

**Electric League Code Committee
Meeting Notes from 3/17/2010
Submitted by Cameron Clark**

Attendance:

Greg Batie	Sparling	Len Whalen	Holmes Electric
Tom Ripple	Siemens	Arne Hales	Shaffer & Nelson
Ken McGowan	HDR	Lowell Shelton	HDR
Rich Adams	PSE	Dan Steinert	McKinstry
Gary Lydum	Hozack Inc.	Mark Gibbs	City of Seattle
Tom Tomlinson	Cummins NW	Bill Eckroth	State of WA
Dick Becker	EES	Syd France	PSE
Jim McDougal	SnoPUD	Cameron Clark	GE
Erin Chamberlin	PSE		

Phone Conference Line:

Christine Porter	IAEI	James Hellman	City of Tacoma
Bob Schneider	D. Hittle & Assoc.	Linda Howell	Electric League

Opening:

The meeting was brought to order and opened at 7:30 AM by Greg Batie.

Previous meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the February 17, 2010 meeting were approved with the following clarifications:

- Spelling of Bob Fuhr was corrected

Reports:

State of WA - Bill Eckroth:

Due to cutbacks there has been a reduction in force, 19 individuals laid off effective April 1st 2010. One plans examiner (Lee S.) and one technical specialist position removed. Everyone taking on more compliance activities. Plan review turn around 2 - 2 1/2 weeks average. Pace of plan review requests has been increasing.

City of Seattle – Mark Gibbs:

Electrical Inspections holding their own, cuts in other departments. 4 people looking at plans, 36 plans in house. Oldest plan review in house submitted in mid February. Many plans issued a “get started permit” good for 30 days. Sometimes these are running out because plan reviewer not getting information or corrections requested.

Agree w/ Bellevue on fire pump tap rules (must be in a physically separate section) can be in utility section provided steel barriers are provided.

Routing of service conductors after fire pump tap, many people do not understand rules. Should be enclosed in rated 2hr system, outside building or encased in concrete. Questions about practicality of this. Concrete right up to SWBD?

Advice, discuss in plan review process and come to an agreement w/ reviewer

Supplemental clarification received via e-mail from Bill Eckroth on Fire Pump Service Raceway

From: Eckroth, William M (LNI)
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 9:45 AM
To: Greg S. Batie
Subject: NEC 695.6 (A)

As luck would have it (or not); I was asked by one of our field supervisors yesterday afternoon about concrete encasement of a fire pump service raceway. During several different code update training sessions that I attended, either I blinked or it just wasn't covered (probably the latter). So I missed the changes to 695.6 (A).

What might seem like a small change to the language from the 2005 NEC, has a huge impact. By the way it's worded, a single source fire pump requires concrete encasement for the service conductors inside the building all the way to the fire pump controller. I'm not sure if it's what was intended, but taken in the strictest interpretation, it requires the service to initiate outside of the building, due to the requirement for encasement of service conductors. I don't believe even a separate vertical section inside of the building would be allowed using a single source.

With two sources, concrete encasement of the conductors from the two different source disconnects to the fire pump controller is also required.

The only way concrete encasement can be avoided is with an ATS at the fire pump controller.

Long story short, I was off base yesterday morning. I will consult with the technical specialists to see if the 15' rule can even be considered for a fire pump service, but since it only refers to the location of overcurrent protection, I doubt it.

The FTE count will have to wait until Ron returns next week. I spoke with the technical specialists and got 3 different number counts.

Bill Eckroth

Electrical Plan Review Supervisor

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<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/Listservs/Electrical.asp>

City of Tacoma – James Hellman:

Plan review section behind by 10 projects. 1.5 x that waiting for response.
Average time 30 days. Two large projects US Oil, Hylebos bridge project.
Otherwise holding steady waiting for economy to pick up.

