

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

Telephone Conference Call Minutes

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

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

January 8, 2016

Present members:Ron Bowen, Chair
David Taylor, Vice Chair
Bob Beaumier
Ron Schmitt
Greg Baruso
Carl Weimer
Jody Morehouse**Absent members:**Janet Alderton
Erik Poulsen
Nick Peelo
Randy Tarter
Juliana Williams**Other attendees:**Alan Rathbun, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Joe Subsits, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Marina Woodard, UTC Safety and Consumer Protection
Denise Crawford, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Jason Lewis, UTC Transportation Policy Advisor
Steve Ogle, Dept. of Ecology**Agenda Items:**1. **Welcoming participants and calling the Meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Ron Bowen who welcomed all attendees. Ron read the Chairman's Meeting Protocol as a reminder to all participants. Roll call was taken to be sure that a quorum was present. All participants introduced themselves.

2. **Docket No. PHMSA-2010-0229, Safety of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)** – Ron Bowen thanked Dave Taylor, Carl Weimer and UTC staff for assistance in preparing the comment letter. The structure of the letter consists of a large portion of the UTC's draft comments and comments provided by CCOPS members.

Dave Taylor – supports letter – He feels that the letter supports the consensus of the committee.

Carl Weimer – supports letter – He added some clarification to the letter and would be happy go over the clarification if anyone has questions.

Bob Beaumier – supports letter – He doesn't want to do any detail editing. He believes that given the time constraint, we need to move forward. He strongly supports the need for "extreme weather event" definition.

Greg Baruso – supports letter – He is hopeful that the emergency response plan will mirror something like what the emergency responders have.

Ron Schmitt – supports letter – He agrees with Greg Baruso concerning the emergency response plan. He voiced his concern about allowing 20 years for modifications to support the use of in-line inspection (ILI) tools.

There was considerable discussion around the cost of making modifications to existing pipelines and how it would affect the industry. Carl explained that there are some significant costs, but PHMSA came to the conclusion that the benefit outweighs the cost. He explained that companies could file for an exemption for retrofitting. He went on to explain that most of the progressive companies are already doing ILI's so the cost isn't as high as it could be.

Alan Rathbun reminded the committee that industry members would likely be sending their own comments. He reported that Nick Peelo informed him that McChord intends to submit their own comments.

Jason Lewis reported that the commissioners are reviewing the rule and deciding whether they should comment or offer more substantial recommendations like language changes. He will know in the next hour or so what the commissioners plan on doing. The Governor's office is supportive of our letter and they would like an update on what we have decided.

Steve Ogle voiced his concern with the definition of the "extreme weather event and who will make the determination when the event occurs. The Department of Ecology is very supportive of CCOPS recommendations to step up the measures.

Carl Weimer reported that he participated in a recent conference call that consisted of mostly industry members and PHMSA, and this topic was brought up about the lack of definition. He feels that PHMSA is going to get lots of comments from the industry on how to define "extreme weather conditions."

Action: Carl Weimer suggested an addition to the letter, in the second paragraph, that says "we reviewed draft comments from the UTC and The Pipeline Trust." Marina Woodard will work with Ron Bowen in formatting the letter on CCOPS letterhead. After that is complete, the letter will be submitted online to the US Department of Transportation at www.regulations.gov.

The committee moved to submit the letter with modifications as discussed above.

This was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote.

3. **Public Comments**
No public comments were provided.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:29am.