



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

**Utility Advisory Council Members**

<b>Utility</b>	
Burlington Hydro	Joe Saunders
Enersource Hydro	
Festival Hydro	Ysni Semsedini
Guelph Hydro	Michael Wittemund
Hydro One	Darren Desrosiers
Hydro One - Transmission	
Hydro Ottawa	Edward Donkersteeg
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro	Greig Cameron
London Hydro	Proxy to Festival Hydro
Newmarket-Tay Hydro	Gaye-Donna Young
Orillia Power	Chris Burrell
PowerStream	Doug Fairchild
Toronto Hydro	Hani Taki
Veridian	Peter Petriw
<b>Government/Regulatory</b>	
Ministry of Energy	Vacant
Ministry of Labour	Vacant
Ontario Energy Board	Stephen Cain
<b>Safety Organizations</b>	
IHSA	Dean Dunn
<b>System Infrastructure</b>	
Bell Canada/Telecom Industry	Tony Pereira
CSA Group	John O'Neil
ORCGA/Excavating Industry	
<b>Trades &amp; Professions</b>	
OACETT	William Schwarz
Ontario Electrical League	
Power Workers Union	Jenn Vautour
<b>Consumers/Councils</b>	
Consumer Advisory Council	
Industry Advisory Council	Vacant

**Other Attendees**

Stephanie Martin - Ministry of Government & Consumer Services, Erich Neumann - Hydro Ottawa Limited, Afreen Khan - Electricity Distributors Association, Lori Gallagher - Utilities Standards Forum, Jim Gillis - Cogeco Cable Incorporated

**ESA Attendees**

Martin Post, Jason Hrycshyn, Nancy Evans, Nancy Hanna, Patrick Falzon, Carita Edwards, Kathryn Chopp, Malcolm Brown



**1 Notice & Quorum**

- The meeting had quorum

**2 Minutes of December 9, 2015 UAC Meeting**

The following motion was carried:

**Motion: To accept the minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting as read**

**Motioned by:** William Schwarz

**Second:** Peter Petriw

**Motion carried.**

**3 Community Powerline Safety Alliance – Patrick Falzon (presentation)**

- A Powerline Safety Summit was held June 8, 2015 to brainstorm ideas to mitigate dump truck contacts with overhead powerlines. The report can be found on the [ESA website](#).
- A working group has been formed to design and communicate solutions

**4 Community Powerline Safety Week – Kathryn Chopp (presentation)**

- Powerline contact statistics were shared
- Different segments of consumers and engagement strategies were discussed
- ESA's Powerline Safety Campaign and [Consumer](#) and [Worker](#) videos from 2015 were recapped
- ESA's 2015 Campaign was very successful so ESA is looking to get the message out to more people in 2016
- For 2016 ESA will also be bringing the Powerline Safety Campaign to life by partnering with canteen truck operators at work sites during Powerline Safety Week May 16-20 2016.
- ESA is going to continue use of #RespectThePower for all social messaging



- Information about [ESA's Toolkit](#) and opportunities for LDC's to partner with ESA was provided

**5 Consultation for Mandatory Reporting <750V – Carita Edwards (presentation)**

- ESA reviewed the plans for modifying Regulation 22/04 to expand mandatory reporting obligations
- Background was shared on the 2015 [Meter Safety Due Diligence Review](#) that led to the conclusion that additional incident reporting provisions were needed
- Last year ESA requested voluntary reporting of incidents on assets less than 750V and 15 LDC's have been voluntarily providing information to ESA
- ESA is shortly launching a Working Group process to gain LDC input to the proposed regulatory change. That will be followed by a broad consultation on the proposed change before a final



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recommendation goes to the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. ESA is holding the first Working Group meeting on March 22, 2016. A call for participants would be issued shortly to the LDC community and the EDA

- ESA was asked about the distinction between this process and the existing working group which is looking at clarifying the serious incident reporting requirements in the current regulations (Section 12 Reporting of Serious Electrical Incidents). ESA noted that they are two separate processes but that the outcomes of the Section 12 work will dovetail into the work on the regulatory change.
- ESA was asked if we would be bringing our plans back to the UAC for comment and feedback and staff confirmed this would occur

