

**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**  
Meeting Minutes  
Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504  
May 18, 2017

**Present members:**

David Taylor, Chair  
Bob Beaumier  
Greg Baruso  
Carl Weimer  
Ron Schmitt  
Karen Cash  
Janet Alderton (via conference bridge line)  
Juliana Williams (via conference bridge line)

**Absent members:**

Ron Bowen  
Nick Peelo  
Randy Tarter

**Other attendees:**

Alan Rathbun, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Sean Mayo, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Joe Subsits, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Denise Crawford, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Darren Tinnerstet, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Ann Rendahl, UTC Commissioner  
Steve King, UTC Executive Director  
Jason Lewis, UTC Policy and Planning and Research  
Sarah Volk, CNGC  
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology  
Mark Otteli, Public

**Agenda Items:**

**NOTE: The minutes reflect the amended order in which the items were considered.**

- 1) **Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction and Adoption of March 23 Minutes**  
The meeting was brought to order by Dave Taylor who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the March 23 meeting minutes as written.
- 2) **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**  
Ron Schmitt was nominated as Chair in a unanimous vote.  
Greg Baruso was nominated as Vice-Chair in a unanimous vote.

- 3) **Planning Association of Washington 2017 Conference – Land Planning Presentation**  
Carl Weimer gave a brief overview of the PowerPoint that was presented at the Planning Association of Washington Conference. *(This document is posted on the CCOPS website)*  
There's also a link to the presentation on the MRSC website.

- 4) **Future land planning outreach efforts**  
Application was made to present at the Association of Washington Cities Conference in June and for the American Planning Association Conference in September.

Alan Rathbun suggested reviewing the maps on the UTC's website that show the counties with transmission pipelines. Committee members can then contact the company/pipeline operators and find out if they are having any challenges with planners in their area. This information will give the committee areas to focus their land planning efforts.

Juliana recommended that each committee member provide outreach to at least one or two jurisdictions that are experiencing a high growth rate, during the course of the year.

Bob Beaumier recommended a stronger regulatory structure.

- 5) **Report from the Western Regional Meeting of the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR), Coeur d' Alene, ID**  
Joe Subsits reviewed the high points of NAPSR's Western Regional Meeting.  
Chris Hoidal, PHMSA's Western Regional Director has been reassigned to a Senior Policy Advisor position in Washington, DC.  
There's a new federal law that requires operators to be notified of any potential issues noted during inspection, within 30 days following the inspection. Correspondence must be sent to operator within 90 days following inspection.  
The UTC Pipeline Safety Program notifies the operator of any potential issues on the last day of the inspection, at the exit interview.  
PHMSA will be conducting a financial audit of UTC's Pipeline Safety Program this year, this happens once every three years.

- 6) **Staff recommendation on discussion topics for the remainder of 2017**  
Alan recommends that staff give detailed presentations on the Pipeline Safety Program operations in the coming meetings. For example: The different types of inspections the program performs and what are they looking at/for. What does the program do relative to Damage Prevention. Review of the complaint and enforcement action process. Alan is recommending these types of topics so that committee members can be more familiar with the program, enabling them to better evaluate the Pipeline Safety Trust report/audit.

Janet Alderton would like to hear how the trial of robotic inspection tool worked out for Williams.

Dave Taylor would like to have NW Natural give a presentation on their new field and operator qualification training program. Dave passed around a handout for the members. *(this document is posted on the CCOPS website)*

Carl Weimer agrees with Dave's recommendation. This ties in with Alan's recommendation of staff presentations on operations.

Karen Cash would like a presentation on how PHMSA audits the Pipeline Safety Program, ie: what they look for and scoring.

7) **Department of Ecology Update**

Scott Zimmerman provided updates on pipeline oil spill contingency plans, drills, Geographic Response Plans (GRP), and recent changes to rules. *(This document is posted on the CCOPS website)*

8) **UTC Update**

Alan Rathbun provided a brief on the following:

Greenwood Evidentiary Hearing – Docket No. PG-160924

The UTC held an Evidentiary Hearing on May 15, 2017. Public Counsel has intervened, regarding the settlement penalty amount. This case is still pending, with a decision to be made by the Commissioners in the next couple of months.

