



Safety Codes Council

MINUTES OF THE FIRST GAS SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2017

DATE: February 2, 2017

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Radisson Hotel, Edmonton

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Glen Aspen, Chair – Labour
Bradley Gaida – Public at Large
Simon Jolly – Mechanical Contractors
Jason Helfrich – Propane Gas Industry
Blaine Smetaniuk – Large Gas Utilities
Jeff Skeith – Rural Gas Utilities
Denis Turgeon – Education & Training

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Sidney Manning, Claude Valliere, Harry Li, Paul Chang

ABSENT: Nathan Lesage – Small Gas Utilities
James Maddocks – Professional Engineers
Marcel Mandin – Natural Gas & Propane Vehicle Conversion
Verne Quiring, Vice Chair – Manufacturers or Suppliers
Mike Turek – Inspection Authorities
Vacancy – Large Municipalities (See Item 2.2)

RECORDER: Sandi Orr

2017 MEETINGS: February 2, May 25, September 21 - Edmonton

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:00 a.m. and a round table introduction was held.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 2.2. Matrix
- 3.11. Council Changes
- 3.12. Concealed Piping
- 3.13. Roof Access – Walkways and Guardrails

Jeff Skeith / Denis Turgeon moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; CARRIED

1.2. Previous Minutes

1.2.1. Adoption of Sept. 15, 2016 Minutes

Bradley Gaida / Denis Turgeon moved to adopt the minutes of September 15, 2016, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision [Motion Needed]

2.1. Appointments

2.1.1. Appointment of Chuck Lemke

Correspondence from the nominating organization was included in the portal and reviewed.

Jeff Skeith / Jason Helfrich moved to recommend to the Board the appointment of Chuck Lemke to the Gas Sub-Council for a term until January 31, 2020, effective immediately; CARRIED

2.1.2. Reappointment of Nathan Lesage

Correspondence from the nominating organization was included in the portal and reviewed.

Bradley Gaida / Dennis Turgeon moved to recommend to the Board the reappointment of Nathan Lesage to the Gas Sub-Council for a term until January 31, 2020, effective immediately; CARRIED

2.2. Matrix

Clarification was sought regarding the nominating organizations for the recommended change to add both Large Municipalities – South and Large Municipalities – North. It was noted that in the current matrix, Lethbridge is also included under Large Municipalities. After an extensive discussion and recognizing that a nominee from the City of Lethbridge could be appointed to the Municipalities seat through AUMA (Alberta Urban Municipalities Association), the following decision was made:

Jeff Skeith / Dennis Turgeon moved that subsequent to the recommendation to the Board on changes to the Gas Sub-Council matrix, the Gas Sub-Council further recommends the City of Calgary as the nominating organization for Large Municipalities - South and the City of Edmonton for Large Municipalities - North; CARRIED

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1. Proposed BTU loads not installed at the time of inspection

The Chief Gas Administrator reported that it would be unrealistic to consider requirements for future appliances that may or may not be installed and therefore, there is reluctance to consider a STANDATA outlining any requirements. If a future outlet is needed, there are guidelines for minimum requirements. But there is nothing in the code that allows the Administrator to state that this is what is required for future appliances.

Since this was brought forward by the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton and there have been significant staff changes, it was suggested that future representatives from Edmonton and Calgary be asked to go back to their municipalities should any future discussion be requested.

In the meantime, this matter was considered closed and will be removed from the agenda.

[Karch / Aspen]

3.2. Direct Fired Process Air Heater STANDATA (E.7.03.16)

It was reported that the Chief Gas Administrator and Verne Quiring will work together on updating the current STANDATA and an updated draft will be posted in the portal for review at the next meeting.

[Manning / Quiring]

3.3. Secondary Gas Lines Exemption

Jeff Skeith reported on a meeting with ATCO Gas and AltaGas regarding secondary gas lines and these are no longer being done by major utilities. Therefore, this is really a rural issue.

Gas Co-ops do not currently require permits to do their own work for primary gas lines and a similar exemption is requested for secondary lines. The proposal for an exemption, with the following conditions, was brought forward on behalf of Federation of Alberta Gas Co-op utilities:

1. The exemption will only be for Federation of Alberta Gas Co-op utility consumers. It will not apply if the utility takes on third-party work.
2. Upon installation of the secondary service, the utility will issue a permit or notice of installation to the Governing Authority Body on a no fee basis.
3. The installation is for secondary gas lines only and would not involve any other installation activities under the Gas Code Regulation and the CSA-B149.1 – National Gas and Propane Installation Code.

It was questioned and clarified that although some secondary lines are installed at the same time as the primary line, most are installed after the fact.

Relative to documentation, it was reported that Gas Co-op utilities have their own work orders. A permit fee is not value added, especially when they are already recognized as the experts in their industry for the primary line.

It was suggested that the letter be revised to state “installed by the utility”.

[Skeith]

The Chief Administrator reported that he does have the authority to issue a restricted ticket to allow a non-gasfitter to take out a permit to install a secondary line. But this restricted ticket only allows the installation for the secondary and nothing else. This supports the uniqueness of secondary gas lines.

This discussion was brought forward to the AMA Executive Team regarding consideration for changes to the Permit Regulation. In principle, no one was in opposition of receiving and considering the request.

Jeff Skeith / Blaine Smetaniuk moved to support the request for the exemption, in principle; CARRIED

3.4. Legacy Equipment Management System

Background was provided regarding the reason for the Legacy Equipment Management System being put into place to identify and fix or take out of service uncertified equipment that is not in compliance.

