Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council
Monday, November 3, 2025

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council meeting for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at **9:10 a.m.** on Monday, November 3, 2025

Attendance

Present	
Bradley Clark	Victor Hyman
Sunaina Menezes	Joe Cancilla
Neil Waugh	Ry Smith
Martin Luymes	Greg St. Louis
TSSA	
Gaya Nair	Alexandra Campbell
Andre Nurgel	Owen Kennedy
Gary Highfield	Iuliana Afanase
Regrets	
Tracey Teed Martin	Joe Muchynski

Action Items

There were no open action items from the last meeting.

1. Constitution of Meeting

1.1. *The Chair presented a safety moment on lithium-ion batteries and associated hazards. Emphasizing the proper charging practices and referencing resources from the Office of the Fire Marshal.*

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1. *The agenda was adopted as presented on motion by V. Hyman, seconded by J. Cancilla.*

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. *Minutes from the April 1, 2025, meeting was approved on motion by J. Cancilla, seconded by R. Smith.*

4. Chair's Report

M. Luymes provided an update on HRAI's work addressing skills gaps for gas technicians transitioning to heat pump installations. The Chair explained the development of an 80-hour training program with five Ontario colleges and noted Enbridge's financial support for broader rollout.

B. Clark asked if the program leads to certification; M. Luymes clarified it does not; however, the program prepares technicians to challenge exams for the 313D license.

G. St. Louis asked which colleges are involved; M. Luymes listed Fanshawe, St. Lawrence, Fleming, and two others.

It was noted that a gas technician is required for decommissioning of a fuel-fired furnace even if the customer is switching to an electric heat pump. Discussion highlighted the need for dual licensing and potential alignment under Skilled Trades Ontario. V. Hyman and N. Waugh raised concerns about workforce shortages in other provinces.

5. Enbridge: Hydrogen Blending Journey

B. Clark presented Enbridge's hydrogen blending initiatives with an extensive presentation. Hydrogen blending is around 2% and Enbridge is proposing to increase it to 5%. Enbridge is working with the TSSA to get approval for the pilot project of Hydrogen Blending. This pilot project hopes to satisfy the requirements of introducing Hydrogen Blending in the province and the government's push to decarbonization.

R. Smith asked if systems operating on pure hydrogen could meet peak capacity. Residential customers are more weather dependent. B. Clark responded that most distribution systems in Ontario would not require significant reinforcement, at lower blend percentages such as 5%, to meet current customer needs but would be system and blend percentage dependent.

V. Hyman asked about cost recovery; B. Clark confirmed costs are borne by Enbridge during the pilot. V. Hyman also asked about material impacts and meter calibration; B. Clark noted studies are ongoing and future plans include

ultrasonic meters for blend calibration. V. Hyman raised flammability concerns; B. Clark stated no material change at 2–5% blends but acknowledged future considerations at higher levels.

G. Highfield asked about downstream appliance impacts; B. Clark confirmed Enbridge will inspect and work with CSA/ULC for compliance.

6. Pipelines Initiative

O. Kennedy updated on TSSA's review of pipeline oversight following the Bayview shutdown last winter due to serious safety concerns. The revised approach will include a communication strategy for impacted customers.

V. Hyman asked what triggered the Bayview shutdown; O. Kennedy cited aging infrastructure and lack of operator responsibility.

J. Cancilla asked how many customers were affected; TSSA responded that there were about 16 customers, most converted to propane, with one brewery requiring expedited field approval.

V. Hyman then asked how common this issue is among distributors. O. Kennedy responded that it is not widespread, as only a handful of small distributors remain in the province. B. Clark added that Enbridge works with these small distributors by supporting their gas where possible through the connections to Enbridge infrastructure pipelines, ensuring they are managed under Enbridge's oversight. This matter will be examined further as part of the process changes underway at TSSA. Discussion also addressed economic challenges and regulatory gaps affecting small distributors.

7. Office of the Fire Marshalls: Upcoming Changes to the Ontario Fire Code

S. Menezes outlined upcoming changes to the Ontario Fire Code, effective January 1, 2026, including expanded carbon monoxide alarm requirements for a CO alarm on every story and in residential corridors in a building, not just in every unit.

A. Campbell requested fact sheets for TSSA's website and social media; S. Menezes agreed to provide shareable materials.

J. Cancilla asked if B.149 includes CO detector requirements; S. Menezes confirmed that national code does not, but that the Ontario changes are retroactive. Discussion focused on enforcement challenges and potential for TSSA Director's Orders to align with fire code requirements.

7.1. *Action: S. Menezes to circulate fact sheets to I. Afanase for distribution.*

8. Industry Prioritization Discussion

8.1. *Victor Hyman: Code Interpretation*

Frequent disputes over appliance connector requirements. O. Kennedy advised using TSSA's technical desk for official interpretations and noted advisories are issued when questions recur.

8.2. *Victor Hyman: Subcontractors and Regulated Utilities*

A concern was about rumors of subcontractors being incentivized to issue red tags during relights and meter changes.
O. Kennedy stated TSSA relies on the safety net to have technicians identify hazards in the field. TSSA does rely on 10-year or quality assurance inspections that often come with meter exchanges, that is the time that we're asking technicians to identify non-compliances. We have to trust that they are acting in the interest of safety and that they are identifying true non-compliances. As a regulator we can't speak to a rumour that there are incentives. Another contractor has the authority to remove the tag if they feel it was not appropriate. The regulatory tools allow for a second opinion. Kitchener utilities is not aware of this rumour. They have a practice to oversee infractions and there is no financial benefit to writing infractions unnecessarily. B. Clark agreed to review whether there is data available on this.

9. Adjournment

9.1. *The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.*