



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council Meeting

September 22, 2015

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council teleconference meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and was held in-person in Boardroom 1434, 14th Floor, Centre Tower, 3300 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario at 9:00 a.m. on 22nd of September 2015.

Present: M. Shannon, Union Gas Ltd (Chair); Jon Dalton, Canadian Standard Association; Rick Delaney, Link-Line Group of Companies; Patricia Jensen, Consumers Advisory Council; Martin Luymes, Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI); Ltd.; and Jim Sanders, Enbridge Gas Distribution.

In attendance: Michael Beard, President and CEO (all except item 13); Zenon Fraczkowski, Engineering Manager (all items except 13); Kristian Kennedy, Policy Advisor (all items except 13); Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all items except 13); Marek Kulik, Engineer, (all items except 13); John Marshall, Director, Fuels (all items except 13); David Scriven, VP Research and Corporate Secretary (all items except 13); Supraja Sridharan, Public Safety Risk Analyst (item 7); and Peter Wong, Vice President of Operations (all items except 13).

Guests: Sarah Jeffrey-Hampton, Senior Policy & Program Analyst, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS).

Regrets: David Hammond, Hot Water; Wally Malcolm, Kitchener Utilities; Dave McPherson, Rheem Canada; Alan Reitzel, Reitzel Heating & Sheet Metal Ltd.; Martin Rego, Reliance Limited Partnership; and Larry Ryan, Utility Brokers and Rental.

1. **Welcome and Constitution of Meeting**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

As part of the safety moment, council viewed a safety video highlighting two areas: extending safety outside to the workplace and how incidents impact on the lives of others.

Jim Sanders was selected as the next Chair for the council. M. Shannon agreed to chair this meeting and will remain a council member.

2. **Adoption of September 22, 2015 Agenda**

The Council approved the agenda of September 15, 2015 meeting, as presented.

3. **Adoption of Minutes of the February 24, 2015 Meeting**

Council approved the minutes of the February 24, 2015 meeting, as revised, as being a true and correct record of that meeting.

4. **Review Action Items From the Last Meeting**

J. Marshall reported that all outstanding action items have been completed as highlighted on the action plan document, except for an item that will be discussed under item 7.



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5. Council Chair's Report

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received the Council Chair's Annual Report to the CEO for FY15, which was treated as read.

M. Luymes noted inaccuracies in the report. Council agreed that a revised report will be shared with Council and to prevent future occurrences, next year's report will be shared with council prior to being finalized.

ACTION: A revised Chair's annual report to the CEO for 2015 will be re-posted to Council.

6. TSSA President and CEO Report

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received the President and CEO's report regarding TSSA's key activities over the last quarter, which was treated as read.

M. Beard outlined the highlights and progress to date of TSSA's 20/20 program, a key foundational initiative.

Further highlights were provided regarding the following on-going regulation reviews: Operating Engineers, Boilers and Pressure Vessels and Upholstered and Stuffed Articles.

7. Annual State of Public Safety Report and Natural Gas Compliance Safety Report

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, which forms part of the record of the meeting, P. Wong provided an overview of the status of safety performance all programs, noting TSSA's top safety priorities, followed by a report on natural gas safety and compliance by J. Marshall.

The impact of Carbon Monoxide in the fuels sector was thoroughly discussed consistent with its identification at the top safety priority for TSSA.

J. Marshall provided an update on plans to address non-CO issues in private dwellings, commercial establishment and institutions.

Discussion ensued around the root cause of safety issues as identified in institutions, including the role of contractors' and their accountability. Gaps in the regulations were identified.

Council agreed to defer consideration of establishing a Risk Reduction Group to focus on the matter of fuel safety at institutions pending an assessment by the statutory direction following the completion of the current inspection pilot.

Council noted the consumer impact of fuel safety concerns related to both institutions and commercial operations. .

8. Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS)

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received a written report from MGCS, which was treated as read.



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S. Jeffrey-Hampton highlighted MGCS' hiring of Lough Barnes Consulting Inc. to provide foundational research and information on Liquefied Natural Gas. She informed council the firm might call council members for further information gathering.

Council requested to have an Ontario One Call update included in future MGCS reports.

9. Incident/Issues Update

A video of methane release in a pond was shown as an example of the potential impact of underground infrastructure shifts or fractures. The incident in the video was noted as a natural occurrence; however, it displayed the consequences of dangerous release of gas.

J. Marshall informed council that there were five incidents recorded since the last meeting. Four involved CO incidents and exposures and one involved a burst pipeline. There were two fatalities in two different incidents and a number of injuries whose cause has yet to be determined.

10. Priority Safety Issues:

Partnership with Contractors: J. Marshall informed there were no new initiatives under this topic. Work with Ontario College of Trades is on-going. This council safety priority was deemed closed. TSSA will continue to engage with contractors on a business as usual basis.

Partnership/prevention to enhance prevention efforts regarding gas leaks (Carbon Monoxide): Keeping this issue as priority for the Natural Gas Advisory Council was recommended.

The following new members for the Ad-hoc Working Group were noted: M. Luymes, R. Delaney, J. Sanders, M. Shannon, and P. Jensen (to be confirmed at the next meeting). The group will be kept small and focused. M. Rego may be interested.

ACTION: Ad-hoc members to be confirmed by the Fuels Director. J. Marshall will schedule a Working Group meeting in November 2015.

M. Shannon noted at the last meeting that council supported refreshing the councils top priority issues. The following new council priorities were confirmed and discussed:

New building activations: M. Shannon highlighted some of the issues arising from new building activations. In particular, inspections of new building activations showed high percentage of errors and infractions caused by a range of code issues and other non-compliances. Council briefly discussed.

Cross Bore: M. Shannon informed Council that plant damage after a cross bore incident can be very high. The risk of Cross Bore remains high and renewing or increasing message to home owners, retailers, contractors and other related industries is needed.

The industry can provide information and data to support the two new priorities. Dealing with the new priorities under the Ad-hoc Working Group was recommended.



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11. Risk Reduction Group Update

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received RRG minutes from the March 2, 2015, May 8, 2015 and September 17, 2015 meetings, which was treated as read.

12. Question on Information Items and Other Business

Members who attended renewed their memberships for another term.

ACTION: Absent members will be contacted to confirm the status of their membership.

ACTION: J. Marshall to follow up on the membership vacancies.

ACTION: M. Khalif to follow up on members who did not send regrets for today's meeting.

13. In Camera

There was no in-camera session at this meeting.

14. Termination

The meeting terminated at approximately 12:49 p.m. **The next meeting date is February 23, 2016.**