



Committee Members
Katie Hansen, Chair • Carl Weimer, Vice Chair
Duane Henderson • Grant Jensen • George Hills
Pete Kmet • James Clark • Leo Bowman
Nathanial Moxley • Richard Kuprewicz • Shirley Olson

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

November 10, 2005

Kathy and Brad Barnes
101 Kaylo Ridge
Washougal, Washington 98671

Dear Kathy and Brad Barnes:

I am sorry for the delay in responding to your letter of October 10, 2005 expressing concern about a proposed rock quarry near a natural gas transmission line in Skamania County. Your letter was shared with all the members of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety and we discussed the matter at our October 20th meeting.

I personally appreciate the interest you have expressed regarding the safety of the pipeline. The more aware we are of pipelines in our community, the safer we will be.

As part of the Committee's discussion of your letter, we asked Committee member, Grant Jensen, a district manager for Williams Northwest Pipeline, to explain the history and situation regarding this stretch of the pipeline. While this section of Williams Pipeline is not within the district managed by Mr. Jensen, he informed us that the company has been aware of the quarry operations and that staff have been in regular contact with the quarry owner. According to Mr. Jensen, the company is having its geotechnical engineers review the site in light of the quarry's proposed activities. Williams Northwest understands that it will need to be proactive with the quarry in ensuring that its activities do not jeopardize the pipeline.

It might help at this point to explain a bit about the Citizens Committee. We were created by the state legislature "to advise the state agencies and other appropriate federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation, and maintenance."

Kathy and Brad Barnes

November 10, 2005

Page 2

We do not have authority over any entity. Our committee of volunteers can provide advice only.

As an interstate pipeline, Williams Northwest is regulated by the federal Office of Pipeline Safety. The Washington state pipeline safety program performs inspections for the federal program but does not have enforcement authority over any interstate pipeline.

We know that the federal Office of Pipeline Safety has requested additional information from Williams Northwest regarding this stretch of the pipeline. Based on this, we advised the state program to follow-up with Williams Northwest and request that the company share its information with the landowner (the quarry) and the county. Also, we advised the state program to urge Williams Northwest to provide the landowner with specific operating parameters necessary to protect the pipeline. This would include parameters for any blasting that occurred on the site. Based on comments by Mr. Jensen, we believe the company will do this.

Your letter asked that someone from the Committee attend the Board of Adjustment hearing. I am sorry no one from the Committee could attend. However, at this point, we are not prepared, as a committee, to advise Skamania County on this matter. We are, because of your interest and letter, asking for information from Williams Northwest and federal and state regulators. Our goal, like yours, is to ensure the safe operation of the pipeline.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine M. Hansen".

Katie Hansen, Chair
Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

cc: Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director
Grant Jensen, Williams Northwest Pipeline