

Electric League Code Committee Meeting Notes from 10/ 20/2010 Submitted by Greg Batie

Attendance:

Allan Toole	Power Plus	Linda Howell	Electric League
Greg Batie	Sparling	Len Whalen	Rushing
Bob Fuhr	Power Studies	Gary Lydum	Hozack, Inc.
Tom Tomlinson	Cummins NW	Syd France	PSE
Bob Schneider	D.Hittle & Assoc. Inc.	Erin Chamberlain	PSE
Ken McGowan	HDR Engineering	Dan Steinert	McKinstry
Dick Becker	Engineered Elec Sys	Al Hewitt	Bussmann
Cameron Clark	General Electric	Bob Lloyd	City of Bellevue
Kristyn Clayton	NEEC (via phone)		
Bob Eugene	UL (via phone)		
Jeff Fitzloff	UL (via phone)		

Opening:

The meeting was opened at 7:30 AM by Chairman Allan Toole and introductions were made.

Previous Minutes:

Minutes from the May 20, 2010 meeting were approved without changes.

Reports:

State of Washington - Bill Eckroth (via e-mail)

- Current queue time: The **average** review time is 8-10 weeks for large projects, 2-4 weeks for small projects, and someone in between for everything else. This is/ was a result of the tsunami of plans that came in, in May & June. The volume of plans has slowed a bit, so it just a matter of catching up.
- Fee Increase: Hopefully you are all aware that a new fee structure went into effect on October 1st. The Department in the past did not do annual increases as did other departments as a matter of course. This increase should help in stabilizing the Departments revenue stream, and provide enough revenue to start bringing FTE's back on in critical areas possibly after the first of next year.
- Proposed WAC Rule Changes: The period for making proposals closed on October 8th. The next step is the TAC (technical advisory committee) which should occur the first part of November. As posted on the web, 36 proposals were received from external customers.

Washington State Energy Code - Kristyn Clayton (via phone)

- Energy Code Compliance: Kristyn Clayton reported that electrical inspectors were being requested to start inspecting for energy code compliance. The Washington State Energy Code Council decided to write a letter to support this.
- The state energy code is scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2011. The Seattle Energy code is scheduled for November 22nd.
- The International Energy Code references ANSI 90.1. If the International Energy Code is adopted, it is more stringent than the current Washington State Energy Code, especially in testing.

- The EPA and Utilities have started a new alliance where efficiency is based on greenhouse gas emissions. Looking to establish an energy efficiency rating for a variety of products. Should see something early summer of next year.

Puget Sound Energy - Syd France, Erin Chamberlain

- PSE is working on a smart grid pilot program for Peak Load Control. They are somewhere between wild enthusiasm and disillusionment.
- The demand response pilot program on Bainbridge Island the vendor for the electronic thermostats reported that they can be a risk for fires because the batteries can be overcharged. They are recommending that the batteries be removed. PSE is looking for a permanent solution.

UL - Bob Eugene (www.ul.com)

- UL has become one of the first third party testing agencies in the US for accreditation of the Energy Star Label. As of January 1, 2011 in order for a manufacturer to apply an energy star label they will have to go through 3rd party testing.
- Some LED retrofit kit's for fluorescent lamps require the line and neutral conductor to be landed on the same terminal which will create a short circuit.

City of Bellevue - Bob Lloyd

- The city manager has been going through some budget cuts. Little impact on building department because they are funded by permit revenues. A few larger projects look like they are getting ready to start.
- Washington Cities Electrical Code: Of the 19 cities, 14 have adopted this code. November 15th they will start accepting proposals until January 15th. Expecting the update process to be done by mid May.
- They submitted 6 amendments to the WAC including stair pressurization wiring protection and changing the requirements for Arc Flash protection back to match the National Electrical Code.

IEEE - Dick Becker

- Nothing is happening - there is no local chairman.

IAEI - Christine Porter (www.psiaei.com) (via e-mail)

- No more IAEI meetings this year, next one is not until Jan (second sat)

Electric League - Linda Howell (www.electricleague.net)

- November Luncheon Thursday, November 18th. David Weigand from Leviton will present Lighting Control Strategies for the Smart Building at Tacoma Public Utilities.
- December 22nd is the Electric League Holiday Party
- January Luncheon will be an Utility Overview of Energy Efficiency Programs & Opportunities.
- February: Economic Forecast
- March: Electric Vehicles
- April: Lighting Technology
- May: Selective Coordination
- June: Powerful Business Conference

Old Business

- Allan Toole reported that the proposed change to NFPA 99 6.3.2.2.8.3 will require that "Operating rooms shall be considered to be a wet procedure location unless a risk assessment conducted by the health care governing body determines otherwise."

New Business

- Bob Schneider reported that that radio frequency transmission from a meter to an utility pole top receiver has become an issue on the East coast. Based on a study in Sweden, a link between cell phone use and cancer was found. This issue will affect development of smart grid technology.
- Ken McGowan said that as a result of the gulf oil spill, there is an effort to get more professional engineers involved of evaluating drilling rigs.
- Tom Tomlinson said that Cummins NW will be presenting a seminar November 8th at the Museum of Flight on generator emission requirement and the EPA approval process.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2010 at Puget Sound Energy - Forum Room

Adjournment