

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety  
Meeting Minutes Summary  
**July 25, 2001**

**Present**

Chuck Mosher, Chair  
Harry “Jay” Follman  
Lee A. James  
Duane Henderson  
Alan J. Cabodi  
Susan Harper  
Don Evans

**Absent**

Sarah Spence  
Grant Jensen  
Richard Gilda  
Laura L. Parsons  
Brad Rosewood

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
3. WUTC Pipeline Safety Division Status Report
4. Public Comment
5. Damage Prevention
6. Department of Ecology Information
7. New Items of Business
8. Adjourn Meeting

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the ninth meeting of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety.
2. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes** – Chuck noted that the minutes from the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting have not been composed yet. Those minutes will be e-mailed to committee members shortly for their review. The June 27<sup>th</sup> minutes will then be adopted at the September meeting.
3. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Division Status Report** – Sondra Walsh, Policy Strategist with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), gave a status report to the committee on the current activities of the WUTC pipeline safety division.
  - Cascade Natural Gas (CNG) waiver to be presented to the commissioners at the open meeting today (July 25). The waiver would allow CNG to construct a pipeline in the Satsop/Montesano area. Some residences along the proposed pipeline route are within

100 feet of the pipeline. Sondra told the committee how staff was proposing acceptance of the waiver because CNG agreed to additional safety requirements to take extra measures when it comes to the residences in close proximity to the pipeline, like x-raying the welds.

- The Cherry Point Cogeneration Plant will be deciding if it will increase the pressure on the existing line or have a new pipeline put in.
- Pipeline safety staff, Doug Kilpatrick and Dennis Lloyd, will be holding a conference call with the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) to talk about making sure that all the new pipeline siting are covered, like the Georgia-Straight and Delta pipelines. This concluded the WUTC pipeline safety update.

Chuck asked Steve Rieger, who was in the audience, if he had heard of how the federal legislation was going. Steve stated that he was not aware of any change on the federal level regarding pipeline safety. Chuck said that he had heard there was probably not going to be a pipeline safety bill introduced this session.

4. **Public Comment** – Chairman Chuck Mosher opened the floor for public comment.

*Ken Meyer*, informed the committee of some articles on pipeline safety that the Austin American Statesman (Austin, Texas) recently published in a four part series. He strongly encouraged the committee to read the series. Lindsay Walker, with the WUTC, also let everyone know that there is a link on the WUTC pipeline safety webpage to the Austin American Statesman's four part series on pipeline safety.

5. **Damage Prevention** – Chuck Mosher asked Penny Hansen, WUTC Damage Prevention Coordinator, to give the committee a summary of the Damage Prevention Workshop that was held on July 18 in Ellensburg. At the first meeting the stakeholders agreed that a mechanism for effective enforcement of the current law is desirable and necessary. Industry specific groups brainstormed enforcement mechanisms that might work based on their knowledge and expertise of their industry. Similarities across each industry included establishment of a board of peers and a complaint driven process for the enforcement of the current law RCW 19.122. Penny announced that the next workshop has been scheduled for Aug. 22, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm in Ellensburg. This next workshop will focus more on defining what the board of peers and the complaint process might look like. Susan Harper felt there should be more accountability in regards to damage prevention. Don Evans noted how all the stakeholders are coming together on the issue of enforcement of the law. Art Anderson from the audience commented that the pipeline companies were ready to solve this issue during the last legislative session but the contractors association wasn't there yet. He commented that the pipeline industry is ready to resolve the issue of enforcement and this meeting will focus on more specifics like who the board would consist of and brainstorming how the complaint-driven system might work. Don Evans noted how all the stakeholders are coming together on the issue of enforcement of RCW 19.122.

6. **Department of Ecology Information** – Linda Pilkey-Jarvis, with the Department of Ecology (DOE), informed the committee of the regional response team meeting that will

be held on or around September 18 or 19 in Bellingham. The regional response team is a group of agencies and organizations that hold quarterly meetings to discuss emergency response issues. The agenda for the meeting is not available yet, but Linda will forward it to the committee once it is available.

7. **New Items of Business** –

Lee James – Lee handed out to the committee and those present in the audience, an article from the Wall Street Journal dated July 10, 2001 titled “How Many Inspectors Make Safety Checks In Alaska’s Oil Fields?”. The article is about the Alaskan oil pipelines and how many inspectors are needed to ensure safety.

Lee also handed out a report on geotechnical monitoring, which he considered a supplement to the strain gauge report he handed out at the April meeting. Lee explained how geotechnical monitoring is the latest technology in regards to earth movement and pipelines.

Susan Harper – Susan informed the committee that she has been considering a way to keep participating with the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. She explained how she is now working for the University of Washington District Chamber of Commerce and has numerous things on her plate and feels she can’t, in all fairness, put in the amount of time needed to be involved in the committee. Susan would still like to be involved with the committee and had the idea of a co-sponsorship or co-partnership with another person that could attend in her place if she could not make the meetings. The person that would be the co-sponsor would keep her informed of the meetings. Susan recommended that Ken Meyer be that person because he is now the president of the board for FUEL SAFE Washington. She felt that someone like Ken would be valuable to the committee if this co-sponsorship/partnership could be worked out and possibly written into the committee bylaws. Susan stated that to be fair, she would have to resign from the committee if this partnership could not be worked out. Chairman Mosher said that he would have to look into this possibility and will communicate the information he learns through e-mails to the committee.

**Meeting Schedule through October** – Chuck Mosher reminded everyone present of the meeting schedule for the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety through October 2001.

- August, no meeting is scheduled.
- September, the committee will meet in Bellingham at the city hall.
- October, the committee will meet at the BP/Olympic Pipeline Renton Facility.

8. **Adjourn Meeting** – The committee adjourned to take a tour of the PSE operation center in Redmond, with the help of committee member Duane Henderson.