

Electric Utility Safety Advisory Committee (EUSAC) Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2019

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: Adam Brinkman

Recording Secretary: Dale Benner (absent)

1. Self-Introductions
2. Old Business
 - a. L&I Old Business – New High Voltage Compliance Inspector was hired. Doug Ledbetter will be covering the east side of the state from the Kennewick office.
 - b. IBEW Old Business
 - i. HB 1380 Utility Worker Assault Bill passed in the Legislature
 - ii. Move Over – Slow Down for Utility Workers passed in the Legislature
 - IBEW Local 77 is developing a video to promote this law
 - iii. The update of the Chapter 45 website has been delayed as part of an overall L&I web redesign project
 - c. WAC 296-45 Rulemaking Small Committee report by Steve Cant
 - i. Steve discussed the proposed rules that are supported by both Management and Labor on the Small Committee
 - ii. Adoption as proposed is expected mid-June
 - iii. The effective date will follow
 - iv. The Small Committee will continue discussions for future rule revisions:
 - The footnotes of 325 and the Department's desire to have these included the code
 - Possible Drone language should be considered
 - New language for light rail
 - Everyone is encouraged to bring forward concerns and ideas
 - v. Byron Allen praised the Department's Staff for their work on this update:
 - Cindy Ireland
 - Dick Maxwell
 - Jeff Krause
 - vi. Alan Lundeen indicated that the language will be filed as proposed
 - vii. Updated copies of 296-45 will be made available when it is updated
3. New Business
 - a. L&I Update
 - i. Westside High Voltage Inspector position remains vacant
 - Seeking applicants
 - ii. Reminder that employers are responsible for the safety of their workers
 - iii. It's the worker's responsibility to inspect live line tools immediately before use

- iv. A concern about using mule tape to secure phases was raised
- v. Rule requirements for installing telecommunications equipment on high voltage poles were discussed
 - There will be a panel discussion at the Governor's Safety and Health Conference this fall to discuss this topic in greater depth
- vi. Drone use near energized lines was discussed
 - This discussion will continue in the future
- vii. Solar panels and net metering were discussed in relation to clearance points. Dick Maxwell stated that there are tag points for clearances.
- viii. Alan Lundeen distributed and discussed DOSH Directive 18.70, construction work around trolley lines; it has been clarified to indicate the types of vehicles involved.
 - Blanket variances have been rescinded
 - New form will be a fillable online form
 - No near misses or incidents have been reported
- ix. The continuing issue of persons not qualified under 296-45 pulling and setting meters was discussed.
 - Contact Jeff Krausse
 - Provide Jeff with photos and information as available
- x. A brief discussion was held on the crane stakeholders meeting that will happen in June. An update on this meeting will be provided at the next EUSAC meeting.

b. Employer Updates – None

c. IBEW Information

- i. The Safety Summit was a huge success, more than 400 people attended
- ii. The Peer to Peer Program has been working well
- iii. Lou Walter was recognized for his service to the Washington State high voltage community. He is retiring before the next meeting.
- iv. Wild fire season is here, please plan for it
- v. Retired High Voltage Inspector Jim Stubinski passed away in January

4. Accidents/Near Misses

- a. The importance of everyone knowing how to operate the lower bucket controls
- b. Local 77 is currently working on 4-5 preliminary investigations
- c. Proper PPE prevented worker injury in several incidents

5. Other items of interest relevant to EUSAC:

- a. The Washington Governor's Safety and Health Conference will be held this fall in Tacoma.
- b. The Pole top competition will be held earlier in the day
- c. The Pole top awards will be presented at a special luncheon. Check the Conference registration for details.
- d. The Pacific Northwest Lineman's Rodeo will be in Gresham, OR on July 27th
- e. Silica rules, Table one may not be adequate in vaults, monitoring may be needed

2019 Meeting Schedule:

August 13th

November 12th

Minutes recorded by Jim Boyd

opeiu8 afl-cio