**6 [Certificate of Deviation Bulletin](#) – Jason Hrycyszyn (presentation)**

- ESA was made aware of instances where 3rd Party Attacher engineers were having to sign a certificate of deviation over and over again for the same type of installation. A 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Attacher requested regulatory comment on certified lists of deviations
- It is up to the LDC to decide if they will accept a deviation, or a certified list of deviations
- The concern was raised that 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Attachers may try to use this to not meet CSA standards

**Reporting of Serious Electrical Incidents Working Group – Martin Post**

- ESA has had 3 internal meetings since the 1<sup>st</sup> working group meeting
- ESA intends on having another working group meeting in the spring and will bring the results of the internal ESA discussion to the working group
- ESA has no update at this time and will provide the UAC with updates from the next working group meeting

**7 Arc Producing Device Clearance to Gas – Malcolm Brown (presentation)**

- TSSA contacted ESA as they were looking to put out an advisory on this topic, which would become law
- There was a lot of discussion on what an arc producing device is.
  - o ESA's and TSSA's position is that non remote disconnect smart meters are not considered an arc producing device
  - o ESA's and TSSA's position is that smart meters with a remote disconnect are considered to be an arc producing device
  - o It was noted that gas technicians are not able to determine which devices produce an arc and which do not
- Load limiters are typically installed in the winter months in lower income areas due to non payment. They provide enough electricity for the essentials. This may result in the customer having to move their meterbase if it is inside the clearance zone.



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- Several members have asked that we have more discussion on this issue as it takes considerably more effort to move the meter base than to add additional pipe to a gas meter vent to get the necessary clearance
- It was suggested that LDC's could do an audit to see how many meters in their territory this may affect

ACTION: ESA to look more into clearances between electric meters and gas meters (2016-01)

**8 Auto Transfer Switch and Utility Interface – Malcolm Brown (presentation)**

- Interconnected generation is always connected and this is why the OESC requires a disconnect
- Stand-by generation already incorporates a switch that chooses between the LDC feed and a generator so there is never be a case where these two sources of power can be connected simultaneously.

**9 Solar/Battery Net Metering Installations with Emergency Backup – Malcolm Brown (presentation)**

- If the ESA Inspectors sees batteries at an installation we make a note of this on the connection authorization to trigger the LDC to have discussions with the customer
- These installations are much more complex and require more diligence in the design process
- There are two instances ESA is aware of where a software issue caused the anti islanding feature to fail and power backfed onto the LDC system
- CSA Z462 has some additional information with respect to limits of approach <750V
- ESA relies on the certification to say that the product installed meets the applicable standards

**10 Pole Top Fires Working Group and Bulletin – Patrick Falzon (presentation)**

- An update on the working group progress was given
- The Pole Top Fires sub working group looking specifically at pole washing will be sending out a survey requesting some information from LDC's

**12 Limits of Approach for <750V – Hani Taki (Toronto Hydro)**

- Toronto Hydro is looking to include limits of approach information for <750V in some of its information. There doesn't seem to be anything referencing limits of approach for <750V. Toronto Hydro is looking to see what other LDC's have and if Ontario LDC's can reach a consensus on what the limits should be.
- OHSA does not provide any direction on limits of approach to powerlines operating <750V
- Several LDC's have indicated they prefer not to distinguish between <750V and >750V as consumers will not be able to tell the difference
- Hydro Ottawa has provided a minimum safe distance from powerlines <750V of 1m on their [website](#)



- The Building Code has had a 1m clearance requirement for 750V or less since 2012 ([Ontario Building Code](#) Clause 3.1.19)

ACTION: Hani Taki and Jason Hrycyshyn to discuss this issue of Limits of Approach for <750V and bring it to the next UAC meeting. Jason Hrycyshyn will provide Toronto Hydro with research data from jurisdictions outside of Ontario. (2016-02)

### **13 New Business**

- Use of Cover Up - Peter Petriw (Veridian Connections)
  - o Municipalities are approving zero setback more often and Veridian does not use cover up. Veridian is asking what other LDC's do.
  - o The uses of cover up varies by LDC
  - o Even with cover up on a line a worker still has to be authorized to work in the space and limits of approach still need to be maintained

**Motion:** To Adjourn the Meeting

**Motioned by:** Doug Fairchild

**Second:** William Schwarz

**Meeting Adjourned**

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held **Thursday May 19, 2016**

The location of the next meeting will be:

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