

Notes on Safety Symposium Discussion Themes

4.20.13 draft

Day 1

Hagan welcome

- Excited about the first of these; emcee
- Intent of “Forging a New Vision of Safety in CA”
- Structure of program over two days
- Governor video?

Hersman video

- Hagan introduces her?
- National safety perspective from NTSB: pipelines are critical
- She is pleased about CA’s approach to safety as a *shared responsibility*

Peevey remarks

- Hagan introduces?
- Personal experience with energy crisis etc., but now safety has moved to the forefront of regulation in CA
- Challenges: limited CPUC resources, utility resources; low consumer confidence, high fear; Commission must balance new approach to safety with affordability
- But we have to make it work and can only do so together; agrees with Hersman

Panel 1: Building a Climate and Culture of Safety

- Moderator: Susan Kennedy, former Chief of Staff to Governor Schwarzenegger and former CPUC Commissioner
- Dana Floyd, Director, Flight Safety, Alaska Air Group
- Captain Jody Bridges, USN, Director, School of Aviation Safety, Pensacola, FL
- Robert C. Figlock, President, Advanced Survey Design, LLC
- Paul Levy, former Chair of the MA Dept of Public Utilities and former CEO of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Nick Stavropoulos, Executive VP, Gas Operations, PG&E

Panel 1 Questions

- What is climate?

- What is corporate culture?
- How do climate and culture affect safety in an organization?
- Who sets the climate and culture in the organization?
- Who is the “real” Safety Officer in an organization?
- How does a two-track investigation system work? One investigation is only about safety and is privileged information that is walled off from the punitive investigation.

Dinner

Sullenberger introduction by Assembly Member Joan Buchanan (represents Danville, where Captain Sully lives)

Who introduces Buchanan?

Day 2

Hagan welcome and introduction of Elizabeth Ashford

Panel 2: Effectively Managing Pipeline Emergency Response

- Moderator: Elizabeth Ashford, former Deputy Press Secretary for Governor Jerry Brown
- Jerry Schmitz, Vice President, Engineering, SouthWest Gas
- Joanne Hayes-White, Chief, San Francisco Fire Department
- Tim Butters, Deputy Administrator, PHMSA
- Carl Weimer, Executive Director, Pipeline Safety Trust

Panel 2 Questions/Topics

- How do you handle the first press conference of an incident in the area where there has been a death and/or serious injury?
- Elements that make a response to a gas pipeline emergency successful.
- Preparing for gas emergencies: the importance of preparing before a gas pipeline emergency; how planning, establishing professional working relationships, and developing good communications between pipeline operators and emergency responders before an accident can improve the timeliness and effectiveness of responses.
- Training and exercises: the importance of training and joint exercises - and how these activities can improve the effectiveness of responses to events.
- Knowledge of gas systems: the importance of accurate pipeline system maps, including pipe size, normal operating pressure ranges, characteristics such as transmission or distribution lines,

and the location of valves that can be used to isolate a failed section.

- Timely responses to reported gas leaks and odors
- Public safety at an incident site- effectively evaluating conditions on scene; assessing potential gas migration paths and measuring gas levels at critical locations; and timely determining evacuation needs.
- Timely isolating gas leaks: importance of having a system capable of quickly identifying a failure location, having adequate valves at appropriate locations to isolate a failed section, and having remote or automatic shut-off valves to improve the timeliness of stopping the flow of gas.
- Public education: educating the public to report gas leaks and odors and on the appropriate actions to take such as when to evacuate a building; educating contractors to immediately report to 911 any damage to a pipeline that results in a release of gas and also to promptly report to a pipeline operator any strike or damage to a pipeline that may not result in an immediate release.

Panel 3: Safety Leadership: What does the Commission need from industry and what does industry need from the Commission to improve public safety in California?

- Moderator: Paul Clanon, Executive Director, California Public Utilities Commission
- Commissioner Mike Florio, CA PUC
- Commissioner Paul Roberti, Rhode Island PUC
- Chris Johns, President, PG&E
- Dennis Arriola, President and Chief Operating Officer, Southern California Gas Co.

Panel 3 Questions

- How specifically can the Commission and the utilities improve their working relationships in the interest of public safety for gas operations in California?
- From your perspective how can the companies do a better job of meeting regulator needs and what are the barriers to doing so?
- From your perspective how can the Commission and its staff do a better job of communicating what they need, why and by when to the companies?
- From your perspective, what constitutes “safe enough” as it relates to the public safety performance of a gas utility?
- Is public safety really a responsibility that is shared by both the regulated companies and the regulators?
- How can the public safety performance of the gas utilities in California be measured and communicated effectively to the public in a way that crystalizes their understanding of the risks inherent to operations and the company’s performance to mitigate those risks?

Concluding Remarks by Peevey (?) and Hagan

