

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes Summary
March 28, 2001

Present

Chuck Mosher, Chair
Sarah Spence
Harry “Jay” Follman
Lee A. James
Grant Jensen
Duane Henderson
Richard Gilda
Brad Rosewood
Laura L. Parsons
Alan J. Cabodi

Absent

Bill Hinkle
Susan Harper
Don Evans

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of February 21, 2001 Meeting Minutes
3. Future Meeting Dates and Locations
4. Update on WUTC Pipeline Safety Funding Bill
5. New Pipelines/EFSEC
6. Comments from Bob Sluder with Williams Gas Pipeline-West
7. Post Earthquake Assessment Updates
8. City-County Pipeline Safety Consortium Update
9. Damage Prevention
10. Public Comment

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the fifth meeting for the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety.
2. **Adoption of February 21, 2001 Meeting Minutes** – The Committee moved and voted to approve the meeting minutes from the February 21 meeting.
3. **Future Meeting Dates and Locations** – The Committee discussed setting a meeting schedule for the committee meetings. The committee members in attendance agreed upon the fourth Wednesday of every month.

The Committee discussed the topic future meeting locations. Locations offered or discussed included the Chevron Pipeline facility in Pasco, McChord Pipeline's facility in Tacoma, somewhere in Ellensburg because of its central location, and Bellevue City Hall because of its accessibility from Sea-Tac airport. The Committee also asked representatives from BP/Olympic who were in attendance if their facility in Renton might be available. Grant Jensen offered the Williams Redmond office as a possible location. Chairman Mosher suggested that continued meeting in the Olympia area was probably prudent until June. Grant Jensen offered that he could help coordinate a field trip to William's Tumwater compressor station if the regular meeting were to be held in the Olympia/Tumwater area.

The next meeting will be held on April 25, 2001. Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) staff will make arrangements for it to be held somewhere in Olympia.

4. **Update on WUTC Pipeline Safety Funding Bill** – * Note: Some Committee members expressed an interest in also having a federal bill update at every meeting and more information on the status of federal rules affecting pipelines.

Carole Washburn, WUTC Executive Director, updated the committee on the current status of the pipeline safety funding bill. She reminded the committee that the bill was originally introduced into both the Senate and the House. She indicated that the original House Bill (HB 1452) had died in the House Rules Committee, however, the Senate bill (SSB 5182) was still moving. The Senate bill was heard by the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee on March 23, 2001. She noted that this bill needs to move out of this committee by 5 p.m. Friday, March 30, 2001 or it too would die. Assuming it does move out of the Agriculture and Ecology committee, the bill would next be heard in the House Appropriations committee, probably on Saturday, March 31, 2001. Carole also noted that the House budget would be released on March 28, 2001.

Lee James asked Carole if any alterations or amendments had been made to the Senate bill. Carole replied that the Senate bill had been passed to the House as originally written. She stated that amendments were being considered that would include language describing the fee methodology. Carole was asked if she knew what the pipeline companies' major opposition to the bill was. Carole mentioned that current concern was the distribution of the WUTC's administrative overhead to the interstate and intrastate companies. Carole said that there are currently three options being discussed with some of the pipeline companies for dividing the overhead. Carole told the committee that she is very optimistic about the passage of a bill and that the WUTC, legislators, and the pipeline companies were close to agreement on final amendment language. She also told the committee that the WUTC has agreed to a review of the program in two years by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC).

5. **New Pipelines/EFSEC** – Allen Fiskdal, Manager of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) spoke to the Citizens Committee about new pipelines that are going to be built around the State of Washington. Allen distributed a handout that identified known or expected power facility projects in Washington. He gave a brief description and update on each project. Allen also suggested the EFSEC website for more information on new pipelines.

Allen provided a brief explanation of siting jurisdiction for pipelines. He explained that siting jurisdiction depends on the company that owns and operates the line and the product transported within the pipeline. Generally, intrastate pipelines are sited by EFSEC; while interstate pipelines are sited by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The exception is that EFSEC has jurisdiction over siting of both interstate and intrastate hazardous liquids lines over a certain length.

6. **Comments from Bob Sluder with Williams Gas Pipeline-West** – Bob Sluder and Del Draper with Williams asked to speak to the Citizens Committee. They the committee that Williams is supporting the WUTC pipeline safety bill. Mr. Sluder and Mr. Draper informed the committee that they just came from a meeting with the Governor and also met with the WUTC commissioners on March 27th. Bob Sluder said that he and his company respect what the WUTC are doing, but feels that his company should question the numbers. He is encouraged that everyone is working together. Mr. Sluder also spent a few minutes talking to committee members about Washington state's energy supply issue and pipeline safety in general.

7. **Post Earthquake Assessment Updates** – Doug Kilpatrick, Director of the WUTC Pipeline Safety Division, spoke to the committee about the efforts of the WUTC engineers after the earthquake on February 28, 2001. WUTC staff were deployed to the field to aid in information gathering about pipeline companies' emergency response efforts. WUTC staff worked with the federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) to gather information about the interstate and intrastate pipelines. Communications with OPS was vitally important because of in-state telecommunications problems immediately following the quake. In addition to phone communications, OPS sent an additional inspector to Washington to help with post-earthquake assessments. WUTC staff completed a report to the Governor the day after the earthquake giving an update on the integrity of the pipelines within Washington.

