

**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**  
Meeting Minutes  
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98504  
September 19, 2013

**Present members:**

Tim Sweeney, Chair  
David Taylor  
Carl Weimer  
Terri Briere  
Jody Morehouse  
Art Coulombe  
Ron Schmitt  
Christian Amend  
Ed Cimaroli  
Robert Oenning  
Randy Tarter  
Bob Beaumier, Vice-Chair via/Conference Bridge

**Absent members:**

Nick Peelo

**Other attendees:**

Joe Subsits, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Marina Woodard, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Rhonda Huynh, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology  
Cheryl McGrath, Puget Sound Energy  
Brad Tower, Olympic Pipe Line  
Verlyn Bailly, TransCanada  
Duane Henderson, Puget Sound Energy  
Tina Beach, Cascade Natural Gas  
Bill Steel, University of Washington  
Don West, Golden Associates  
Ron Bowen, WA State Fire Marshal  
Rosalie Ann Lopez, BP Pipelines  
Kelli Gustaf, BP Pipelines  
Jeremy Young, BP Pipelines

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Welcome, Introduction and Adoption of May 23, 2013 Meeting Minutes**  
The meeting was brought to order by Tim Sweeney who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the May 23, 2013 meeting minutes as written.
2. **Industries Presentation on “Thinking Outside of the Pipe on Public Awareness” (Presentation by Pipeline Association of Washington (PAW)-Tina Beach, CNG & Verlyn Bailly, TransCanada)**  
Tina Beach and Verlyn Bailly provided an overview and presentation of the “Pipeline Public Awareness” (PAW). Handout materials were provided for this discussion. (*This document is posted on CCOPS website.*)
3. **Early Earthquake Warning System**  
Bill Steele with the University of Washington provided a PowerPoint presentation on early warning systems that is used to help detect earthquakes. A program is being developed to establish partnerships with companies in developing a west coast Earthquake Early Warning System. (*This document is posted on CCOPS website.*)
4. **Public Comment**  
No public comments.
5. **Key National Issues**  
Joe Subsits briefed the committee on the following issues:
  - **NAPSR Elects New Executive Boards Officer.**  
The National Association of Pipeline Safety Regulators (NAPSR), elected David Lykken as executive board as secretary. Once elected, NAPSR officers rotate up through the executive positions. This means that Dave will become NAPSR president in October 2015.
  - **Defective Leak Clamp Advisory Bulletin.**  
PHMSA issued an advisory on leak clamps manufactured by TD Williams Inc. The defective clamps were bolt on type. Welded clamps tend to be ok. These clamps were manufactured between; 9/02 to 8/12. PHMSA recommends record verification with API 611 “Specification on end closures, connectors and swivels” from 2-inch to 48 inches for pressure classes of 150, 300, 400, 600 and 900. The advisory notifies operators to stop using the clamps and to contact TD Williams if clamps were manufactured within the specified time period. Staff will follow-up during upcoming inspections.
  - **Americans’ Pay for Gas Leaks Report.**  
The report “Americans Paying for Gas Leaks” concluded that consumers are paying millions of dollars for gas that never reaches their homes. The report concludes 45% of methane emissions are from natural gas that is lost during transmission. Most significant cause of lost natural gas is cast iron pipe and bare steel. Most states have a cost recovery to encourage replacement of poor performing pipe. The report originated from the east coast which has older pipes than west coast. The east coast has more cast iron pipe. PSE has eliminated the remaining cast iron pipe in

Washington State. There are inconsistencies in how lost gas is measured so true comparison is difficult. The report recommends that states adopting cost recovery, program required timeframes for repairing hazardous leaks promptly, a standard methodology for determining unaccounted for gas, limited ability to recover cost for unaccounted for gas.

6. **PHMSA Integrity Verification Process**

Joe Subsits stated that a public workshop was held on a new Pipeline Integrity Verification process on 8/7/2013. This initiative intended to address congressional mandates and NTSB recommendations. A notice was released on 9/11/13 and published extending the comment period from 9/9/13 to 10/7/13. Recommendations call for removal of a grandfather clause regarding new pressure testing requirements. Integrity verification plans would be required for segments without complete MAOP records and requires all gas transmission lines to accommodate ILI tools. Industry representatives commented that there are too many technical issues incorporated into one process and requested longer time period for commenting.

