



# Technical Standards and Safety Authority

## Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council meeting for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at **2:30 p.m.** on Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Present	
Bradley Clark	Alan Reitzel
Ry Smith	Martin Luymes (Chair)
Sunaina Menezes	Greg St. Louis
TSSA	
Alexandra Campbell	Kristian Kennedy
Gary Highfield	Kelly Hart
Iuliana Afanase	Olga Sousa-Dias
Frank Pallotta	Ajay Raval
Regrets	
Tracey Teed Martin	ALT: Geoffrey Holloway
Neil Waugh	David Hammond

### Action Items

There were no action items.

#### 1. Constitution of Meeting

##### 1.1. Safety Moment

K. Kennedy presented a National Fire Protection Association video on Christmas tree fire safety.

R. Smith introduced himself as a new member of the NGAC. Other members introduced themselves to R. Smith.

#### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1. The agenda was adopted as presented.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. The council approved the minutes as presented. S. Menezes noted that the Office of the Fire Marshall should only reference "OFM" but no longer includes "Emergency Management" in its name. Second, she noted one typographical correction that needed to be made. The minutes were otherwise approved.



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### **4. Council Administration**

- 4.1.** Membership Renewal - Martin Luymes
- 4.2.** Membership Renewal - Sunaina Menezes
- 4.3.** Membership Renewal - Alan Reitzel

All three members renewed their memberships.

- 4.4.** Vacancy – Transmission / Pipeline: Upstream Services
- 4.5.** Vacancy – Manufacturers / Designers: Furnaces
- 4.6.** Vacancy – Standards Development Organization

The Chair can assist with category 4.5. B. Clark asked what the pipeline transmission category membership criteria would be. K. Kennedy explained that the candidate would have subject matter expertise in pipelines as defined in O. Reg. 210/01 (Oil and Gas Pipelines).

### **5. Chair's Report**

The Chair spoke to the dearth of natural gas related agenda items to raise with TSSA. After canvassing industry stakeholders, he noted that there is not an abundance of issues to raise with TSSA. He spoke to the issue of TSSA customer service. He noted there is an awareness of the challenges at TSSA and a commitment to address it. A. Campbell agreed there is an awareness of customer service issues. TSSA has short-term fixes that are paying off, but TSSA is invested in deeper level change over the next three years. TSSA is embarking on customer relations journey mapping and is reviewing its customer relations processes in the areas of engineering, certifications, and examinations.

### **6. Engineering Service Level Agreements**

F. Pallotta spoke to standardized work status and completion, pre-requisites for applications, on-hold standards, and expedited requests.

M. Luymes asked about the format of initial notifications for engineering. F. Pallotta explained that it is via email, however TSSA is looking at other options to complement email. The Chair noted there are challenges with email communications, so it is necessary to supplement with other forms of communication. The Chair also asked if the policy affects all sectors and what percentage is in fuels safety. G. Highfield explained that a significant number are for generators – large projects typically. Variances and field approvals make up about 80 per cent of fuels engineering requests. A. Raval asked if proposed turnaround times are acceptable. R. Smith said 30 calendar days are sufficient. The Chair concurred, provided the mode of communication is reliable.



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#### **7. Industry Prioritization Discussion**

G. Highfield and A. Campbell provided details on existing priorities, all of which were raised by the propane and liquid fuels sectors.

The Chair provided an update on the Red Seal initiative. In April the Chair raised an issue as a comment, namely Minister David Piccini rescinding the gas technician Red Seal plan. HRAI met with the Minister, and he indicated it is still a live issue, but it is not going forward now. He noted that the sector, especially for residential HVAC, continues to see the Red Seal as a priority.

#### **8. Adjournment**

**8.1.** The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.