

WSSC Ad-Hoc Committee on Large-Diameter Water Mains

Educational Briefing – April 23, 2013

Minutes

- The meeting started about 25 minutes late due problems that attendees faced in finding parking at the building
- When the meeting was convened, all members of the ad-hoc committee were represented, either by themselves or by someone attending in their place; there were also several observers, including journalists and three WSSC commissioners
- Jim Neustadt, WSSC's direct of communications and community relations, opened the meeting with remarks on the importance of this committee's work to WSSC
- Seth Verry and Marc Inzelstein of Indiggo Associates, the consultant hired to facilitate the committee's work, introduced themselves and their firm, and provided an overview of the objectives and agenda for the educational briefing
- Gary Gumm, WSSC's chief engineer, gave part one of his technical briefing, using PowerPoint slides, which focused on the background of the problems with large-diameter water mains (and in particular PCC pipes) and what WSSC's initial responses have been
- Gary then fielded several questions from the members of the committee (or their appointed representatives), many of which centered on the issue of repairing or replacing these pipes; then there was a short break
- Because of the late start, the facilitators asked to extend the meeting for another 15 minutes past the scheduled end time
- Gary resumed his briefing, the second part of which focused on the findings from WSSC's 2008 engineering study on the three main impact dynamics of large-diameter water main breaks: water flood, crater, and debris throw; and, the "80-foot setback" that WSSC has proposed to implement
- After Gary's briefing, participants expressed an interest in asking questions about the process, rather than questions about the content of Gary's briefing
- The facilitators then fielded several questions about what the process would look like, covering topics such as the scope of the committee's work, the schedule of meetings, and the role of interviews in the process
- The meeting concluded at approximately 1:15pm (15 minutes after the scheduled end time)