



Committee Members  
Carl Weimer, Chair • Leo Bowman, Vice Chair  
Pete Kmet • Richard Kuprewicz  
Shirley Olson • Bill Rickard  
Jean Buckner • Bob Bandarra  
Duane Henderson • Grant Jensen • George Hills

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**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**  
Meeting Minutes  
Whatcom County Courthouse  
311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA, Room 514  
October 4, 2007

**Present members:**

Carl Weimer, Chair  
Leo Bowman, Vice Chair  
Pete Kmet  
Shirley Olson  
Rick Kuprewicz  
Bob Bandarra  
George Hills  
Grant Jensen  
Bill Rickard  
Duane Henderson

**Absent members:**

Jean Buckner

**Other attendees:**

Tim Sweeney, Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) pipeline safety program  
Marina Woodard, UTC pipeline safety program  
Alan Rathbun, citizen and former director of pipeline safety program  
Paul Fincher, Williams Northwest Pipeline

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Welcome and Adoption of August 2, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order by Carl Weimer who welcomed all attendees. The committee unanimously adopted the August 2, 2007 meeting minutes.

**2. Public Comment**

- Leo requested that the agenda be amended to state that the meeting was not convened until October 4, noting that on October 3, the committee had toured various locations in the Bellingham area including the Kinder Morgan Pipeline Laurel Station and Whatcom Falls Park where Olympic Pipeline ruptured in 1999.

- Alan Rathbun thanked the committee for their support during his time as UTC staff. He encouraged members to continue identifying and looking into pipeline safety issues in their capacity as an oversight body and advisor on pipeline safety concerns. The committee provided unanimous acclaim to Mr. Rathbun for his four-years of dedicated service to pipeline safety.
- Leo thanked Tim Sweeney for his presentation to the WA State Association of Counties on land use.
- Carl Weimer handed out the current Safe Pipeline Newsletter to committee members.
- The right-of-way issue was discussed at length by committee members during public comment. Carl suggested committee members need to decide how they want to pursue the right-of-way issue in the future.

3. **UTC Update**

Tim Sweeney provided an overview of recent events that have impacted the pipeline safety section.

- Staff changes in UTC Pipeline Safety Program
- Leak in Olympic's 16-inch line resulting from hydrotest near Tesoro Refinery
- Division II of Washington Appeals Court decision GIS Case
- FERC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on Bradwood Landing LNG terminal and outlet pipeline. Comments on the DEIS are due December 24, 2007.
- Status of Member Appointment
  - Marina will contact Governor's office to get the updated status.
- Gas and Liquid Rulemaking
  - Currently in CR-101 process. This rulemaking is to bring rules into compliance with changes in state law. Rick Kuprewicz requested Tim send out the language via e-mail to committee members. Tim will add committee members to the interested parties list for this rulemaking.
- Settlement agreements have been reached with PSE (Pierce & King Counties) and Avista. Notice will soon be sent out through the list serve.

Shirley suggested further discussion of the small gas system/master meter issue during the 2008 meeting schedules.

Shirley further recommended pipeline companies provide information to the public on pipeline assessment and inspection. Alan noted that the committee needs a brief overview of integrity management presentation and assessing risk.

Pete suggested getting additional information on pipeline facilities to be added to the UTC website. Examples might include information on smart pigs, valves and other pipeline facilities.

4. **Update on UTC Damage Prevention Initiative**

Tim Sweeney summarized a workshop for pipeline operator that was held on September 25, 2007 in SeaTac. Tim handed out a copy of the Damage Prevention Program Elements which

was excerpted from the PIPES Act of 2006. These elements describe the federal law's ideal effective damage prevention program. The next Damage Prevention workshop will be held on November 6, 2007 in Spokane.

5. **Land Use and PST Conference in New Orleans**

Carl summarized the Conference planned by Pipeline Safety Trust on November 15 & 16, 2007. Members Shirley Olson, Pete Kmet and Bill Rickard expressed interest in attending if funding can be made available. Tim Sweeney and Carl Weimer will research availability on funding through the UTC and the Trust.

6. **PIPES 2006 and PHMSA Appropriation – State Programs**

Alan Rathbun discussed the provisions of the 2006 PIPES Act which raised potential state funding from 50% to 80%. Congress is considering the PHMSA appropriation for 2008. An amendment by the House of Representatives requests PHMSA to study the way fees are charged to pipeline operators. The Senate is now considering this Bill.

Alan further explained the overall funding process for pipeline safety at the federal and state level. This was followed by a summary of a current disagreement between UTC Pipeline Safety and PHMSA. PHMSA reduced funding to the UTC by approximately \$180,000 without justification in the opinion of the UTC. The UTC has sent a letter to PHMSA requesting either payment of the amount owed or justification for the cut. Tim will follow up with PHMSA on the response to the UTC's letter. The committee request that this funding issue be placed in the future agenda for more discussion. This discussion will include an updated description of the UTC's economic regulatory and pipeline safety fee process.

7. **Future Meeting Locations and Agendas – Other Business**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2007 at WA State Investment Board, Olympia.

Agenda items are to include:

- Leak detection presentation
- State pipeline safety program funding/fee issue
- 2006-2007 Citizens Committee Annual Report
- Forecast on possible legislation for 2008
- Bradwood Landing - comments due on FERC DEIS by December 24, 2007. Rick volunteered to review and give summary to the committee the Washington portion of DEIS as it relates to the 30-inch proposed transmission pipeline in Cowlitz County. Carl will also work on review of the DEIS document.
- 2008 work plan

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.