Small Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) Distribution Systems

Staff determined that the small LPG system discovered on the San Juan Islands is jurisdictional to the Pipeline Safety Program. Staff is preparing a response to the operator informing them of the steps they will need to take in order to operate within state and federal regulations. Several more of these systems have come to our attention and staff will meet with the operators to determine jurisdiction.

Pipeline Safety Fee Methodology

The Commission started a process to review the Pipeline Safety Fee Methodology and have since decided to put this rulemaking on hold.

New Director of Pipeline Safety – Sean C. Mayo

Retired from the US Army in April 2017, after over 24 years of service. Education includes BS in Business Administration, MA in Organizational Leadership.

9) **Damage Prevention Update**

Debbie Becker provided the following Damage Prevention Update:

Statewide Excavator and Locator Training Program

\$21,800 from the PHMSA One Call Grant was set aside to provide Excavator and Locator training. The Dirt Reports were reviewed and the counties that received significant hits were targeted for training. The amount of requests to attend these classes

unexpected, within 48 hours all eight classes were full. The Program determined that there is a great need for training and has decided to use some of the Dig Law penalty money to provide more classes. The training was provided at no cost to the attendee. 81% of those that signed up for the two day Locator Training showed up and 96% for the one day Dig Safe/Excavator Training. In reviewing the list of attendees, there were a significant amount of those from cities, counties, local governments, and conservation districts in attendance. The program will be providing more training in Fall 2017/Winter 2018.

**Action Item:**

Juliana Williams requested a list of the local cities and government that participated in the classes to aid in Land Use Planning outreach efforts.

Debbie Becker will provide this information to the Committee Members.

UTC Damage Prevention Investigations to Date  
(*This document is posted on the CCOPS website*)

Outreach at Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Events  
The WIAA events are winding down and the programs final outreach opportunity will be ending with track and field. These events have provided an excellent opportunity for statewide 811 Call Before You Dig outreach.

10) **Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) Proposal for the Pipeline Safety Program Report**

Carl Weimer provided the attendees an outline of what the UTC Pipeline Safety report might look like. (*This document is posted on the CCOPS website*) If the committee and UTC would like the PST to move forward with preparing the report, a draft report can reasonably be available for review in September, with final review at the November meeting, and a final approved report available at the committee's first meeting in 2018. The committee members discussed the topics that they would like to have included in the report.

If there are any additional topics or ideas that committee members wish to see in the report, please email Carl Weimer.

Steve King, the Executive Director of the UTC announced that the Commission welcomes this report and looks forward to sharing this information.

11) **Pipeline Risk Matrix – contributing factors and how it is used**

Joe Subsits reviewed the Pipeline Safety Risk Matrix that is used in determining inspections. (*This document is posted on the CCOPS website*) Joe discussed the elements that he uses to come up with a risk assessment score for each operator unit. The units with higher risk scores will receive more frequent inspections.

12) **Public Comments**

Sarah Volk, of Cascade Natural Gas Company and member of the Pipeline Association of Washington provided a brief update. The Association has merged with Idaho and Oregon. Idaho had a very small association and Oregon did not have one. The primary goal of the

Association is to educate emergency responders. Training is scheduled by county; ten counties are scheduled each year. Each county is offered training every third year.

Mark Ottli with Granite Construction Company – Builds roads, bridges, railroads, some refinery work. The company is heavily involved with the Dig Law. He just wanted to come and observe the meeting and to thank the committee for all they do.

13) **Review of Action Items, Topics for Next Meeting, and Other Business**

Carl Weimer wanted to thank Alan Rathbun for his many years of service.

Alan recommends that staff continue with the new member orientations and include the Chair and Vice Chair in these.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.