



TSSA'S NATURAL GAS ADVISORY COUNCIL



INTRODUCTION

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) regulates safety in Ontario in a proactive, prevention-based manner. In order to provide strategic oversight and management of safety regulations and issues, TSSA actively solicits advice from key industry stakeholders within regulated industries through TSSA advisory councils.

To ensure safety services are developed in context, advisory councils provide a forum through which TSSA consults with industry relative to its safety services, gaining valuable input to guide TSSA decision-making and operations.

Composed of stakeholder representatives from TSSA-regulated industries, the advisory councils work with TSSA to:

- › **support** existing safety initiatives;
- › **identify** industry-specific issues;
- › **collaborate** on policies to enhance safety; and
- › **improve** service delivery and customer relationships.

TSSA works with 11 advisory councils: Agriculture, Ski Lifts, Boilers and Pressure Vessels, Natural Gas, Operating Engineers, Liquid Fuels, Amusement Devices, Propane, Upholstered and Stuffed Articles, Elevating Devices, and Consumers.

Advisory councils remain important allies in the evolution of TSSA toward becoming the world leader in public safety services.

ORIGINS OF THE NATURAL GAS ADVISORY COUNCIL

In operation since 1988 under the Technical Standards Division (TSD) of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the Natural Gas Advisory Council is one of the longest standing councils currently working with TSSA. With the divestiture of TSD in 1996, TSSA became the not-for-profit, self-funded delegated administrative authority responsible for public safety services in four mandated sectors under the *Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000*, including the safe transportation, storage, handling and use of hydrocarbon fuels. TSSA consequently assumed responsibility for the relationship with the Natural Gas Advisory Council.

COMPOSITION

The Natural Gas Advisory Council is made up of 11 representatives from the natural gas industry, including utility service providers, device manufacturers, energy, heating and pipeline contractors, as well as a consumer representative.



NATURAL GAS ADVISORY COUNCIL'S MANDATE

The Council's mandate is to facilitate effective consultation between TSSA and the natural gas industry, providing ongoing opportunities to enhance safety initiatives. The collective mandate of advisory councils is to advise the President and CEO of TSSA on safety services within their respective regulated sectors.

STRUCTURE

Advisory council members elect potential members upon recommendation of TSSA and the Council Chair overseen by TSSA's President and CEO. When openings occur, sitting members are encouraged to submit industry representative names for consideration and a call for nominations is posted on TSSA's website. Members generally serve for renewable, three-year terms. Members-at-large elect the Council Chair upon the term expiration of the current Chair.

Typically, technical initiatives arising at the Council are delegated to technical committees known as risk reduction groups, and training and certification advisory boards.

TSSA INVOLVEMENT

Operating within an advisory role, the council remains industry-led and driven. TSSA provides facilities for regular and technical committee meetings, provides administrative support to oversee TSSA commitment to council activities, and coordinates TSSA-council interaction.

MEETINGS

The Natural Gas Advisory Council generally meets twice each year. Meetings are usually held at TSSA's headquarters in Toronto.

BENEFITS TO INDUSTRY

TSSA's councils provide industry with a two-way channel of communication. The Natural Gas Advisory Council additionally seeks key stakeholder involvement in the ongoing development of safety solutions impacting the industry. Some of the Council's most significant achievements are:

- › further improvements to billing practices with a sub-committee of industry and TSSA representatives reviewing alternative and more effective practices;
- › code adoption of plastic venting to protect consumer interest while recognizing industry implications; and



- › identifying and improving residential gas boilers and venting issues.

HOW TO JOIN THE NATURAL GAS ADVISORY COUNCIL

TSSA and its partners in the natural gas sector are keen to attract and retain the highest calibre representatives for the advisory council. Should a vacancy exist prior to or upon completion of a renewable three-year term within the council, eligible applicants will be duly considered. Members are selected for their ability to represent a significant portion of the overall spectrum of views impacting safety in the natural gas sector, as well as an ability to plan and implement creative solutions to today's complex safety issues.

If you are interested in joining the Natural Gas Advisory Council, or know of an ideal candidate, please contact the TSSA Council Coordinator at 416-734-3300.

For further information, please visit the TSSA website at www.tssa.org and click on the Natural Gas Advisory Council link.



**Putting Public
Safety First**

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND SAFETY AUTHORITY

3300 Bloor Street West
14th Floor, Centre Tower
Toronto, Ontario M8X 2X4

Tel: 1-877-682-8772

Email: customerservices@tssa.org

Website: www.tssa.org