

Electric Utility Safety Advisory Committee (EUSAC) Minutes
November 17, 2020
9:30 a.m.
IBEW 77 Hall
19415 International Blvd.
SeaTac, WA 98188-5308

The EUSAC is an advisory committee consisting of IBEW and employer representatives from Washington 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.

Chair: Travis Englehart

Recording Secretary: Chuck Campy (absent, Aaron Robison filling in)

1. Self-Introductions

Self-introductions were not conducted as the meeting was held via web and phone.

2. Old Business

a. L&I Website:

- i. A meeting was held with L&I representatives to discuss website concerns. L&I was receptive and will stay in contact as they attempt to resolve issues. Travis Englehart will facilitate ongoing communication with L&I staff.

b. Voting Members:

- i. The employers' REA/Cooperative vote has been changed from Jeff Meyers to Jason Pimental.

c. WAC 296-45 Reprint:

- i. There are approximately 1,500 books in stock that need to be distributed before a reprinting can be done.

d. Crane Rulemaking:

- i. No update - the process is believed to be on hold until in-person meetings can be resumed. Terry Neely at L&I offered to seek an update and to share with the group if one is available.

e. L&I Staff Update: Ryan Allen will be filling the policy & technical position vacancy left by Alan Lundeen's recent promotion.

f. Face Covering Requirements: A question was raised about whether wearing masks in the rain could create a hazard. L&I will not be making any exceptions to face covering requirements. Good practice is to evaluate concerns over whether face coverings pose a hazard in a documented job hazard analysis.

3. New Business

a. Items from L&I:

- i. Interviews are being conducted to fill a vacancy in the high voltage compliance group for Eastern Washington.
- ii. L&I opened an inspection with a contract locator that was accessing high voltage utility vaults to connect equipment to energized cable. The locator claimed to be doing this at the utility's direction. Contract locators are not considered qualified for this. The locator had also been opening vaults with a screwdriver, which would mean that lids are not secured to NESC requirements.

b. Items from the IBEW:

- i. Wildfire rulemaking is getting underway. Rules will almost certainly impact our industry and are expected to be adopted quickly in time for the 2021 fire season.

c. Items from Employers:

- i. A question was raised, and discussion followed on whether employers are providing fire-resistant (FR) or non-FR face coverings. More discussion followed on different types of fire-resistant face coverings - those with inherently FR fabric, and those made from chemically treated material. Some employers have received positive worker feedback on neck gaiters.

4. Accident / Near-Misses

- a. A painting contractor in Seattle contacted an overhead line with an aluminum ladder. One individual was killed, and another was transported to Harborview in critical condition.
- b. A contractor in Tacoma Power's territory made an appointment to have a down guy moved for construction work. A Tacoma Power employee happened to pass by the site prior to the appointment and saw the contractor had modified the guy on its own. This created a dangerous condition and placing the three phase, dead-end pole at risk of failure.
- c. Three incidents were discussed by IBEW 77:
 - i. A line apprentice fell from a pole.
 - ii. A fatality involving induction on a de-energized line.
 - iii. A light rail accident.
- d. A farmer in Grant County was killed while working on a circle. Grant PUD will be conducting training for farmers and is looking for other ways to expand public safety education.

5. Other Items of Interest Relevant to EUSAC

- a. 2021 EUSAC meetings will be held on the following dates:
 - i. February 9
 - ii. May 11
 - iii. August 10
 - iv. November 16