



**MINUTES OF THE  
THIRD ELECTRICAL UTILITIES SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2022**

**DATE:** June 23, 2022

**TIME:** 9:10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

**LOCATION:** videoconference

**PRESENT:** **Sub-Council Members**  
Michael Chledowski, Vice Chair  
Dustin Butterfield  
Lisa Liusz  
Dwight Cooper  
Joel Kwasny  
Stacey Rector  
Todd Grayson  
Jason Drenth  
Tyler Masson

**Safety Codes Council**  
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach  
Kris Schmaltz, Jennifer Johnson (item 4.1.)

**Alberta Municipal Affairs**  
Clarence Cormier, Gregg Marshall

**REGRETS:** Brian Townsend (Chair), Tony Walker, Cam Wyatt, Eldon Lazar

**GUESTS:** Nicolas Leblanc (ESC Liaison)

**RECORDER:** Allison Karch

**2022 MEETINGS:** October 20

## **1. Meeting Opening**

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and a round table introduction was held. Members were reminded that their primary duty is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans, and that real or perceived conflicts of interest must be declared.

### **1.1 Agenda Adoption**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 2.1.1. Nomination of John Suh to represent Large Distribution Utility North
- 2.1.2. Nomination of Jeff Sandford to represent Small/Municipal Electrical Utility Transmission

**Todd Greyson / Joel Kwasny moved that the agenda be adopted, as amended; CARRIED**

### **1.2 Adoption of the April 21, 2022 Minutes**

**Tyler Masson / Joel Kwasny moved to adopt the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED**

## **2. Matters for Decision**

### **2.1. Closed Session**

**Todd Grayson / Jason Drenth moved to enter closed session; CARRIED**

**Tyler Masson / Lisa Liusz moved to exit closed session; CARRIED**

#### **2.1.1. Nomination of John Suh to represent Large Distribution Utility North**

**Todd Grayson / Tyler Masson moved to recommend to the Board appointment of John Suh to the Electrical Utilities Sub-Council to represent Large Distribution Utility North for a term ending January 31, 2025, effective immediately; CARRIED**

#### **2.1.2. Nomination of Jeff Sandford to represent Small/Municipal Electrical Utility Transmission**

**Todd Grayson / Joel Kwasny moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Jeff Sandford to the Electrical Utilities Sub-Council to represent Small/Municipal Electrical Utility Transmission for a term ending January 31, 2025, effective immediately; CARRIED**

## **3. Review Matters Arising/Action List**

*None identified*

## **4. Matters for Discussion**

### **4.1. Curriculum Review**

The Senior Manager of Certification, Education and Training and members of his team presented on the Council's curriculum modernization project. The purpose of this presentation was to engage the sub-council and gather feedback on the project. Highlights included:

- A framework was developed after a competency profile was completed in 2019.

- Key priorities to modernize the SCO curriculum include training SCOs to be knowledgeable and capable with the ability to interpret codes and standards, have critical thinking skills, and the requirement to stay up to date on emerging technologies, codes and standards.
- Key SCO competencies have been identified:
  - Safety Codes – the interpretation and application, and the boundaries and interactions across codes and disciplines.
  - Safety Codes System – the Safety Codes Act, regulations, policies and QMP.
  - SCO Practice – roles and responsibilities, the permit lifecycle and investigations.
  - SCO Communication Skills – critical thinking and problem solving, ethics and professionalism, customer service, personal and site safety, relationship building, planning and organization, and continuous improvement.
- SCO Curriculum Recommendations include:
  - Expand the base competency content to address key SCO knowledge and skills.
  - Shift the focus of education to code interpretation and application and away from memorization.
  - Align course with adult education best practices.
- The vision for the SCO curriculum is to evolve educational programming to meet the needs of the system.
- The Council hopes to achieve this by focusing on:
  - Aligning base competency training to be the competency profile.
  - Training SCOs to effectively interpret codes and standards to ensure code compliance while enabling innovation.
  - Ensure SCOs have access to training on changing codes and emerging technologies.
  - Shifting the focus from memorization of facts to critical thinking and application of knowledge to solve problems.
  - Practical and applied learning.
- Most stakeholders have said that lack of mentorship/practical and applied learning is the biggest gap in SCO training.
- The Council will work with industry partners to make sure training is available on major technological shifts such as renewables.
- Electrical Group B SCO training may be redesigned first because the training is very short compared to other disciplines.
- Currently there is no third party training available (such as from CSA) because this code is Alberta-specific.
- The Council is already engaging a group of subject matter experts, including EUSC members, and will continue to do so as the project progresses. If any members are interested in getting involved or have identified major gaps in the current training, please reach out.

