator qualification requirements for new pipeline construction will be issued by the end of this year. Excavation damage will also be implemented into a new rule using nine elements of what state damage prevention programs will be required to follow. PHMSA is also planning to introduce new rules pertaining to their enforcement policies and procedures. It is anticipated this will be included in CFR 49 Part 191. In 2014, it is anticipated that PHMSA will introduce rules pertaining to excess flow valves, hazardous liquid rulemaking and gas transmission gathering lines. These rules have been anticipated for some time; however no new information has been received from PHMSA. Finally, PHMSA will adopt a mapping accuracy standard for the GIS system.
- Interstate Inspections - PHMSA has developed an Inspector Assistant application (IA) when conducting inspections of the interstate units. This application goes along with their integrated inspection methodology which is risk base driven. PHMSA is insisting the states programs to adopt the program for intrastate inspections as well. PHMSA is working with state program starting with the interstate agents that have robust databases to collaborate on a system that collects similar data that PHMSA is collecting. UTC's information technology staff is currently working with PHMSA to work up a model that may work for all state programs.
- Cascade Natural Gas – On March 1, 2013, staff requested that Cascade Nature Gas (CNG) reduce the operating pressure transmission pipeline in Whatcom County by 20% because of concerns that were related to integrity management. CNG agreed to staff's request by reducing the pressure as specified. There are some concerns by the fact the company is not able to demonstrate pipe manufacture specifications for this particular pipe, and as to whether the pipe is ERW or other yield strength of the pipe. They have experienced some leaks on the pipe that are not related to corrosion. The pipeline will remain operational at 20% reduction until further assessments and tests have been completed by the company.
- CCOPS Membership - Marina talked about the two open positions for CCOPS that are currently awaiting review by the governor's office. Marina does not believe we will encounter a membership expiration problem until July 31, 2013.
- Governor Proclamation, "Safe Digging Month" - Staff submitted a proposed "Safe Digging Month" proclamation to the Governor's office for signature for the month of April.

6. **Dept. of Ecology (DOE) Update**

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

7. **Public Comments and Other Business**

No Public comments.

8. **Future Agenda Review (FAR) – 2013 Meetings**

Members were provided a copy of 2013 FAR document and agreed with the following:

- Where is the committee going?
  - This topic was recommended by Dave Taylor
- Emergency Planning / Emergency Planners
  - This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney
- Whistleblower protection
  - This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney
- Rate Settings vs. Safety
  - This topic was recommended by Carl Weimer
- Damage Prevention
  - This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney
- City ordinances pertaining to right-of-way protection
  - This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney
- CNG Hanford Project Update
  - This topic was recommended by Christian Amend.
- New Chair and Vote for Vice Chair
  - Required by membership expiration

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.