

Electrical Utility Safety Advisory Committee (EUSAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2015
IBEW 77 Hall
19415 International Blvd.
SeaTac, WA 98188-5308
9:30 a.m.

The EUSAC is an advisory committee consisting of IBEW and employer representatives from Washington State utilities and utility contractors and the Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). The mission of the EUSAC is to promote the safety and health of the electrical worker and the public through communication, with consensus recommendations made to L&I.

Self-Introductions

Meeting minutes from November 4, 2014 were reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

1. OSHA—WAC 45 Committee Report
 - a. Lou Flores confirmed he would attend the meeting but he didn't - Jim Voss was sent to replace him. A letter was sent to OSHA requesting a response on L&I's extension request for the WAC-45 rule making process. L&I Economist (Alex) will be contacting utilities for an economic impact study. Alex will be given a list of companies in the industry to choose a sample of companies to contact. The list and their contact information will be generated from an insurance list at L&I. Alex will start contacting companies in June. The economic impact has to be complete before the public hearings. The plan is to have public hearings on both sides of the state. Cindy Ireland is recommending 3 different locations for the public hearings. The State will send the EUSAC Chair the version of the WAC-45 that goes to Alex to send to the large mailing list.
 - b. Jim Voss announced he will be retiring February 28, 2015. The State doesn't have a replacement. Jim was asked to pass the word that any interested parties be ready to apply when the job is posted.
 - c. The Employer Group recognized the Small Committee members for their work; however, they feel the WAC-45 rewrite isn't complete. The Small Committee skipped certain sections due to a lack of time, even though they weren't in agreement with all of the language they didn't have a chance to revisit the skipped sections. Lou Flores committed to providing written direction to the industry on the enforcement status of the WAC-45. The State provided a letter/statement from Alan Lundeen; however, they did not send the appropriate State personnel to answer questions or provide explanations.
 - d. The Labor Group: Three locals were represented: 77, 125, & 483. The work was extensive and there are doubts that everyone agreed with all the language. Labor and Management worked well together in getting through the document given the process for the procedure. The Committee didn't feel they were ready to call the process complete; however, the State mandated the Committee to stop working on the update. Thanks to Jim Voss, Cindy Ireland, and the Employer reps for their work on the update.

New Business:

1. Letter from the State regarding WAC-45.
 - Jim Voss spoke of the letter regarding enforcement of WAC-45. The second page states the intent of how DOSH's compliance and consultation will enforce WAC-45. The current WAC-45 is in effect until the end of the year. In areas where OSHA has made changes that are not addressed in the current WAC-45, the State will enforce through the "safe place" standard (like OSHA's general duty clause)." It is OSHA's responsibility to inform DOSH when they are not as effective. DOSH is currently in the process of drafting a WRD for enforcement. OSHA has granted DOSH an extension.
 - Steve Cant pointed out the letter from the State says the current WAC-45 is at least as effective as the newly update OSHA codes. The question was asked if the State could explain that statement. Jim Voss could not respond.
 - Byron Allen asked if there will be an itemized list of requirements that are not covered under OSHA that will be enforced through the "safe place" standards.
 - Damian Hernandez asked if anyone has questions or comments regarding the response letter from the State to send him an email by the end of this month. A letter to Alan Lundeen will be drafted asking for: answers to the questions that weren't answered, an invitation to the next EUSAC Meeting to answer any additional questions and meet with the Small Committee prior to the meeting, and request the State provide their response by April 1st.
2. EUSAC meeting took a 15 minute break.
 - Labor made a proposal to have the Small Committee get together after the EUSAC meeting to draft a letter to Alan Lundeen. The letter would identify the questions and concerns of Lundeen's letter. The group agreed to meet and draft a letter.
 - Michael Getman proposed the EUSAC Committee draft a letter to Anne Soiza and copy Joel Sacks at L&I expressing their disappointment with not sending the appropriate management personnel to the meeting to discuss the letter. Their disappointment will be mentioned in the letter.
 - Lou Walter: Lou asked the Small Committee to schedule meetings to review the final WAC-45 to identify areas where Labor and Management would like to see revisions, and identify areas that aren't in the agreement that could be included. He would like these areas identified by the Small Committee and shared with the EUSAC Committee. He would also like to see the industry speak as one voice on issues that are in agreement at public hearings.
3. The Safety Message was reviewed and approved. It was encouraged to share the message at your companies.

L&I Information:

1. WRD 18.55 – High Voltage and Telecommunications Hazards
 - Jim Voss: read the purpose. Basically WRD is to restrict non-qualified DOSH inspectors from working on High Voltage Electrical and Telecommunication jobsites; however, L&I has found a loophole. Non-qualified DOSH inspectors will still inspect encroachments of high voltage lines by cranes or equipment, flagging issues, and trenching/excavation hazards.

- Dick Maxwell stated that employees can ask DOSH inspectors if they are high voltage qualified to be on the site, for the protection of everyone.
- A recommendation was made for the EUSAC Committee to draft a letter to the State concerning incidents where non-qualified DOSH inspectors are causing hazard exposures to employees during their inspections on high voltage sites because they don't know the work.
- The recommendation is to revise WRD 18.55 to only allow non-qualified DOSH inspectors to just inspect for imminent danger. In section IV (b), remove the last 2 bullets and replace them with imminent danger, and consider removing/revising D and E. The EUSAC Committee will draft a letter to Anne Soiza requesting to revise WRD 18.55 and cc Craig Blackwood and Alan Lundeen.
- Dick Maxwell discussed a few inspections regarding energy source control. Inside electricians cutting over the drip loop is an issue of concern. Inside electricians are knowledgeable but they cannot control the energy source. If a problem arises, they have no way to control the energy source. He encouraged the employers to not allow inside electricians to work on their system. For instance, Tree trimmers are not allowed to remove a tree from energized lines.

Accidents and/or near misses:

There are a few reports on Local 77's website about recent incidents.

1. Portland General Electric - Apprentice made contact with energized line while doing restoration work. The Apprentice is missing his right lower arm and possibly his fingers on his left hand. Identify, isolate, test, and ground can prevent incidents.
2. Michels Power - Electrical contact.
3. Kemp West - Vehicle contact: employee was hit by a car.
4. Potelco, Inc – Electrical shock.
5. Tacoma Power: Two incidents involving Apprentices. Cable replacement job, found energized lines during work, excavated down to conduit with vactor, found lines were in conduit that was previously damaged. First period apprentice was cutting through conduit and cut into energized lines. Employee was transported to hospital, checked out and released. A stand-down was held with all crews the next morning. The second incident was on the following day on a pole change out job. The last task of the job was to energize the street light. An Apprentice working from a bucket with wet leather gloves got tangled in the lines of the street lighting – he was removed from the lines by his co-worker. The Apprentice was examined and released from the medical facility.

Other items of interest relevant to EUSAC:

1. It's Time to Change by David Bowman – The letter was handed out and the group was encouraged to share it with employees.

Announcements:

1. 64th Governor's Health & Safety Conference – October 7 & 8, 2015 – Greater Tacoma Convention Center
2. 2015 Pacific Northwest Lineman's Rodeo – Saturday, July 25, 2015 - Gresham, Oregon

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3. Pacific Northwest Lineman Rodeo will be delivering \$25,000 check to Oregon Burn Center.
4. Pole Top will be different this year because of new fall protection rules and Rescue Annie will be different.
5. Jim Walters has a “Power of Learning” business that is geared toward Lineman and is highly recommended.

2015 meeting schedule:

- Tuesday, May 12th
- Tuesday, August 11th
- Tuesday, November 10th

Attachments

DH:ekk/opeiu8/afl-cio