On the day of the earthquake, BP/Olympic completed a voluntary shut down of their entire line within ten minutes after the earthquake and had crews walk, fly, and drive the pipeline right-of-way to assess any damage. One concern for Olympic's line was a landslide in Bellevue, which came within approximately 18 feet of it. Olympic hired contractors to assess the situation and work to mitigate the threat. Nine million pounds of rock were eventually deposited at the site to stabilize the affected slide zone.

Duane Henderson updated the committee on incidents that occurred along Puget Sound Energy's (PSE's) natural gas distribution system after the earthquake. Duane mentioned that PSE received some 900 odor calls the day of the quake. Many of these calls were

instances where gas needed to be turned back on to individual residences because customers had shut it off following the quake as a precaution. There were four breaks in the Puget Sound region, two in the SoDo region of Seattle, one near Southcenter and one in Tumwater. Duane also reported that some buildings were disconnected from the pipeline because of structural damage.

8. **City-County Pipeline Safety Consortium Update** – John Carpenter, with the City of Tumwater Fire Department represented the City-County Consortium. John gave the committee an update of the Consortium’s recent activities. The major issue the Consortium has been working on has been a model franchise agreement they hope to implement with BP/Olympic. He said that they have hired a consultant to review the pipeline franchise agreement to ensure that it is acceptable to all the cities and counties in which Olympic pipeline runs through. John said the Municipal Review Research Committee is also reviewing the franchise agreement. In addition to the franchise agreement, the consortium has been monitoring state and federal legislation in regards to pipelines.
9. **Damage Prevention** – Chuck Mosher reminded the committee that a damage prevention sub committee was formed back in January , with committee member Don Evans as the lead. Third-party damage is one of the most serious concerns to the pipeline companies and most members felt that damage prevention and the education about the one-call number is very important issue for the committee to focus on. Chuck had raised this topic in his letter to the Committee and was interested in seeing that the issue was given consideration.

Following-up on a promise made during the last committee meeting, Dan Cummings with BP/Olympic brought copies of the New Jersey damage prevention program description. After passing these out he informed the committee that his company would like to be involved in any processes that the Committee pursues related to damage prevention awareness.

A question was raised concerning enforcement of the State’s dig laws. Doug Kilpatrick reminded the committee that the “dig laws” (RCW 19.122) provide no specific assignment of agency responsibility for enforcing these laws. As requested by the year 2000 House Bill 2420, a one-call phone number has been established and as of December 31, 2000, 35 of the 39 counties in Washington State are using this one-call number. The counties not directly tied to the one-call number are Pend Orielle, Chelan, Douglas and Cowlitz. Doug stated that the reason for those four counties not being involved is because they are smaller call centers and it’s a financial and technology issue.

Doug informed the committee that four public process workshops were held during the year 2000. The workshops were hosted by the WUTC in order to work with the Washington Utilities Coordinating Council (WUCC) and all underground utilities industries. Doug summarized his understanding of the workshop participants’ interests by stating that they believed state authority was not appropriate or necessary to enforce

RCW 19.122. Numerous workshop attendees suggested the state of Washington form a damage prevention program similar to the Oregon model. The Oregon model has a board of volunteers representing all the different underground utilities. The board is a separate state agency and reviews complaint-driven penalty cases.

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

Mary Conway, Senator Patty Murray's Office – Mary spoke to the Citizens Committee to update them on the federal legislation of pipeline bills in congress. She reminded the committee that a bill did pass out of the Senate of February 8, 2001, but a pipeline safety bill has yet to pass out of the House and Senator Murray is very concerned about this. Mary also let the committee know that Senator Murray is in good standing as the Ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, which funds the federal Office of Pipeline Safety.

Dan Cummings, BP/Olympic Pipeline – Dan suggested to the committee that they have an educational component on every agenda, for example, he recommended that the committee have Dave Warren with the Office of Trade and Economic Development give a presentation on the states' energy crisis. Dave Warren gave a presentation to BP/Olympic and he said that it was very informative. Dan felt that the committee would benefit from taking a topic at every meeting and setting aside 30 minutes to an hour to get educated on the topic. Dan also recommended that all the pipeline companies be invited to the committee meetings, because right now only a few are being represented.

Dan updated the committee on the earthquake assessment to the Olympic pipeline. He said that the Department of Ecology was on-site doing an emergency drill with their company when the earthquake hit. BP voluntarily shut down their pipeline within 10 minutes. The decision was made in order for BP engineers to inspect the line. Dan informed the committee that BP/Olympic has also been holding landslide/earth movement recognition seminars since the earthquake happened. Dan also informed the committee on BP/Olympic's plans to conduct voluntary hydro testing on the 16-inch line and they are almost done with replacing the damaged sections of the line.

The Citizens Committee meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. on Wednesday March, 28, 2001.