



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council meeting for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at **1:45 p.m.** on Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Present	
Ry Smith	Joe Cancilla
Victor Hyman	Martin Luymes (Chair)
Bradley Clark – alt	Sunaina Menezes
TSSA	
Owen Kennedy	Iuliana Afanase
Regrets	
Joe Muchynski	David Hammond
Tracey Teed Martin	Greg St. Louis
Neil Waugh	

Action Items

There were no action items.

1. Constitution of Meeting

The meeting was convened at 1:45PM.

1.1. Safety Moment

A Safety Moment was presented by Martin Luymes on seasonal spring safety tips.

2. Adoption of the April 1, 2025, Agenda

2.1. The agenda was adopted as presented.

2.2. Council Administration

- 2.2.1. Membership Renewal – David Hammond
- 2.2.2. Membership Resignation – Alan Reitzel
- 2.2.3. New Member Victor Hyman – Contractors (Residential)
- 2.2.4. New Member Joe Muchynski – Contractors (Commercial)
- 2.2.5. New Member Joe Cancilla – Manufacturers/Designers (Furnaces)

Action: I. Afanase was assigned the action of organising a 'send-off' recognition letter for Alan Reitzel's past contributions.



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3. Approval of November 19, 2024, Minutes

3.1. The council approved the minutes as presented.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair reviewed recent developments within the Natural Gas Industry and TSSA, including the TSSA Annual Public Meeting (September 19, 2024) and updates from the Board of Directors. The HVAC sector was noted to be relatively quiet without any major issues for concern or discussion with TSSA. The Chair raised concerns at the Fall 2024 NGAC about delays in training and examination processes affecting TSSA's customer service metrics, the continued impact of tariffs, and the widening skills gap in the trades.

5. Hydrogen Licensing

O. Kennedy provided an overview of Hydrogen Licensing and how that will impact the current state of technician certification and regulation.

The Chair asked who holds these certificates and who employs these certificate holders. O. Kennedy clarified that most certified gas technicians are employed by mechanical contractors, with fewer than 200 active in hydrogen in Ontario. The Chair noted that similar developments are occurring under Technical Safety BC.

V. Hyman inquired about certification requirements for hydrogen blends and what percentage of hydrogen will be blending into natural gas. B. Clark responded that current limits are 2–5% hydrogen, with the potential for up to 20% in future blends. R. Smith discussed hydrogen's use in forklift fuel cells, emphasizing that these systems do not use combustion.

The Chair asked about the regulatory scope of TSSA with respect to Hydrogen Blending and fuel distribution. O. Kennedy responded that many facilities fall under the regulation if they are dispensing the fuel. The Chair asked what other regulatory bodies are involved in the development of Hydrogen Licensing. R. Smith described the complex regulatory environment involving ESA, TSSA, and municipal building codes, with a predominance from the provincial safety authority.

The Chair inquired about the regulatory landscape for hydrogen heating. R. Smith clarified that hydrogen is not currently viable for home heating in Canada



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but noted that there is growing hydrogen production and decarbonization pressure. R. Smith asked about the rollout timeline of TSSA introducing the various regulatory enhancements. O. Kennedy confirmed that applications are progressing, and authorizations have been issued for some facilities already. TSSA is still considering the regulatory compliance of appliances which will use hydrogen blended natural gas as well as Hydrogen Vehicle Standards. R. Smith asked if future regulation would apply to a 100-kW generator or a diesel generator that can be connected to a hydrogen fuel source.

J. Cancilla reported no issues on the topic of renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen blends, even with blends containing 20% hydrogen. B. Clark noted that CSA has indicated 20% is a general safety threshold. Council members acknowledged the difficulties in present testing of the long-term impacts of hydrogen blends.

6. Electrification & Gas Meters

The Chair raised a concern that customers have raised about gas companies refusing to remove meters from homes that have switched from natural gas completely (moving to electric and solar), posing the question of any safety concerns or regulation on this topic. O. Kennedy confirmed that there are no regulatory requirements that would mandate the removal of the gas meter and that the safety risks are minimal if service is locked and supply capped. B. Clark suggested that Enbridge might not be notified or aware of these off-grid transitions.

J. Cancilla asked who incurs the costs for meter removal, and B. Clarke confirmed that Enbridge covers the cost. The Chair asked if this is a safety issue around stranded servicing or a matter of business practices. J. Cancilla noted that there may be long-term advantages in retaining meters for future hydrogen infrastructure.

7. Issue Prioritisation Update

I. Afanase informed the council members that there are no specific natural gas open priority items, or new agenda items requested. The council reviewed open issues from the fuels sector to understand priorities TSSA is exploring. O. Kennedy provided a summary of those open issues.

V. Hyman raised the issue of G3 gas technicians operating under "direct supervision" and questioned whether their work was exceeding what is safely



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permitted. O. Kennedy confirmed that if TSSA is made aware of individuals working outside their scope they would address accordingly. The Chair asked about the requirement of challenge exam for G3 licensing. V. Hyman queried whether technicians are being stretched too far in their roles and may be asked to do work without supervision. O. Kennedy reiterated that indirect supervision requires sign-off from a supervising certificate holder.

J. Cancilla asked how G3s compare with higher-tier technicians, Red Seal apprentices, or certificate holders of a 313 (Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic).

V. Hyman opened a broader conversation on long-term planning for residential electrification and residential decarbonization, posing the question as to which trades and certificate holders are qualified to decommission gas appliances. V. Hyman asked if a 313 mechanic will be qualified to decommission a gas appliance without being a gas license holder and emphasized the need for more 313D-licensed mechanics. O. Kennedy responded that a G license would be required if the decommissioning involved working on the gas supply lines. The Chair discussed integrating gas licensing (G2) with Skilled Trades Ontario to address broader workforce development goals. However, it was acknowledged that this remains a complex and long-standing challenge.

8. Adjournment

8.1. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40PM.