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 26th day of November, 2013.


In attendance: Mike Adams, Director BPV/OE (all except item 17), Michael Beard, President and CEO (all except 17), Susy Ceolin, Advisor, Research and Education (item 15), John Coulter, Manager and Chief Officer (all except item 17), Erin Estok, Advisor, Government Relations (all except items 1 to 6, 9, 8 to 17), Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all except item 17), David Scriven, VP Research and Corporate Secretary (all except items 15 and 16), Richard Smart, Chief Financial Officer (item 7), Peter Wong, VP of Operations (all items except 17).

Guests: Sarah Jeffrey-Hampton, Senior Policy & Program Analyst, Ministry of Consumers Services MCS, (all except item 17), and Hussein Lalani, Manager, MCS, (all items except 17).

Regrets: Mark Menheere, Suncor Energy Products Inc.

1. Constitution of Meeting
   Chair called the meeting. Roundtable introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda
   Council members approved the November 26, 2013 meeting agenda, as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes
   Council members approved the minutes of April 3, 2013 Operating Engineers Advisory Council meeting with recommended revisions.

4. Review Action Items from Last Meeting
   J. Coulter reviewed the action items with council members noting that the highlighted items have been completed and will be removed from the list for the next meeting.

   The outstanding action items were discussed as follows:

   - Item 1 regarding the federal government’s desire for standardizing regulations (attendance and energy rating allowance) on a national level is still ongoing and information will be shared once completed. Also, there will be significant changes when this new rating system goes into effect.
   - Item 2 regarding providing the training and certification process document to council, it was reported that this item was completed.
   - Item 3 regarding providing an update of the process of developing strategy around skills training and labour market development of Operating Engineers, there has been no progress to report at this time. The infrastructure to conduct the survey is in place and an update will be provided at the next meeting.
The steam turbine governor definitions are included in today’s update under item 10 of the agenda.

5. Council Chair’s Report

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, council received the Chair’s annual report to the CEO. This report was treated as read.

The Council Chair’s annual report to the CEO was shared with TSSA’s Board of Directors. The Board is aware of the council’s accomplishments and key opportunities. The Board Chair sent a letter of appreciation to all council Chairs.

Discussion ensued around some of the wording in the report regarding the status of Operating Engineers (OE) regulation proposal status. There were some differences in understanding the status and the next steps for OE regulation reviews. The previous work involved bringing the OE regulation review forward as well as the current status and the available options for moving forward.

It was reiterated that at the last meeting, council agreed to establish a Risk Reduction Group (RRG) to focus on the proposal for regulation review. Council expressed caution of reinventing the wheel by establishing an RRG. The differences between having an RRG or a panel were explored. It was agreed that a meeting needs to take a place outside of council to determine the next steps for this issue. A meeting will be called and a report will be provided at the next council meeting. It was agreed that an RRG would not be an appropriate manner to review the proposed regulation.

As an alternative to a full regulation review, some of the recommendations brought forward were the implementation of a Code Adoption Document for the OE Safety Program.

ACTION: M. Adams and J. Coulter will coordinate a meeting with MCS and interested council members as well as the Stakeholder Relations Department to establish the parameters of the OE regulation review proposal and discuss the next steps in developing some form of a review panel.

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 provided an update regarding TSSA’s Annual General Meeting. Changes were made to TSSA’s Board of Directors such as the appointment of a new Chair, Judith Wolfson and Vice-Chair, Norm Inkster and the recruitment of five new board members was also noted.

At the recent TSSA’s strategic planning session, TSSA’s vision and mission were endorsed by the board. TSSA will further focus on more tangible goals, such as becoming a recognized safety authority in Ontario. In addition, advocating for the safety of Ontarians.

7. Fee Review Framework and Process Update

R. Smart provided an update of the fee review and process to date. The implementation of the new fee was successful and there have not been any significant concerns or complaints. The next fee review and framework will include lessons learned and reviewing the fee structure to support driving positive behaviour. Both being a safety reinforcement organization and safety advocate were highlighted. The focus on
advocating for Ontarians public safety will be reflected during the next fee review and framework. A white paper working group has been established to focus on the next steps and council was encouraged to join.

8. Ministry of Consumer Services (MCS)

H. Lalani was introduced as the new Manager of the Technical Unit of MCS. He informed council that moving forward, he appreciated the council’s priorities and was looking forward to working with them.


As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, council received TSSA’s Annual Safety Performance Report (ASPR), which was treated as read.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation which forms part of the record of the meeting, P. Wong provided highlights of the corporate overview of the ASPR. M. Adams followed with specific industry trends in inspection. All the program inspection backlogs have been eliminated and maintained at zero. It was reiterated that the goal of the advocacy approach was to improve compliance while minimizing cost.

The OE Safety Program operates using best practices in order to ensure high diligence in the industry and the credibility of Power Engineers as evidenced by the historic discussions. Further discussion ensued around enhanced utilization of Risk Information Decision Making (RIDM) in the OE Safety Program. There have been discussions regarding RIDM between the OE Safety Program and the Public Safety Risk Management department.