Puget Sound Energy - Syd France:

Introduce Erin Chamberlain, hired a year ago to focus on residential demand projects. Demand response program test on Bainbridge Island. Some challenges w/ data collection. Recruiting going well to get people to opt into program. About 10% have signed up. Typical enrollment is in 2-3% range. Customers receive free installation of equipment and \$50 / year incentive payment. Currently 2-year program. Data shows ~ .5 MW load shift on 55MW total. Energy efficiency programs for 2010 focus on cost effectiveness with loads down due to economy and weather. Commission has not backed off of efficiency programs.
Customer connections 20K new customers typical traditional rolling average, march 2009 down to 16K, Feb. 2010 down to 13K (12 mo. Rolling average)
Delinquent accounts 2008 – \$7-8 MM, 2009 \$15MM. Warmest Jan. in history has dramatically affected income.

Snohomish PUD – Jim McDougal:

Nothing much to report this month. L & I has indicated potential information request on participants in energy efficiency programs. Looking for those not pulling appropriate permits. Have not seen a request from L & I as of yet. Monthly luncheon meeting at SNO PUD in may, on the 20th - Tidal & Geothermal Projects. PSE & SnoPUD sponsoring emPowering Business Event in Everett.

UL - Bob Eugene:

New hire Jeff Fitzloff working out of Boise. International Green Construction Code draft available on website www.iccsafe.org coordinated w/ AHSRAE 189.1 (High performance green buildings) standard.

IEEE - Dick Becker:

Next meeting on March 23rd Industrial Energy Efficiency of Refrigeration Plants, to be held at Brown & Caldwell offices downtown Seattle 6:30PM

NEMA - Joe Andre:

Not present

IAEI - Christine Porter:

Next meeting April 10th, on Short Circuit, PPC & Arc flash Studies. (Bob Fuhr)
IBEW 191 hall, 2701 Point Avenue Everett, WA

SBCC -Kristyn Clayton:
Not present but provided report via e-mail

From: Kristyn Clayton [mailto:kristynatghe@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:01 AM
To: Linda H
Subject: Re: Reports to Code Committee

Hi Linda! I am unavailable this week, but here is a bit of news for people to digest:

The Legislature did pass a bill that defines SBCC membership, but it was rewritten so as not to affect the current status of adopted codes. There is one last hurdle to the energy code passing which is that it needs signed off on by the legislature and the governor. We will just have to wait on that. The BIAW has realized that their constituents can make money off of it, so even their lawsuit, which is underway, may get stalled if they can show profitability on some of the home testing provisions. Other green provisions faded away in the face of historic economic woes that the legislators had to deal with. I don't think much of anything survived.

Seattle's energy code set of amendments is evolving and there was good participation on behalf of the electrical industry - thanks Len and others - so YEA! I haven't seen the rewrite of the draft yet, but I know it will be extensive, so stay tuned.

Sincerely,

Kristyn Clayton, owner
Green House Effects
509-430-2159
kristynatghe@yahoo.com

Electric League – Linda Howell:

One of the luncheon topic proposals, IBC Seismic – will be presented for first half hour of next code committee meeting instead, in Forum room at PSE on April 21st.

Luncheon tomorrow in PSE auditorium. (80 people signed up)

Luncheon next month Arc Flash, followed by 4 hour NFPA 70E L & I approved CEU course. May code committee meeting will be at Tacoma Public Utility.

Discussion:

Len Whalen - Seattle Energy Code: Modified state tables w/ regard to lighting watts / ft2 reduced numbers, proposal for ½ outlets in office controlled by time clock removed from last draft. Proposal for occupancy sensor to turn on only 50% of lights, Len proposed change to 66%, being reviewed. Written comments were due march 1st, extended to the end of the month on the 29th. Final Draft available on website.

Each tenant has to be individually metered, approx 5,000 ft2 must meter HVAC load separately, and approx 20,000 ft2 must meter HVAC, lighting, and receptacle load separately.

Code question: Common disconnect on multi-wire shared N systems. One client wanted individual N circuits so didn't have to worry about tripping more than one circuit breaker. Handle ties typically will not trip CB of unaffected circuit. Manufacturers present were in agreement.

Greg traveling to hospital in Chad

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 AM