Minutes of the Operating Engineers Advisory Council (OEAC) meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held in Boardroom 1434, 14th Floor, Centre Tower, 3300 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario at 09:30 a.m. on the 1st day of March, 2012.

Present: Colin Andrews (Chair), Ontario Power Generation, Robert Brady, Consumers Advisory Council (Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 only), Ralf Klopf, Toronto Board of Education (Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 only), Mark Menheere, Suncor Energy Products Inc., Rod Philip, US Steel, Lake Erie Works & Bengt Sormon, The Trane Company.

In attendance: Mike Adams, Director BPV/OE (all except item 16), Suba Ariyaretnam, Manager General Accounting and Financial Reporting (Item 7 only), Michael Beard, Vice President of Operations (all except item 16), John Coulter, Manager and Chief Officer (all except item 16), Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all except item 16), & Melissa Zanetta, Advisor, Government Relations (all except items 16).

Guests: Colleen Sonnenberg, Manager, Technical Safety Unit, Ministry of Consumer Services (MCS), (all except item 16).

Regrets: Sarah Jeffery-Hampton, Senior Policy & Program Analyst, MCS.

1. Constitution of Meeting

C. Andrews, Chair, welcomed council members and called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Council members approved the agenda of the March 1, 2012 meeting as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A brief discussion ensued around the difference between the design of European biomass boilers and North American biomass boilers noted in the draft minutes from November 10, 2011 meeting.

Council members approved the minutes of the November 10, 2011 Operating Engineers Advisory Council meeting as revised, as being a true and correct record of that meeting.

4. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

C. Andrews reviewed the action items with council members noting that the November 10th meeting items regarding Risk Reduction Groups will be addressed at the meeting under agenda items 10, 11 & 12.

J. Borts’ update on other professions and trades short fall trends was deferred to the next meeting.

Council recruitment action items will be covered under item 13 on the agenda.

5. Council Chair’s Report

The Chair advised that he did not attend the last Committee of Council Chairs meeting on January 11, 2012. However, he provided a brief update from the minute.
The role of council was discussed as a result of advisory council survey result and the Chair reiterated that the role of council was to advise TSSA and not as a decision making role.

The fee review framework and process was also discussed. The need to establish fee review focused subcommittees that will meet prior to scheduled council meetings and follow up after the council meetings was agreed.

The Chair informed further discussions on the Operating Engineers Fee Review Framework and Process Subcommittee meeting from earlier this morning will take place in camera session.

6. TSSA President & CEO’s Report

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

M. Beard, on behalf of the President and CEO, provided a brief overview for the Operating Engineers portion of the report.

The council noted that Georgian College, Owen Sound Campus, for 4th Class certification has been approved in 2011.

ACTION: The TSSA President & CEO’s Report will reflect the approval of Georgian College for the provision of power engineering training.

7. Fee Review Framework and Process Update

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation that forms part of the record of the meeting, M. Beard and S. Ariyaretnam presented an overview and the historical background of the Operating Engineers fee review framework and process.

S. Ariyaretnam highlighted some of the proposed changes and rates. He noted there was no change to the Licensing, Registration & Certification (LRC) fees. However, there was an increase in travel cost recovery per visit and simplified fee structure for initial and periodic inspections which was derived from base labour rate.

8. Ministry of Consumer Services (MCS)

C. Sonnenberg gave an overview of how the process of policy development works within government including the approvals required developing policy for a regulation and the role of the ministry, sector experts, and legislative drafters in drafting a regulation. She informed the Council that the new hire for the Technical Safety Unit, Sarah Jeffrey-Hampton, who sent her regrets for this meeting today, will be the lead analyst on the Operating Engineers file.

C. Sonnenberg identified the progress to date on the review of the proposed draft Operating Engineer’s regulation that had been forwarded to the ministry for review. She also noted that while a regulation had been drafted by TSSA, the ministry did not have direction to undertake policy work in this area, nor direction from the Cabinet office to draft a regulation. Additionally, it was stated that the ministry’s legislative drafters are responsible for drafting the actual regulation, with ongoing input from MCS/TSSA. Next steps were identified as the ministry in partnership with TSSA, to develop a persuasive case based on evidence data to bring to the Minister in order to obtain the necessary approvals to begin developing a policy submission. It
was advised that over the past two years TSSA had provided extensive rationalization information to the MCS; however, more information/data will be required to complete a policy submission.

MCS will continue to work closely with TSSA’s Stakeholder Relations in gathering further information and clarifications regarding the new proposed draft regulation, as required. It was acknowledged that the foundation paper developed by MCS and TSSA prior to the provincial elections identified the work on the Operating Engineer’s regulation as a priority for MCS. J. Coulter advised that the proposed regulation had a range of new initiatives that will support industry needs in particular, the combined heat and power industry.

C. Sonnenberg indicated that understanding the intent of the new proposed draft regulation and what problems it will remedy, will assist in developing not only a persuasive case, but will also enable MCS to explain in lay terms what the benefits of this work will be for the sector and safety in Ontario.

