



Centre for Health and Safety Innovation - 5110 Creekbank Road, Mississauga

Utility Advisory Council Members

Utility

Burlington Hydro	Neil Sandford
Enersource Hydro	Ray Bou
Festival Hydro	Ysni Semsedini
Guelph Hydro	Michael Wittemund
Hydro One	CK (Chong Kiat) Ng
Hydro One - Transmission	Walter Kloostra
Hydro Ottawa	Edward Donkersteeg
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro	Jerry Van Ooteghem
London Hydro	Greg Sheil
Newmarket-Tay Hydro	Gaye-Donna Young
Orillia Power	Chris Burrell
PowerStream	Doug Fairchild
Toronto Hydro	Sheikh Nahyann
Veridian	Arthur Berdichevsky

Government/Regulatory

Ministry of Energy	
Ministry of Labour	Vacant
Ontario Energy Board	Stephen Cain

Safety Organizations

IHSA	Rick Stahlbaum
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System Infrastructure

Bell Canada/Telecom Industry	Murad Hussain
CSA Group	John O'Neil
ORCGA/Excavating Industry	
OSWCA	

Trades & Professions

OACETT	William Schwarz
Ontario Electrical League	
Power Workers Union	Tom Chessel

Consumers/Councils

Consumer Advisory Council	Joan Pajunen
Industry Advisory Council	Vacant

Other Attendees

Stephanie Martin (Ministry of Consumer Services), Rob Koekkoek (Orangeville Hydro), John Barratt (Whitby Hydro), Afreen Khan (EDA), Lori Gallagher (USF),

ESA Attendees

Normand Breton, Martin Post, Jason Hrycshyn, Nancy Evans, Farrah Bourre, Nancy Hanna, Patrick Falzon, Joel Moody, Kathryn Chopp, Dan Cheddi, Steve Smith,



1.0 Welcome and introductions

David Collie

- David thanked the UAC for the work that they do
- David thanked Neil Sandford for his time and dedication to the UAC

Neil Sandford

- Thanked everyone for their kind words
- Introduced Stephen Cain from the OEB to the UAC

2.0 Review of last meeting minutes and action items

The following motion was carried:

Motion: To accept the minutes of the last meeting as read

Motioned by: William Schwarz

Second: Joan Pajunen

Motion carried.

Updates

3.0 Refurbishment of Major Equipment (2013-20) – Jason Hrycyshyn (see presentation)

- PowerStream and ESA have continued work together to produce a document that addresses the refurbishment of major equipment that could be used as a template for other stakeholders
- A bulletin will be drafted once this process is complete and presented to the UAC

ACTION: Draft Bulletin to be presented to the UAC at May 2014 meeting (pending internal ESA approval) (Action Item 2014-01)

4.0 PVC Power Cable Guards – Jason Hrycyshyn (see presentation)

- Bulletin was updated with some of the feedback provided
- ESA Distributor Bulletins are either recommendations or direction. This bulletin is a recommendation. The bulletin contains information in which LDCs should consider when approving standards. It is not a requirement to be followed.
- ESA was asked to include some locations where it typically sees damaged PVC power cable guards

ACTION: Add locations where damaged PVC power cable guards are typically observed and post bulletin (Action Item 2013-17)

5.0 Ontario Building Code new edition (2013-14) – Patrick Falzon (see presentation)

- Incidental signs are signs that are not advertising signs. The additional information with respect to incidental signs was requested last UAC meeting.



