

SUMAS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE SAFETY ASSOCIATION
Everson, Washington

To the Office of Pipeline Safety:

16Nov99

Following for your consideration and use are our recommendations for appropriate safe siting for fuel pipelines. We feel qualified to offer them to you because they are based on our own direct experience with a recent natural gas pipeline explosion (1997) near our homes, our research and our interaction with local and federal agencies and pipeline companies over the past several months.

Recommendations for Procedures for Siting Fuel Pipeline Hazard Zones – (Partial)

- Describe and classify types of sites to be disqualified as unsuitable for pipeline facilities.
- Rezone/reclassify all existing and new fuel pipeline corridors as critical hazard zones.
- Review all existing zoning, land use and critical area ordinances and regulations to reflect the impacts of, and on, existing and future pipeline corridor hazard zones.
- Develop standards for pipeline site evaluation and ensure they are coordinated among federal, state, county and city agency to clarify enforcement responsibilities.
- Develop a detailed list of required site selection characteristics to ensure protection against pipeline hazards due to natural (wetlands, landslides, earthquake epicenter and fault zones, soil liquefaction zones, floodways, stream ways, storm and weather patterns, etc.) and man-made hazards (clear cut logging, mining, blasting zones, mass excavations, major construction, adjacent zoning conflicts, etc.).
- Give consideration to major and especially vulnerable nearby natural resources such as large forest tracts (forest fires), major industrial/commercial/housing complexes, salmon spawning areas, areas of cultural or historic significance, etc.
- Make property value adjustments for impacts on surrounding properties and negotiate proper compensation where appropriate.
- Record deed restrictions on all fuel pipeline corridors and adjacent parcels to acknowledge the hazardous relationship and advise of ongoing responsibilities for mutual protection.

Recommendations for maintaining safe site conditions throughout the life of a pipeline corridor once sited and built – (Partial)

- Specify setbacks and buffer zones flanking pipelines to protect from and against impacts from neighboring land use operations, even if they extend beyond the easement or right-of-way boundaries.
- Continually monitor permitted and actual land uses adjacent or nearby to pipeline corridors to ensure against developing hazardous impact conflicts.
- Maintain a program of public information including emergency response planning, alerts and open communication.

We urge you to incorporate these recommendations in your work. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harry Skinner
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