Both M. Adams and J. Coulter advised they were also available to answer any questions that the ministry may have while they are reviewing the material related to the proposed draft Operating Engineers regulations. Council expressed serious concerns with the delay of having the review and approval on Operating Engineers regulations and stated they were willing to have TSSA present their business case for reviewing the regulations to the MCS if necessary. Further discussions ensued around the purpose of having the review at this time.

ACTION: C. Sonnenberg will forward S. Jeffrey-Hampton’s contact information to M. Adams.

9. Report on Operating Engineers safety compliance

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation that forms part of the record of the meeting, S. Mangalam presented Risk Informed Decision Making (RIDM) as it pertains to Annual Public Safety Performance Report (ASPR) and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation that forms part of the record of the meeting, M. Adams provided an overview of the company’s 2nd quarterly safety performance as it related to Operating Engineers.

10. Thermal Oil

C. Andrews reported that the Thermal Oil Risks Reduction Group (RRG) will evolve into risk analysis using the Kepner Tregoe (KT) problem solving program. He informed that progress was moving forward but there was not sufficient information at this juncture.

ACTION: Thermal Oil RRG will provide a written report at the next meeting.

11. Steam Turbine Governance RRG

R. Philip reported that the steam turbine trip survey relative to types of turbines and testing frequency was sent to manufactures that he had contacts for and he has not received many feedbacks. He also reported challenges of finding the right contact for some manufacturers. C. Andrews indicated he would provide information for General Electric (GE) contacts.

ACTION: Council members will forward any known contacts in their region for manufactures of steam turbines to R. Philip so he can follow up on it.

ACTION: R. Philip will provide an update on the steam turbine trip survey at the next meeting.
12. Future of Power Engineers RRG

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received the future of Power Engineers in Ontario proposed project charter from R. Klopf and R. Brady which was recorded as part of the meeting.

R. Klopf requested on-going administration support from TSSA. He acknowledged the support from J. Coulter and emphasized the need to have a more viable way of finalizing this project. It was noted MCS was not currently part of the RRG and they requested to be invited at the next Future of Power Engineers RRG meetings.

A high level discussion ensued on the major issues impacting the future of Power Engineers including funding for existing and future training colleges. Further discussion ensued on ways to engage and improve funding for training colleges and solicit the government for support.

J. Coulter advised that the proposed regulations had many new aspects that will support training and certifications.

Industry provides substantial support to some colleges; however, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) does not provide sufficient funding for colleges relative to their resources needs. MCS could facilitate in preliminary discussions with MTCU on how they could assist colleges in their Power Engineering training efforts.

Engaging students in high school and young professionals was an important aspect of outreach for the Power Engineering profession.

Council discussed about educating and informing members of MCS about TSSA programs in order to enhance their understanding of the operational and technical aspect of TSSA. J. Coulter offered to provide an educational tour on power plants for the MCS staff and C. Sonnenberg supported to have field trips coordinated for the MCS members in order to gain first hand experience.

J. Coulter provided information regarding the Standardization of Power Engineers Examination Committee (SOPEEC) meeting which was held in February 2012 in New Brunswick. SOPEEC is a national committee representing all Canadian jurisdictions relating to the certification of Power Engineers. The SOPEEC and Interprovincial Power Engineering Curriculum Committee (IPECC) work together to enhance the power engineering program throughout Canada.

J. Coulter reported some of the discussion around the federal government’s desire for standardizing regulations on a national level for all provinces and territories especially on attendance and energy rating allowance. C. Sonnenberg requested to learn more about the findings from the SOPEEC meeting.

ACTION: M. Zanetta will facilitate MCS’s field trips with the OE program by coordinating with J. Coulter.

ACTION: J. Coulter will draft a briefing note providing the highlight of the SOPEEC meeting for the MCS.

13. Review membership Matrix and Membership

Recruiting an academic member for the OEAC, J. Coulter will follow up with this need in his meeting with the Training and Certification Advisory Board (TCAB) and will report back to the council.
For the labour sponsorship vacancy, C. Andrews will follow up with R. Klopf who would like to assist in this recruitment effort and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

ACTION: J. Coulter and C. Andrews will provide update on OEAC recruitment status at the next meeting.


M. Beard introduced a new standing item on all council agendas: Input on new Industry Trends & Issues. He highlighted the main topics from other council meetings. He reiterated that TSSA was collecting emerging trends in each industry to better serve each program and allow a better understanding of industry development and actions which may assist all advisory councils.

Council provided their view on an emerging practice of many consulting Engineers who were not always well informed on the best practices relating to power plant design or refit and how this is impacting decisions and policies in the industry.

The council discussed that there has been a decline in the quality of engineering, product procurement, delivery, installation and start-up service over the years. It would appear that industry in Ontario is receiving the B and C teams from suppliers for their projects. Continuation of this behavior will have an adverse affect on Ontario’s industry to compete and could lead to possible health, safety and environmental issues without proper oversight.

15. Questions and Other Business

There were no updates under this section.

16. In Camera

Council members met in camera without management and guests.

17. Termination

The meeting was terminated at 1:24 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2012.