6.0 Draft Serious Incident Report Bulletin (2013-18) – Martin Post (see presentation)

- Reporting of all incidents helps ESA trend issues and develop powerline safety campaigns/materials
- No questions or concerns were raised about this bulletin
- The bulletin will be posted to the ESA website

7.0 OESC Requirements: Clearance of Overhead Lines to Pools – Nancy Hanna (see presentation)

- OESC says pools should not be built under a utility line
- If no other option exists the OESC provides specific requirements that must be met to build a pool in proximity to distribution lines
- O. Reg. 22/04 section 10 says "...a person may place an object closer to an energized conductor forming part of a system of overhead distribution lines than the required minimum separations from energized conductors forming part of such a system if the person first obtains an authorization from the distributor responsible for the energized conductor."
- OBC currently only has clearances for commercial pools to powerlines
- ESA direction to its inspectors is to issue a defect to the homeowner and a PSC to the Utility advising them to work together to fix the issue
- OESC and CSA are similar in the numbers in their tables. CSA specifies that the distances be met under maximum sag which could make the clearances greater than that of the OESC

8.0 OESC Rule 84-008 and Inverters Connected Through a Transformer – Nancy Hanna (see presentation)

- December 2013 UAC meeting presentation from Tony Hoevenaar MIRUS International Inc. Discussed transformer selection for Distributed Generation
- When a transformer is used the contractor must prove to ESA that the inverter will shut off if there is a loss of power in 1 phase
- If the demarcation point is after the transformer the utility needs to be aware that the code does not apply and the inverter may not shut off with the loss of 1 phase of power
- The UAC asked that a bulletin be sent to utilities explaining this

ACTION: Create a bulletin outlining the difference in requirements when the demarcation point is before or after a transformer used in distributed generation (Action Item 2014-02)

9.0 Public Safety Concerns – Dan Cheddi (see presentation)

- The current Public Safety Concern (PSC) process was explained
- A PSC is when utility equipment, in its current condition, poses a hazard to the public
- It was asked how ESA determines what is a low risk vs. a high risk
 - o ESA put 100's of previous PSC's through a risk matrix and discussed each to determine the risk level



- Factors that affect risk would be location, accessibility and severity

10.0 Powerline Safety Campaign – Kathryn Chopp (see presentation)

- ESA has launched its Licensed Electrical Contractor campaign
- Powerline Safety Week 2013 campaign was reviewed and effectiveness discussed
- 2014 Powerline Safety campaign details were given (trades being targeted, advertising mediums being used – print, radio, TV, social media, online)
- Partnership opportunities between ESA and Utilities were discussed
- www.PowerlineSafety.ca has all our powerline safety materials including the tree trimming guidelines

11.0 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Utility Advisory Council – Farrah Bourre

- Chair has a term of 2 years with the option to renew after 2 years
- Vice Chair has no length of term
- Ysni Semsedini addressed the UAC
- CK Ng addressed the UAC
- A vote was taken to ensure the UAC agreed with acclaiming both positions
- Ysni Semsedini acclaimed as Chair
- CK Ng acclaimed as Vice Chair

12.0 Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) – Nancy Evans

- Ministry of Consumer Services is looking at creating a framework around AMPs that could be used by individual authorities if they choose to
- ESA responded to the AMPs proposal (ESA's response can be found on our [website](#))
- ESA supports the principle of creating a framework but raised with the MCS a number of considerations re how such a framework is established and applied
- ESA has made no decision to use AMPs

13.0 Overview of Ice Storm Activities – Nancy Evans (see presentation)

- The greatest impact re ESA's role and mandate was damage to customer owned equipment which needs to be repaired in keeping with the Code and Contractor Licensing requirements
- ESAs messaging followed a natural progression: preparation for the storm, downed lines & power outages, generators, and repairs
- Social media worked well for communicating with the public
- ESA made sure that all communications being given to customers and communications being sent out we also sent to the utilities in the area
- ESA will be updating contact lists for each utility including an up-to-date list of contacts in emergency situations



Electrical Distribution Safety

- We need to have good communication between ESA and the utilities during storm conditions
- ESA and utilities need to educate customers better so they understand what they own and what their responsibilities are

