

Increasing Pipeline Safety Through Shared Planning

Transmission Pipelines and Land
Use: What needs to be
accomplished and why?

General Session --- November 15, 2007

Overview

- There is a need to transport liquids and gases and pipelines are often the safest and most economical way to do so
- The objective is to accomplish that task with the smallest possible impact on people and on the environment
- Saying it another way, the goal is
 - To protect people from pipelines, and
 - To protect pipelines from people

Protecting People from Pipelines - 1

- The design, construction, maintenance and operation of pipelines is critical
- Properly routing pipelines and establishing, maintaining and managing the use of rights-of-way are essential
- Other requirements are educating the public and preparing for and responding to incidents effectively

Protecting People from Pipelines - 2

- Considerations in routing pipelines and establishing rights-of-way
 - Material to be transported; quantity; future expansion; multiple lines
 - Topography; existing infrastructure; sensitive, cultural and historic areas; other
 - Availability of alternative routes
 - Adequacy of space to construct and maintain pipeline(s)
 - Community requirements, permitting conditions, etc.
 - Land owner requirements, demands, expectations, etc.
 - Need for co-existing activities
- Parties needing to be involved
 - Pipelines
 - Regulators at federal, state, county and local level
 - Land owners and developers
 - Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions
 - Other public interests
- Other factors
 - Right-of-way maintenance, including control of vegetation
 - Signage and public awareness
 - Public access and co-existing uses

Protecting Pipelines from People

- Facilitating the selection and acquisition of optimal routes
- Allowing sufficient ROW size and access for proper operation and maintenance
- Prohibiting encroachments
- Controlling inappropriate access or uses
- Maintaining land owner and public awareness over time

What should be done?

- Acknowledge that many parties have a stake in protecting people and pipelines
 - Pipeline owners and operators
 - Regulators at all levels of government
 - Land owners and developers
 - Groups involved in buying/selling property
 - Other public interests such as school boards
- Establish targets/guidelines to manage rights-of-way
 - Agree on most desirable characteristics of ROWs
 - Provide land-use guidance to county/municipal bodies
 - Permitted uses within rights-of-way
 - Permitted uses outside rights-of-way
 - Educate all involved parties

Issues

- Who was there first (pipeline or development)?
- Rules cannot address all situations
- There is no practical way to apply detailed, site-specific science to all situations
- Parties change over time
- Changes to the external environment --- for example, urbanization
- Economic activity impacts the way situations evolve