The following was discussed:

- There is strong support for mandatory mentorships/practicums. It can take a while for SCOs to gain enough knowledge and experience to be comfortable doing the work.
- It was clarified that practicums/mentorship would be in addition to pre-qualifications, and the Council is reviewing pre-qualifications as well.
- The mentorship/practical learning component would likely need to be different for each discipline and the Council would need to investigate ideas and pilot an option before finalizing this component.

- Options could include mentorship after certification, a ‘field day’ prior to certification as well as mentorship after, and others. It would depend on what’s feasible for the organizations who will be involved in the mentorship.
- The shift in focus from remembering to apply the code was strongly supported.
- The Council will be developing code update training for the new edition of the AEUC that will be published shortly and will be working with the group of subject matter experts as well as the Provincial Electrical Administrator and his team. The EUSC will be engaged further to ensure the Council’s approach to code update training will work well.

#### **4.2. BILD Alberta Letter**

Background was given about a letter sent from BILD Alberta to ESC asking how imminent the need for 200 amp residential services is. ESC felt EUSC should review this topic as well.

It was noted that the Alberta Utilities Commission is undertaking a consultation related to this topic, and it was felt that this is not a safety-related topic. However, the following industry observations were noted:

- EPCOR is considering increasing transformer size, decreasing the number of conductors from each transformer, and increasing conductor size to residences.
- There have been situations when the utility company has recommended 200 amp services for new subdivisions with large houses but the developer disagreed and 100 amp service was installed, which was found to be insufficient after load calculations were done. It was suggested that developers could anticipate needing larger services for large lots/houses rather than leaving the decision to the utilities.
- Some utilities have been defaulting to 200 amp services for several years and others have been slowly increasing the number of 200 amp services they install, though there is variety across the province.
- Information was given on upcoming tiered energy code requirements for buildings that are anticipated to result in an increased electrical demand in homes.

A joint response from ESC and EUSC was discussed. Dwight Cooper will assist Council staff in drafting commentary from EUSC to include in the response to BILD. [Cooper/Council Admin]

#### **4.3. Review Parking Lot Items from AEUC Review**

A list of ‘parking lot’ items was viewed on screen and will be posted in the portal. At the next meeting, the list will be discussed and a work plan for each item will be developed (for example, form a working group, have as an ongoing agenda item, etc.).

All members were asked review the list and identify any additions to bring forward at the next meeting. [All]

#### **4.4. ESC Liaison Report**

The liaison reported that the BILD Alberta letter and SCO training curriculum modernization were major topics of interest to the EUSC from the last ESC meeting.

#### 4.5. Administrator/AMA Report

The Provincial Electrical Administrator reported on the following:

- Recent and upcoming electrical industry meetings.
- Information was given on Subject 46-90 from the CSA CE Code Part 1 Committee regarding the demarcation point. Fortis submitted request for change so that the consumer service would not include a connection. This would align with the common utility practice to use the property line as the demarcation point even if there's no connection. The CSA committee will vote on this in November.
- The Council is looking at training for Group A SCOs about inspecting lightning protection systems and this touches on the CSA B72 standard. Lightning protection is already incorporated into the AEUC.

#### 4.6. Council Updates

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on the following:

- The Council office has reopened.
  - Staff may continue to work from home on some days.
  - Next meeting in October will likely be in person at the Council office, and Council staff will confirm that it will be held in person closer to the date.
  - There is always the ability for members to participate in in-person meetings virtually if necessary, but members are urged to make an effort to attend in person if possible. Please let Council staff know if you must attend an in-person meeting virtually.
- Council AGM and volunteer appreciation event is being planned for the fall.
  - There will not be a spring Council Conference in Banff.
- Council Member Training
  - Contact [gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca](mailto:gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca) to register.
  - Save the date for courses offered in the fall:
    - Appeals Training: November 15 & 16, 2022.
    - Effective Meetings: October 31 & November 1, 2022.

### 5. Meeting Finalization

#### 5.1. Round Table

No items were brought forward.

#### 5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for October 20, 2022, tentatively in person at the Council office at 9:00 a.m.

#### 5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

**4.2. BILD Alberta Letter**

A joint response from ESC and EUSC was discussed. Dwight Cooper will assist Council staff in drafting commentary from EUSC to include in the response to BILD. [Cooper/Council Admin]

**4.3. Review Parking Lot Items from AEUC Review**

All members were asked review the list and identify any additions to bring forward at the next meeting. [All]

**– MOTIONS –**

**1.1 Agenda Adoption**

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