10. Steam Turbine Governor RRG

R. Philip provided an update around the steam turbine trip survey including the definitions of types of turbines involved. The survey results along with the definitions were distributed at the meeting. He provided a detailed introduction of the survey noting this was to determine the frequency of overspeed testing.

A description of the survey process was presented indicating that some of the “unknown” answers were either unavailable at the time of the survey or information was not provided. Some of the limitations from the survey were also highlighted, such as, the challenges of testing a turbine during shutdown without impacting operations in irreversible ways.

A discussion ensued around the possible impact of a regulation review and/or new technology on this issue.

The RRG requested a final period to complete the survey to include as much information as possible for the next meeting.

11. Future of Power Engineers RRG

R. Klopf distributed documents highlighting the initial efforts of developing recommendations to assist colleges with expanding their student intake. Future of Power Engineers 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 enrollment and demographic statistical information were also distributed at the meeting for discussion. RRG minutes from the meeting held on November 18, 2013 were also provided at the meeting.

The need for support from the province ministries was noted. The MCS support in obtaining the information provided at the meeting was acknowledged.
One of the concerns raised is for increased college graduation numbers related to a need for a greater support from the industry – relative to providing co-op time. The number of barriers in the industry such as collective bargaining agreements or liability was highlighted. Finding ways to draw industry support and provide information through co-op firms’ human resources and collective bargaining units were outlined. There were reports that Power Engineers were being marketed in certain demographics as a trade rather than as a profession which may skew the attraction to the profession.

Factors affecting recruitment in similar professions such as the healthcare industry were also noted. Recommendations were made to finding additional ways of communicating with the importance of the profession to additional secondary schools and colleges.

Discussion ensued regarding colleges certified in Ontario and the absence of certified training facility around Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The need for training laboratories and being a designated technical training facility were noted as some of the requirements for future colleges.

Solutions were explored including pursuing the support of communities benefiting from the employment market for Power Engineers. Approaching Ministry of Colleges and Universities to provide more funds for existing colleges to expand was also recommended along with exploring donations from industries in order to increase the enrollment for co-op programs.

RRG will continue in the development of its recommendations.

A TSSA developed video that premiered at the Institute of Power Engineers (IPE) AGM & Conference in Ottawa was shared with council. The video has been posted on various web sites related to the Power Engineers including TSSA’s website, YouTube and the IPE site and has been a significant success. The video was also shared with the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Advisory Council.

12. Priority Safety Issue: Operating Engineers Regulation Review RRG

This item was thoroughly discussed under item #5.

Further discussion ensued around establishing a Project Definition Group rather than having this issue as an RRG. It was noted that similar steps have been taken under the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Safety Program developing a scoping document as well as Fuels Safety Program in which the Propane Consultation was still in progress. The need to draft a project charter with deliverables was further discussed.

Council members acknowledged they had been briefed on the power engineering proposed new regulations.

13. Inputs on Industry Trends & Issues

There were no new trends. The priority safety issues were noted as part of the agenda.


As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, council received the council evaluation and engagement survey result report, which was treated as read.

D. Scriven highlighted that overall the result has been positive as the case in previous surveys for the OE advisory. The feedback provided in the comment section was acknowledged. Council noted the improvement made to corporate information versus industry focused information. The challenges of engaging the council...
between meetings was also noted in the survey. TSSA was working on developing a collaborative tool for communication between meetings. This tool will be used as a way of sharing information and generating dialogue among council and TSSA. Council confirmed that they were familiar with these tools and supported it. The new Power Engineering regulation issue and the lack of progress were also indicated in the survey result.

The participation for all industry and consumers council was 93%. All the current and qualified members of Operating Engineers Advisory Council completed the survey. The council's time to complete the survey was acknowledged.

Going forward, the survey cycle will be every three years as a result of council's recommendation.

15. Customer Value Survey Result

As part of the advanced material for this meeting, council received a customer value survey result briefing note, which was treated as read.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation which forms part of the record of the meeting, S. Ceolin presented the findings of the most recent customer value survey results for 2013.

Overall value of the organization remained unchanged. However, some notable changes were observed in the perception of accountability, impartiality and management. In regards to TSSA's ability to achieve its core mandate, customers feel TSSA is effective at maintaining public safety.

Areas for improvement included inconsistency. TSSA is taking steps to evaluate this and find solutions. Conducting a mapping process to improve gaps was also noted. The upcoming Field Support Services impact on processes was also highlighted.

16. Questions and Other Business

The Chair indicated that he had discussions with two possible private power generator candidates for the council. He will follow up with J. Coulter offline.

D. Scriven noted that as a result of questions raised at the AGM in September, the membership matrix for all councils was being revised to identify any gaps or new opportunities to include new sectors. The proposal for a new matrix will be shared with Council Chairs at their next meeting and will be shared with council at the next meeting.

17. In Camera

Council members met in camera without management and guests.

18. Termination

The meeting was terminated at 1:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2014.