

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes
Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503
September 1, 2021

Present members:

Jerome Delvin, Chair
Aaron Losik, Vice-Chair
Greg Baruso
Phillip Lemley
Karen Cash
Andreas Kammereck
Leanne Guier
Michael Hatchett

Absent members:

Ron Bowen

Other attendees:

Sean Mayo, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Rell Koizumi, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Joice Hagen, UTC Pipeline Safety Program
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology
Megan Loy, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

Agenda Items:

- 1) **Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction and Adoption of May 12, 2021 Minutes**
The meeting was brought to order by Jerome Delvin who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the May 12, 2021 meeting minutes as written.

- 2) **Formal Request to Allow Exemption from Residency Requirements**
The Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety has frequent member vacancies. Having a residency requirement eliminates many qualified applicants. The Committee will send a letter to the Governor's office to request an exemption from the residency requirement.
Aaron Losik made a motion authorizing the Chairman to sign the letter to the Governor's office on behalf of the Committee. The letter will request residency exemptions for the non-voting industry members. In a unanimous vote, the Committee approved this motion.

Action Item: Sean Mayo will draft a letter to the Governor's office on behalf of the Committee.

3) **CCOPS Tri-fold**

The Committee reviewed the final draft of the CCOPS tri-fold. Karen Cash recommended adding a revision date to the tri-fold. Leanne Guier made a motion to adopt the tri-fold with the noted revisions and additions. In a unanimous vote, the Committee approved this motion.

Action Item: Rell Koizumi will revise the member list and add a revision date to the tri-fold.

4) **Department of Ecology**

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

5) **Damage Prevention Update**

Debbie Becker briefed the Committee on the following:

- The UTC's process to create Damage Prevention cases, based on either DIRT (Damage Incident Reporting Tool) or Safety Committee referrals.
- To date, 62 Damage Prevention investigations have been completed. \$60,500 has been issued in penalties.
- 26 Open investigations.
- Demonstrated how to navigate the new UTC website and where to locate the Pipeline Safety page, CCOPS page, and Damage Prevention page.

Karen Cash requested a report detailing excavation damages by day of the week and excavator type.

Action Item: Debbie Becker will create the requested reports and present them at the December meeting.

6) **UTC Update and NAPSAR Meeting Recap**

Sean Mayo briefed the Committee on the following:

Agency Level:

- The UTC building remains closed to the public.
- Nearly all staff continue to telework.
- The Governor mandated all state employees must be vaccinated by October 18th or they are subject to termination from state employment.

Program Level:

- PHMSA's audit of the Pipeline Safety program is complete. The program scored 100% on both gas and liquid.
- Sean explained how PHMSA performs its audits of the program.
- Since the last meeting, Staff has completed 26 scheduled inspections, 128 unannounced inspections, and 115 facility inspections.
- Responded to 27 incident calls.
- Joe Subsits, Chief Engineer, retired on June 4th.

PHMSA Level:

- No PHMSA Administrator has been appointed. Tristan Brown is the acting Administrator.
- PHMSA's scope has changed and includes climate change, environmental justice, and transportation as an engine for equity.

Action Items:

- Jerome Delvin will email the Committee to determine capabilities and willingness to give virtual presentations to various stakeholders.
- Debbie Becker will provide damage prevention reports at the December meeting.
- Rell Koizumi will revise the CCOPS tri-fold and send the completed version to the Committee.
- Sean Mayo will draft a letter to the Governor's office on behalf of the Committee regarding residency exemption for non-industry voting members.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.