14.0 Reconnections – Steve Smith (see presentation)

- ESA was in contact with utilities in the area to get a feeling for how bad the damage from the storm was
- ESA was trying to gather enough information to decide when to go from normal operations to crisis mode
- Challenging aspects to handling damage caused by severe weather
 - o Safety issues
 - o Emotionally charged customers
- ESA had many inspectors on the ground assisting customers and utilities
- Most customers did not understand that they owned equipment and that they were responsible for having it repaired
- Examples of typical damage: triplex laying across the road in many neighbourhoods and people were climbing over the lines
- ESA had to balance severity of hazard and risk to safety and reconnection for customers in the cold
- One challenge for ESA was ensuring connection authorizations were reaching LDCs who had changed their process due to emergency response
- It was agreed that ESA will collect information from LDCs confirming the regular connection authorization contact and emergency connection authorization contact (if it is different)
- A process is needed for LDCs to officially notify ESA when they switch to their emergency connection authorization process

ACTION: ESA to follow-up with LDCs and collect contact information for normal and emergency connection authorizations (Action Item 2014-03)

ACTION: ESA to confirm process for LDCs to officially notify ESA when they switch to their emergency connection authorization process (Action Item 2014-04)

15.0 Utility Experience: Hydro One – CK Ng

- When a storm happens Hydro One dispatch moves from Barrie to the local offices
- Logistics of feeding and housing linemen is something that needs to be reviewed
- Technology challenges due to how many people were trying to access the Hydro One outage maps



- Hydro One will be reviewing how much spare material they have in their warehouse for severe weather incidents

16.0 Utility Experience: PowerStream Inc – Doug Fairchild (see presentation)

- PowerStream did pre storm preparation
- Used social media and their website to communicate with their customers
- Capacity of website and phone systems were strained
- Gave priority to main feeders and worked their way to individual customers
- Communications protocols for emergencies needs to be reviewed and enhanced

17.0 Utility Experience: Enersource – Ray Bou (see presentation)

- Enersource had a few wood poles break
- Concrete poles held up well and may have lessened the impact of the storm on the distribution system
- Could have used more people to go to affected areas and review the sites and damage. Crews were sent to areas to do this review instead of making repairs
- Enersource will need to determine how to route connections from their customer service centre to the control room for future emergencies

New Business

18.0 Ice in Meter Bases – John Barratt – Whitby Hydro (see presentation)

- Have had alarms coming back due to ice/water and some stopped working
- Tried to dry our meter bases and they still did not work
- It was suggested that meters should be sealed so water can not get in
 - o Vendor didn't see a product issue and advised to use silicone to seal the meter
- Other Utilities have has the same issue
- It was noted that the meters have 3 holes on the back along the edges and some smart meters are oriented so that one hole is at the very bottom allowing any water to drain. Where this issue occurred the meter was oriented so that the single hole was at the top which did not allow the meter to drain
- A Utility has had to replace 3000 smart meters so far due to moisture issues

19.0 Bell Canada Pole Maintenance Program – Murad Hussain

- Bell Canada is trying to put together a pole maintenance program and would like to coordinate with the utilities
- The current proposal is to have poles inspected every 20 years
- Bell Canada has a report that says once a pole is treated they are good for 20 years
- Bell is also currently trying to align with Quebec



20.0 London Hydro Transformer Incident – Greg Sheil

- Customer owned secondaries faulted and blew doors off of London Hydro transformer
- London Hydro thinks that arcing in the duct caused gassing and also provided an ignition source causing the explosion
- Penta head bolts were still solid in the recent explosion so the thought is that the hinges failed
- No signs of an explosion in the electrical room
- This may be due to 4 cables in the duct blocking the path back to the electrical room
- London Hydro is looking to see if anyone has experienced similar issues (gassing in duct and transformer doors coming off during an explosion)
- Any information can be sent to utility.regulations@electricalsafety.on.ca

21.0 CEC Proposals – Nancy Hanna

- Proposals from the CEC have been attached to the minutes so they can be discussed at the next UAC meeting

22.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday May 22, 2014

The location of the next meeting will be:

The Centre for Health & Safety Innovation at 5110 Creekbank Road, Mississauga.

Meeting Adjourned