

**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**  
Meeting Minutes  
Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98504  
**November 20, 2019**

**Present members:**

Aaron Losik, Vice-Chair  
Greg Baruso (via bridge line)  
Ron Bowen  
Nick Peelo (via bridge line)  
Randy Tarter  
Karen Cash  
Patrick Davis  
Andreas Kammereck

**Absent members:**

Janet Alderton  
Leanne Guier  
Jerome Delvin  
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 (via bridge line)  
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology  
Megan Loy, CNGC/MDU  
Carl Weimer, Pipeline Safety Trust

**Agenda Items:**

- 1) **Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction**  
The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair, Aaron Losik, who welcomed all attendees. No action was taken at this meeting due to a lack of quorum.
- 2) **Pipeline Safety Trust Presentation and Discussion**  
Carl Weimer, Executive Director of the national Pipeline Safety Trust, presented a draft presentation to the CCOPS Members of the outreach initiative. Carl presented 2 things:
  1. Pipeline Safety Report – the Trust is working on pairing down this report so that it doesn't contain information that's not pertinent to the public.
  2. Powerpoint presentation – which will be presented to the various local governments and communities around Washington State.

The Committee and the Trust have a common goal to prioritize communities with transmission lines and communities that are rapidly growing.

Joe Subsits made a suggestion to include more information on distribution systems, considering that's the majority type of pipeline running through Washington State. Educating the public on homeowner responsibilities and what surrounds them and their homes are important for damage prevention.

The committee discussed putting more emphasize on damage prevention and what actions the local governments should take within their communities.

**ACTION ITEM:** UTC staff will provide excavation damage by counties and types of excavators.

The committee gave feedback and made recommendations to Carl regarding the powerpoint presentation draft. Carl Weimer and staff expect to begin delivering presentations to communities next spring.

3) **Potential Indicators Presentation and Discussion**

Sean Mayo presented data charts for some potential indicators of safety.

The UTC uses this data to determine which counties trainings should be held for better outreach and education.

4) **Department of Ecology**

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

5) **UTC Update**

Sean Mayo briefed the Committee on the following:

- Staff has completed 10 scheduled inspections, and 102 unannounced inspections on construction and maintenance.
- Staff closed 4 investigations into pipeline incidents.
- The UTC Pipeline Safety Program scored a perfect score on their evaluation from PHMSA.
- The audit of the Damage Prevention program received the loss of one point.
- The UTC worked with the Dig Law stakeholders during their workgroup meetings to strengthen the current language of the Dig Law.
- 8 UTC Inspectors will be attending API 1169 certification.
- Sean Mayo reviewed the process of penalizing the Dig Law.

6) **Damage Prevention Update**

Debbie Becker briefed the committee on what the UTC does with the funds received from penalties of the Dig Law:

- Any money collected must be used for worker safety.
- With these funds, the UTC hosts free trainings for the public. NUCA Dig Safe Training and Staking University Locator Training.
- Since 2017 the program has scheduled 44 classes. Educating 1,359 students from different companies and entities.
- Currently, the UTC has 10 more scheduled classes and will have 3 more scheduled before 2020.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

UTC staff will provide excavation damage by counties and types of excavators.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.