



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Operating Engineers Advisory Council Meeting on 6th of April 2021

Minutes of the Operating Engineers Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 2:30 p.m. on the April 6, 2021.

- Present:** Greg Black, International Union Operating Engineers (IUOE).; Ralf Klopf, Institute of Power Engineers; Peter Michieli, Arlanxeo Canada Inc; Ronald Morrison, TSSA's Consumers Advisory Council; Rod Philip (Chair), Stelco; Randy Purves, J. D. Sweid Foods.
- AJ Kadirgamar, Director of Shared Services; Caslav Dinic, Supervisor BPV Technical Service, Inspection; Suba Ariyaretnam, Manager, General Accounting & Financial Reporting; Dan Brazier, Chief Financial Officer; Angelina Brew, Council Coordinator, Andrew Chin, Finance Specialist, Special Projects; Alexandra Campbell, VP, Communication & Stakeholder Relations; Viola Dessanti, Director, Strategic Analytics; Brian Gee, Chief Officer, Operating Engineers Safety Program; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Government Relations; Chelsea Lehner, Policy Advisor; Ajay Raval, Director, Boilers & Pressure Vessels & Operating Engineers Safety Program (left at 3:46 p.m.); Bonnie Rose, President & CEO; Phil Simeon, Director, Regulatory Policy; M. Williamson, Supervisor Shares Services BPV/COI; Robert Wiersma, Manager Public Safety Risk Management.
- Guests:** Erick Morales, Senior Policy Advisor, Technical Safety Unit, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS); Ross Farrant, Program Coordinator, Mohawk College.
- Regrets:** Jamie Dreveny, Ontario Power Generation; Kevin Hillman, Altura Power.

1. Constitution of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

2. Approval of the October 8, 2020 agenda

R. Phillips recommended adding D. Belanger's membership to agenda item 10. Council approved the agenda with these changes.

3. Approval of the October 8, 2020 minutes

Council approved the minutes of October 8, 2020 were accepted as presented.

4. Review of Action items from April 14, 2020 meeting

B. Gee spoke to the action items. He spoke to Wayne Fisher about closure of steam traction concerns. B. Gee noted TSSA cannot address his concerns as he would like them to be addressed. There is tension around the issue of driving tests – some people want them, some do not. K. Kennedy spoke to the other items, noting that they are all complete as noted in the action items.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair indicated that operating engineers are working through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that Path 1 and Path 2 remain concerns. He recommended TSSA leverage the council's expertise on technical matters related to Alternate Rules.



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6. Alternate Rules Update

P. Simeon walked through the implementation timeline for the three deliverables: Path 1, Path 2 and OE certification. Key updates included Path 1 implementation, intake of two applications for Path 2 and queries about Path 1. He detailed the process for consideration of any application under Alternate Rules.

P. Simeon detailed alternate qualifications for operating engineers, the next step in Alternate Rules implementation, planned for June, 2021. He noted six of the Expert Panel recommendations related to certification. Qualifying time will be represented in hours—instead of months—of job experience. Certificate holders will have the option to pursue exams and meet the experience requirements concurrently or at their own pace. Some experience accumulated working on regulated safety technologies, other than boilers—including compressors, refrigeration, and turbines—will be recognized as qualifying experience time. Flexibility is considered for types of locations in which experience can be gained, including out-of-province locations and unattended plants supervised by an operating engineer. P. Simeon detailed the Alternate Table 8 requirements. Next steps include publishing information in May 2021 and program launch in June 2021.

G. Black asked about the outcome the Path 2 applicant is looking to achieve. B. Gee said the applicant is looking to operate the plant without plant attendance. R. Klopf asked if there is a matrix published with the Alternate Rules for OE certification and how will it be rolled out. B. Gee said it will be rolled out like the other elements of Alternate Rules with frequently asked questions and information posted on the website.

R. Philip asked about co-ops brought into a plant who only meet one of the technologies, would that be enough for time? B. Gee replied that it would be.

7. Topics Raised by Council

▪ Colleges Update

R. Farrant commented on the impact of COVID-19, whether it is due to exam barriers or employment challenges. Colleges are reluctant to share enrolment information but of the colleges he is aware of, there is a decrease in enrolment. There is about a 45 per cent reduction in enrolment from known data. On the positive side, he spoke to a virtual reality pilot and the ability to validate competency with it. Eight colleges are on board. He noted there is a potential to roll this out for the full range of regulatory expectations of TSSA. He would like to see quarterly meetings with TSSA.

R. Klopf commented that it is important to assist colleges with Alternate Rules for certification. IPE is looking for provincial and/or provincial funding to help with the educational piece in the background.

B. Gee commented that the colleges should put together percentages of how the nine months is affecting students qualifying experience time. He recommended on qualifying time moving away from reference to months, which creates confusion.

R. Farrant said the colleges will appreciate the opportunity to connect with B. Gee.

▪ College Contacts and Authors: Dear Chief's Letter to reflect changes

On the Dear Chief's letter, the Chair noted the Chief Officer's name and college representatives are out of date. He does not recall seeing any newer versions. B. Gee said the one that went out in 2019 was just at the time M. Adams was leaving TSSA, the signature was changed to B. Gee's and one was sent out in 2020, just as COVID-19 hit. He has started working on updated contact lists for the 2021 mailing.



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Action: R. Philip, B. Gee and K. Kennedy to assist in editing a revised version of the Dear Chief's letter.

8. Examinations and Certifications Concerns

R. Philip commented that availability of sittings is a challenge. There is a lot of discussion about reference material not provided by TSSA, the exam centres and examination results, which are bottlenecked. G. Black relayed frustration in getting examinations written. Outer regions of Toronto might take nine months before students can sit their exams. B. Gee said TSSA inspectors are engaged in about eight different plant locations for invigilation. On reference material, he said students do have access to some textbooks. He understands it is expensive. Some have to come from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) because of copyright reasons. He suggested employers provide students with reference material. A. Raval added that TSSA is adding to capacity where it can, including third-party examination marking. P. Michieli noted that his plant has successfully provided space for examinations and thanked TSSA for sending invigilators. B. Gee said TSSA cannot retrieve the materials or have them shipped around to different locations. The downside of plant-based exam sittings is the students will not be provided with the reference binders. B. Gee commented that students must be prepared in advance and review reference material. TSSA operates on a cost-recovery model and can only do so much. R. Purves asked B. Gee what he would recommend for reference material. B. Gee said he would recommend the five regulatory documents and CSA B52. He told R. Purves to send an email reminder. G. Black asked about the plants that are hosting examinations, and whether they are open to the public. B. Gee commented that these are not open to the public. Colleges are only invigilating for their own students. P. Michieli commented that in Sarnia, chiefs networked to facilitate exam openings at various facilities. B. Gee suggested that the union could provide resources to facilitate exams.

9. Questions and Other Business

R. Morrison asked why Path 1 and Path 2 has not had much take up. P. Michieli posed similar questions. B. Gee commented that TSSA might receive about 100 Path 1 applications. When variances are applied for, he will steer variances to Path 1 and Path 2. COVID-19 might have impacted the slow take-up too.

There were no further questions or comments from Council.

10. Council Administration:

Membership Renewal: Jamie Dreveny and Ralf Klopf
Resignation: Dave Belanger

K. Kennedy noted R. Klopf chose to renew. The chair will follow up with J. Dreveny, who had to leave the call. K. Kennedy spoke to the new member recruitment process for D. Belanger's replacement.

Action: A. Brew to post a call for a new member for the Training Providers (1) sector.

Action: Chair to confirm membership renewal of J. Dreveny prior to next council meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:14 p.m.