

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

Meeting Minutes

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission

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

September 14, 2011

Present members:

Tim Sweeney, Chair
David Taylor, vice-chair
Carl Weimer
Bill Rickard
Art Coulombe
Ron Schmitt
Andrew Martonick
Terrill Briere
Bob Beaumier
Corey Herrick
Jody Morehouse
Rosalie Ann Lopez
Ruth Mabrey

Absent members:

None

Other attendees:

David Lykken, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Alan Lundeen, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Marina Woodard, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Kelli Gustaf, Dept. of Ecology
Jim Fraley, BP Pipeline
Grant Jensen, Williams Gas Pipeline

Agenda Items:1. **Welcome, Introduction and Adoption of June 1, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order by Tim Sweeney who welcomed all attendees and explained that consistent with the Committee's bylaws, as the previous vice chair he had now become the chair. In an unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the June 1, 2011 meeting minutes as written.

2. **Damage Prevention RCW 19.122 update**

Alan Lundeen provided an update on the new Damage Prevention law (RCW 19.122):

- The Governor signed the Bill on May 5, 2011 and becomes effective on January 1, 2013.
- The UTC will be sponsoring agency request legislation (2012) to allow the UTC to begin working on the contract with a non-profit entity to create the safety committee before the effective date. It is important that the safety committee be established by the effective date of the law. Any proposed legislation will be distributed to stakeholders for comment prior to submission to the Governor's office.
- The UTC is sponsoring five free underground utility damage prevention safety training seminars on October 11 (Vancouver), October 19 (Spokane), October 25 (Olympia), October 28 (Bellevue), and November 9 (Yakima). Members are encouraged to participate. Registrations will be accepted until the classes are full.

- The UTC is currently soliciting for speaker(s) who will travel across the state to talk about the new law. Bob Beaumier showed interest and volunteered for the role. Anyone interested should contact Alan Lundeen.

Actions:

- Marina will email members a link to the Damage Prevention seminars online registration.

3. **Public Awareness Initiatives and Compliance with Recommended Practice (RP) 1162**

Ruth Mabrey (Williams Pipeline) and Jim Fraley (BP Pipeline) gave a slide presentation on their company initiatives in compliance with RP 1162. This presentation covered both Williams and BP Pipeline information. *(This document is posted on CCOPS website)*

The committee discussed the challenges in measuring the effectiveness of pipeline awareness through RP 1162. Dave Lykken also commented that this evaluation is very subjective and therefore inspectors are challenged in trying to maintain consistency in application of this requirement.

4. **Smart Pigging Technology and Capabilities**

Sergio Limon with Williams gave a slide presentation on the ILI (In-line Inspection) technologies and capabilities. *(This document is posted on CCOPS website)*

5. **Public Comment**

No public comments were provided.

6. **UTC update (David Lykken)**

- Dennis Ritter has filled the vacant Pipeline Safety Engineer position on August 16, 2011. Dennis comes from General Mechanical in Tacoma. His expertise is in civil engineering and has worked for local government and Dept. of Ecology.
- The addition of pipeline staff allows for dedicating inspectors to specialty areas. For example, one inspector will be dedicated to integrity management activities.
- Two rate cases were filed with the commission. Dockets for these cases are:
 - **Avista Corporation UG-110877 (gas), consolidated with UE-110876 (electric).**
Avista proposed a general natural gas rate increase serving customers in Eastern Washington. The request is to recover increased costs associated with operating and maintaining Avista's electric and natural gas system.
 - **Puget Sound Energy UG-110723.**
PSE proposed to change natural gas rates by implementing new program and schedule (Schedule No. 134, Pipeline Integrity Program) which is designed to recover the actual costs of certain plant investments incurred to implement pipeline safety programs between rate cases.

Dave encouraged committee member review the above mentioned filings and provide input if desired. UTC pipeline staff will be filing testimony in support of the filings. Dave will notify the committee when the public comment period is open and any deadline that is established.

Tim offered to contact Public Counsel to determine the position Public Counsel may be taking and if the committee can work cooperatively with them. Carl volunteered to review filed testimony and testify at the commission public hearing if desired.

Action:

- After discussion, the committee agreed to reschedule the next meeting to November 10th to allow Carl and David Lykken to attend.
- Marina will email members the links (UTC website) to docket pages for each rate cases.

7. **Dept. of Ecology Update**

Kelli Gustaf briefed the members on her job with Ecology and her responsibility in reviewing oil spill contingency plan and spill programs for five hazardous liquid pipelines in Washington. Further, Kelli Gustaf provided an Ecology update to members. (*This document is posted on CCOPS website*).

In response to Carl's question whether the companies contingency plan submitted to PHMSA are the same plans submitted to the state, Kelli confirmed that they are.

8. **ANPRM (Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) Transmission Pipeline and NTSB Accident Report on San Bruno Discussion**

Dave Lykken explained that this ANPRM addresses many topics resulting from NTSB's findings following San Bruno. A major item of concern to pipeline safety staff is clarifying the definition of a "transmission pipeline."

Action(s):

This item will be placed on the November's meeting agenda. The committee would like a balanced presentation including comments from the Pipeline Safety Trust (Carl), Pipeline Safety Staff (Joe Subsits), and Ruth Mabrey who will review previous INGAA (The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America) comments and provide an industry perspective.

9. **Election of Vice-Chair**

In an unanimous vote, Dave Taylor was elected as a vice-chair.

10. **2011-2012 Future Agenda Review Document (FAR)**

Members were provided a 2011-2012 Future Agenda Review document. This document will be presented at every meeting to discuss and determine future agenda topics. Future topics suggested by members include:

November 2011 meeting

- Proposed Gas Rulemaking -ANPRM Transmission pipeline. (Staff, Trust and industry perspective) (90 min).
- Two rate cases-Avista Docket UG-110877 and PSE-Docket UG-110723 (90 min).
- UTC Pipeline Safety staff Update.
- Department of Ecology Update.
- Review of draft 2011 Stakeholder Annual Report.
- Possible discussion on landuse.
- March & May 2012 Meeting dates.

March 2012 meeting

- Presentation by UTC staff on overview of 2011 inspections.
- Approval of draft 2011 Stakeholder Annual Report.
- UTC Pipeline Safety staff Update.
- Department of Ecology Update.

Other suggestions include:

- Bob Beaumier suggested inviting a PHMSA representative to talk about PHMSA's role.

11. **Public Comments**

Carl reported that the Pipeline Safety Trust is hosting their 6th annual Pipeline Safety Conference at the Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans on November 17 & 18, 2011. This conference is open to the public. Visit the Pipeline Safety Trust website at www.pstrust.org for more information on the conference and registration.

12. **Other Business, Future Agendas and Next Meeting Location**

The next meeting is rescheduled to Thursday, November 10, 2011 at the UTC.

The November 9, 2011 date will be used as a placeholder depending on the availability of the meeting facility.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.