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 9:30 a.m. on the 12th of November 2015.


In attendance: Michael Beard, President and CEO (all items except 13), Mike Adams, Director BPV/OE (all except items 13), Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all except item 13), Wilson Lee, Director Stakeholder Relations, (all items except 13), David Scriven, VP Research and Corporate Secretary (all except items 13) and Peter Wong, VP Operations (all items except 13).

Guests: Nathan Fahey, Senior Policy and Program Analyst, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (all items except item 13), Elizabeth Kay-zorowski, Acting Director, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, (all items except 13), Hussein Lalani, Manager, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (all items except 13).

Regrets: Ralf Klopf, Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and Institute of Power Engineers (IPE).

1. Constitution of Meeting

R. Philip, Chair, welcomed council members and called the meeting to order.

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

A roundtable introduction followed and E. Kay-zorowski was introduced as the new Acting Director for the Public Safety Branch of the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS).

J. Dreveny was unable to attend today’s orientation and meeting. He will be representing the Owners/Management sector of the matrix and will be replacing C. Andrews for Ontario Power Engineers. An orientation will be scheduled for next meeting.

ACTION: J. Dreveny will attend on orientation at the next meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Council members approved the November 12, 2015 meeting agenda, as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Council members approved the minutes of April 22, 2015 for the OEAC meeting, as revised.
4. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

M. Adams reviewed the action items with council members noting that all the highlighted items have been completed and will be removed from the list for the next meeting. The outstanding items were updated as follows:

- Creating a Risk Reduction Group (RRG) for regulatory review was still under discussion.
- TSSA’s response to Power Engineers RRG will be discussed under item 10 on today’s agenda.

5. Council Chair’s Report

The Chair attended the Committee of Council Chairs Meeting held on September 15, 2015. The meeting was informative and one of the concerns expressed was council membership vacancies for the various sectors. The OEAC, as of November 12, 2015, has all positions filled with a new representative for Public Power.

The TSSA held its AGM on September 29, 2015. TSSA invited the Advisory Council Chairs to attend. A representative of the OEAC was able to participate and witness the Inaugural TSSA’s first Safety Award Presentation.

The Institute of Power Engineers Ontario Chief’s Conference was held on October 22 and 23, 2015. The event was well attended with over 70 registered delegates. Three Council members were able to attend and benefited from the various presenters, sponsors and industry related participants.

TSSA hosted a “roundtable” with the Operating Engineer (OE) Inspectors on October 28, 2015 and extended an invitation to OEAC to participate. Two Council members were able to attend in person and two via teleconference. The “roundtable” was a success with some very interesting subjects discussed.

6. TSSA President and CEO’s Report

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

M. Beard highlighted the process of the regulatory review and its impact on businesses. He noted the possibility of freezing the fee schedule for an additional year, in total five years without a fee review.

He also highlighted the relocation of TSSA’s head office in July 2016, which will result in significant savings.

A video was shown highlighting the 2015 safety award recipients from TSSA’s Annual General Meeting.

7. Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) Update

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received a report from MGCS, which was treated as read.
N. Fahey highlighted other ongoing activities with TSSA, such as the review of the process and the transparency of developing Code Adoption Documents.

H. Lalani shared the status of a notice to amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000 that was sent to all councils to provide feedback and was due on October 20, 2015. There were approximately 25 responses. Generally, the feedback supported the amendment but requested the length of appeal period to be reconsidered. Council recommended some orders or inspection appeals may need more than 30 days to reach to the person who makes a decision to appeal in most organizations.

TSSA held a workshop on Future of Risk Informed Resource Allocation, which took place on November 11 and 12, 2015. MGCS representatives attended. The global direction toward the use of Risk Informed Decision Making in the public sector was highlighted.

8. Priority Safety Issue: Operating Engineers (OE) Regulatory Review Update

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, council received a Jurisdictional Scan of Power Engineer Regulation report conducted by Deloitte for the MGCS, which was treated as read.

During the development of the report, it was noted that there were challenges in finding data on safety, since every jurisdiction had different definitions of injury. The lack of OE standard codes in Ontario (similar to other programs at TSSA) were discussed. How other jurisdiction conducted inspections and/or categorize their operations was thoroughly discussed.

It was recommended by council to engage stakeholders and council to ensure a comprehensive consultative approach during review of regulations. Establishing an RRG within this priority safety was discussed. N. Fahey reported to council that he would be interviewing council members as part of the consultation process for OE regulation review.

Sharing the Jurisdictional Scan Report with other stakeholders, such as the National Public Safety Advisory Committee was recommended.

9. Annual State of Public Safety and Operating Engineers Safety Compliance

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, which forms part of the record of the meeting, D. Scriven provided an overview of TSSA’s Annual State of Public Safety, followed by M. Adams who provided an update on the Operating Engineers Safety Program.


With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, which forms part of the record of the meeting, M. Adams presented to Council, TSSA’s follow up on Future of Power Engineers RRG recommendations.

In regards to funding of OE training, H. Lalani recommended that colleges engage their counterparts at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. A discussion ensued around how Trades versus Professions were funded in Ontario and the inconsistencies.

In relation to RRG’s recommendation to TSSA about ways to engage the industry and the colleges about co-op programs. TSSA and The Institute of Power Engineers (IPE) collaborated to encourage
the industry to provide co-op opportunities to mitigate shortage of OE co-op placements. A letter was sent to council in the summer for information and will be resent after the meeting.

M. Adams also identified two more colleges in Ontario (one in the GTA) that are seeking TSSA certification. They plan to start enrollment in the fall of 2016. Practical time in the industry was thoroughly discussed. TSSA’s position remains the same – there will be no reduction on practical time (three months for 4th Class, one month for 3rd Class) in order to mitigate risk.

TSSA provided a comprehensive OE Plant Chief’s list, which doubled the number of available plants for co-op placements and provided Chief Engineer contact information to assist the colleges to identify more co-op placements in the industry. Ways to engage unions about the benefits of the co-op programs was further discussed.

In regards to TSSA promoting the OE profession, M. Adams will be a speaker at the student-run conference at the Glenforest STEM Speakers Bureau in Mississauga on November 20, 2015.

R. Brady recommended that TSSA consider promoting the OE profession at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition organized by Skills Ontario annually and supported by the Consumers Advisory Council.

ACTION: TSSA and IPE’s collaboration letter regarding Co-op opportunities will be re-send to council.

11. Operating Engineers Safety Program Changes

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, which forms part of the record of the meeting, M. Adams presented to council, TSSA’s changes to the OE Safety Program.

Statistical information regarding new plants and types of plants operating in Ontario were shared. The number of OE certificate holders in Ontario, with average age demographics, was also shared and discussed along with the process for TSSA approved colleges and challenges with co-op programs.

Harmonization among provinces regarding OE Plant Ratings was noted. The criteria for foreign experience and its process was highlighted.

TSSA will expire all provincial certificates. Upon renewal, everyone will receive a standardized certificate as classified by Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee. This change was due to the provincial Labour Mobility requirements.

12. Questions and Other Business

There was no discussion under this item.

13. In Camera

Council met without TSSA’s management and guests.

14. Termination
The meeting was terminated at 2:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2016.