7. **UTC Update**

Joe Subsits provided the following updates:

- **Pipeline Replacement Update** – The Commission developed a policy allowing investor owned companies the ability to recover pipe replacement cost for higher risk pipe in a timely manner. Requirements coincide with existing DIMP programs which requires risk assessment and ranking of higher risk pipe. The Commission was interested in providing incentives to retire higher risk pipe with known and managed risks. Cynthia Quarterman (PHMSA Administrator) stated that the timely repair, rehabilitation and replacement are critical to ensuring public safety. The program requirements intended to reduce lag for recovering cost for pipe replacement. The Commission requires submittal of pipe replacement plan by 4 local distribution companies. We anticipate that two plans will be approved at 10/10/13 open meeting. Two remaining plans are scheduled for 10/30/13 open meeting.
- **PHMSA Audit results** – One week audit included two days with inspectors in the field. There was a heavy focus on reviewing inspection reports. Recommendations from the audit were to re-inspect Operator Qualification (OQ) and Integrity Management Programs (IMP) and perform more IMP related field work.
- Staff is in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UTC and Ecology. Signing the agreement is expected at the end of September 2013.

8. **Master Meter/Small Gas Pipeline Systems**

Joe Subsits provided the following updates:

- Master meters are mini distribution systems which resell gas. Master Meters must comply with pipeline safety rules.
- We currently have 7 jurisdictional master meters.
- The committee inquired about propane systems and small gas pipeline systems that do not resell gas.

9. **Dept. of Ecology Update**

- Scott Zimmerman provided a Dept. of Ecology update to members. BP Pipelines had a spill on August 30, 2013. Three gallons of crude oil were spilled in Ferndale, WA. *(This document is posted on CCOPS website).*

10. **Damage Prevention Update**

Joe Subsits provided the following updates:

- Joe noted that 100 letters were sent to excavators that reportedly damaged pipelines and had not called for locates. This damage information was obtained from UTC's Virtual DIRT on-line reporting tool. The letters reminded excavators of their responsibilities under the new dig law RCW 19.122 and provided a factsheet that outlines requirements of the law and penalties for non-compliance.
- Anna Gill is gearing up for 811 media campaign in the spring of 2014.
- Staff is investigating an excavator who damaged a line and covered it up. Operator information is needed to complete investigation.
- Damage report analysis for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter from Virtual DIRT data were compiled with approximately 5% duplicates. This analysis report is available on the UTC website. Staff is willing to provide the information to the excavators' who need to report.

11. **Committee Annual Report. What should it do and contain?**

- During the May 23, 2013 meeting, UTC Chairman, Dave Danner provided a few ideas on how the committee should help with the commission's ongoing efforts in pipeline safety. One of the ideas was the development of an annual report describing overall pipeline issues and efforts in keeping the pipeline safe. Committee agreed to discuss this further on the contents of the 2013 annual report. The committee will get back to Tim S. with ideas before the next meeting in November. The annual report will be mailed to the distribution list before the Legislative session in 2014.

12. **Public Comments, FAR 2013, Other Business, and CCOPS November meeting schedule**

- **GIS Mapping System.**  
Ed Cimaroli with BP Pipelines confirmed that he will provide a presentation to the committee regarding the GIS mapping system and the outcome of the project. Ed recommended this topic during May 23, 2013 meeting.
- **Emergency Planning & Response.**  
The committee will work on who should present this topic to the committee. This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney during May 23, 2013 meeting.
- **"CCOPS Giving Back."**  
As challenged by UTC Chairman, Dave Danner during May 23, 2013 meeting on CCOPS efforts on pipeline safety, Tim Sweeney suggested this topic for future discussion.
- **Next Meeting Schedule.**  
The committee agreed to move the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to other date due to conflict with the Pipeline Trust Conference in New Orleans. The alternative meeting

dates proposed are November 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. Marina will email members once the date and location are determined.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 pm.