

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

Meeting Minutes

Utilities and Transportation Commission (Via Skype)

621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503

May 6, 2020**Present members:**Jerome Delvin, Chair
Aaron Losik, Vice-Chair
Greg Baruso
Nick Peelo
Karen Cash
Leanne Guier
Andreas Kammereck**Absent members:**Ron Bowen
Phillip Lemley**Other attendees:**Sean Mayo, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Joe Subsits, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Rell Koizumi, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Steve Davidson, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Lynda Holloway, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology**Agenda Items:****1) Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction and Adoption of March 16, 2020 Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order by Jerome Delvin, Chair who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the March 16, 2020 meeting minutes as written.

2) Elections of Vice-Chair

Aaron Losik was nominated as Vice-Chair in a unanimous vote.

3) Department of Ecology Update

The document is posted on the CCOPS website and can be found [here](#).

4) Industry's Response to COVID-19

Karen Cash from Avista Utilities Corporation and Nick Peelo from McChord Pipeline Company gave the committee an overview of how their companies' have responded to COVID-19 and the different steps they are taking to ensure worker safety.

5) **UTC Update**

PHMSA Update:

- PHMSA issued a notice of stay of enforcement in March regarding operator qualification and control room management requirements.
- PHMSA issued an enforcement discretion over drug and alcohol testing intervals.
- On April 22nd, PHMSA issued an extension for the training/preparation requirements associated with the new Gas Transmission Rule.

Agency Level:

- UTC will follow PHMSA's stays of enforcement discretion.
- Governor proclamation 20-23 has been extended through May 31st. This proclamation prohibits utilities from disconnecting services and assigning any delinquent payment or reconnection fees.

Program Level:

- Currently, there is no stoppage of inspections or investigations.
- Sean briefed the members on how the Pipeline Program is adjusting to COVID-19.
- Issued a multitude of additional PPE, sanitizers, and masks to Inspectors.
- Restriction lifted for unannounced inspections from 4 counties to 1.

6) **Damage Prevention Update**

- 27 Open Investigations, 9 Penalties issued so far in 2020.
- \$19,500 collected - \$7,600 of that will be deferred if the party has no further violations.
- 3 classes in 2020, then COVID-19 hit, so future classes have been canceled until further notice.
- Exploring the option of online training with Washington 811.

2019 Damage Prevention Statistics:

- 538,000 incoming locate requests
- Of those locate requests - 77% contractors, 12% homeowners, 8.5% facility owners
- Damages per 1000 locates = 4.8
- 139 enforcement investigations done
- 441 warning letters sent out
- \$193,500 in penalties collected – this money can only be used for worker safety.
- \$128,800 spent on worker safety training
- 24 classes were held, 588 people attended

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

- Members should discuss and create a CCOPS work plan for the year.

- Members would like to invite Carl Weimer to a meeting so that he can give an update on the Pipeline Safety Trust's outreach efforts.
- Members should discuss the CCOPS Vacancies and a plan to recruit new members – 2 Voting, 2 Industry

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.