

**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

## Meeting Minutes

Utilities and Transportation Commission (Via Skype)

621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503

**September 30, 2020****Present members:**Jerome Delvin, Chair  
Aaron Losik, Vice-Chair  
Nick Peelo  
Leanne Guier  
Andreas Kammereck  
Ron Bowen  
Greg Baruso  
Karen Cash**Absent members:**

Phillip Lemley

**Other attendees:**Sean Mayo, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Steve Davidson, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology  
Bill Caram, Pipeline Safety Trust**Agenda Items:****1) Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction and Adoption of March 16, 2020 Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order by Jerome Delvin, Chair who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the May 6, 2020 meeting minutes as written.

**2) Pipeline Safety Trust Update**

As of September 2020, Bill Caram replaced Carl Weimer as the Executive Director of the Pipeline Safety Trust. Bill introduced himself to the Committee and presented his current priorities for the Pipeline Safety Trust –

- Help PHMSA be a more effective regulator. Bill hopes to abolish the cost benefit requirement and the grandfather clause that keeps PHMSA from instituting rules and regulations on existing pipes.
- Help states take a more active role in pipeline safety.
- Create a nationwide network of informed public advocates to take more interest on pipelines within their communities so that they can advocate for safe siting's.

The trust applied for and was granted an extension on the Technical Assistance Grant. Bill and the Committee discussed potentially delivering these presentations via an online meeting.

Bill informed the committee that Carl Weimer is holding a webinar discussing the "Role of City and County Councils in Pipeline Safety" on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Bill will send the newsletter to Members.

Aaron Losik requested a brief informational guide to present to the planning commission he works with. Bill will work on making a flyer to distribute that will help engage interest.

3) **CCOPS Work Plan for 2021**

Committee Members, Aaron Losik, Leanne Guier, Jerome Delvin, and Greg Baruso volunteered to form a sub committee to review the "Pipeline Safety in Washington State" report and other documents to brainstorm topics for the 2021 work plan. They will report to the Committee at the December meeting.

4) **Department of Ecology Update**

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

5) **Brainstorm a Plan to Recruit New Members**

The Committee has 2 General Public vacancies and 2 Industry vacancies. Aaron Losik recommended creating a flyer/presentation to hand-out to people that describes what the Committee does. Members are going to put feelers out within their committees and groups they work with.

6) **UTC Update**

Agency Level:

- UTC building remains closed to the public, but all functions remain operational.
- Open Meetings are held virtually.
- Due to COVID the UTC has a utility bill assistance program. *More information can be found [here](#).*

Program Level:

- Completed 28 scheduled inspection and 147 unannounced inspections.
- Responded to 79 incident calls.
- PHMSA performed an audit of the UTC Pipeline Safety Program. Here are the audit scores -
  - Gas: 94.7%
  - Liquid: 100%
  - Damage Prevention: 96.1%
  - Fiscal Audit: ongoing
- PHMSA Grant Application has been submitted for 2021.
- Governor-mandated furlough days. 4 furlough days were taken in July, and 1 furlough day per month will be taken moving forward, ending in October (subject to change).

- Damage Prevention Investigator, Steve Davidson, will be leaving the program. The UTC will be hiring a new Damage Prevention Investigator soon.

PHMSA Level:

- No further COVID-related stays of enforcement discretion.
- Rulemaking Activity: In July PHMSA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Gas Pipeline Regulatory Reform.
- Rulemaking Activity: On July 1<sup>st</sup> PHMSA issued a response to a petition from industry about some dates of compliance with the Gas Transmission Rule. PHMSA amended certain reporting dates and implementation requirements, giving industry till December to comply.
- The Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee (LPAC) and Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) review all proposed rulemakings and advise PHMSA. GPAC has their next meeting on October 7. *PHMSA Meeting Documents can be found [here](#).*

7) **Damage Prevention Update**

- As of July 2020 – There have been 71 Investigations opened and/or completed, and 34 Penalties have been issued resulting in \$77,000 in penalties levied.
- Investigator, Steve Davidson, is leaving the Damage Prevention Program.
- In-person locator and excavator trainings were cancelled due to COVID. Locator trainings have been held online and online excavator training should be available starting tomorrow.

**Review of Action Items, Topics for Next Meeting, and Other Business**

- 2021 Work Plan Subcommittee will give an update at the December meeting.
- UTC staff will create 2021 Meeting dates to be voted on in the December meeting.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.