The following update was provided:

- Over 50 companies are registered in the program
- As of January 2017, there are about 11,000 piece of equipment that remain with incomplete approvals.
- 19 companies have provided their annual updates
- Although 2 companies are past due providing updates, they are in communication with AMA
- None of the companies are in non-compliance with the program
- The program has been successful in getting AMA the data needed
- The mindset is changing and SCOs and ASCA are asking for verification of compliance
- In some cases, older systems are being taken out of service or sold
- More SCOs and gasfitters are coming on board
- There is still some feedback questioning why utilities have an exemption under the Safety Codes ACT, and the response is that even if exempt from the SCA, compliance is still required by utilities regulations

It was reported that Gas Co-ops have set up a similar legacy program to manage this within their own utilities.

3.5. Combination Heating STANDATA

The Gas Discipline has retired this STANDATA. Although industry uses the document, changes in the code make the STANDATA incorrect. Although it is retired, it is still accessible on the AMA website.

It was reported that the Chair of the Plumbing Sub-Council is a member of the CSA technical committee representing hydronics and this is still a desire to see this STANDATA in place. The Working Group under the PSC is reviewing the current STANDATA for potential revisions and Glen Aspen volunteered on behalf of the Gas discipline.

The Chief Building Administrator suggested that since heating is under the Building discipline, consideration could be made for including the building discipline in a joint STANDATA. The Chair will bring this forward to the Technical Coordinating Committee. [Aspen]

3.6. Third Party Certification Working Group

The Chief Gas Administrator reported that the Working Group has been inactive since the STANDATA was expired. However, assistance was requested to keep an eye on what is occurring in industry to be able to bring forward risks or issues to the sub-council when needed.

The Chief Gas Administrator asked for reconfirmation of the working group and its members. Denis Turgeon agreed to remain on as the Chair and Verne Quiring and Glen Aspen have both agreed to continue as well. Jeff Skeith was also added to the working group.

A brief overview was provided on a meeting recently held with the Inspection Bodies and Certification Bodies. The meeting was very helpful in gaining an understanding that relaxations of the code cannot be accepted. A process is needed to have any variances issued by IB/CB to be submitted to the Council so that if several are being issued for a specific code item, perhaps a proposed code change is needed and in the meantime a province-wide variance could be considered. It was requested that the working group members assist in the review of those variances.

3.7. Working Group Review

Members were asked to review the following membership for discussion at the next meeting. [All]

STANDARD	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (Chair)
CSA-B149.1-15 – Natural gas and propane installation code	<u>Verne Quiring</u> Jeff Skeith VACANCY Mike Turek Hal Austin
CSA-B149.2-15 – Propane storage and handling code	<u>VACANCY</u> Jeff Skeith Mike Turek Verne Quiring Hal Austin
CSA-B149.3-15 – Code for the field approval of fuel-related components on appliances and equipment	<u>Verne Quiring</u> Dell Wickstrom Glen Aspen Denis Turgeon
CSA-B149.5-15 – Installation code for propane fuel systems and tanks on highway vehicles	<u>Marcel Mandin</u> Hal Austin (AMA – Perry Wager)
CSA-B108-14 – Natural gas fuelling stations installation code	<u>Nathan Lesage</u>
CSA-B109-14 – Natural gas for vehicles installation code	<u>Marcel Mandin</u> Nathan Lesage
CSA-Z276-11 or 15 – Liquefied natural gas (LNG) – Production, storage, and handling	Verne Quiring Glen Aspen VACANCY Nathan Lesage
Third-party Certification	<u>Denis Turgeon</u> Verne Quiring Glen Aspen VACANCY

3.8. Technical Coordinating Committee Update

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2017.

3.9. Sheet Metal Workers Update

It was reported that AIT is making changes relative to the curriculum for Sheet Metal Workers and upon completion of the Sheet Metal Workers Program, all will be eligible for their Gasfitter B certification. Once this is in place, the Permit Regulation will no longer have to specify that Sheet Metal Workers can take out permits to replace residential furnaces.

3.10. Gas CB/IB General Meeting – Alberta

This item was discussed and reported on under 3.6.

3.11. Council Changes – discussion

Members were reminded of the Council Conference in June 2017 and ask to consider submitting nominations for the Dr. Sauer Award.

An overview was provided of Allison Karch's new role with the sub-councils as well as changes in roles of other staff members:

- Director of Operations: Tyler Wightman
- Director of Corporate Strategy and Communications: Erin Stroud
- Director of Strategic Projects - Gerry Baron
- Administrator of Accreditation: Peter Thomas
- Manager of Policy and Legislation: Vacant, being filled
- Manager of Stakeholder Relations: Vacant, being filled

3.12. Concealed Piping – discussion

It was reported that the Chief Gas Administrator has received a request to reissue the expired information bulletin titled STANDATA G-04-01-B149.1 (Concealed Piping and Tubing).

After review of the STANDATA it was believed it could be deemed a relaxation of the code, and the sub-council did not support the reissuance of the STANDATA as written. It was noted that the Authority Having Jurisdiction could consider a variance should there be equal or greater safety.

There was no objection to having a guest make a presentation at the next meeting should they have any additional information for the sub-council to consider.

3.13. Roof Access – Walkways and Guardrails

It was reported that related STANDATAs in the Building discipline are being reviewed and these drafts are available in the Building Sub-Council portal. There is a potential of merging all related STANDATAs into one. It was also suggested that there is still a need to get some of these requirements out of the Gas Code and into the Building Code.

4. Meeting Finalization
4.1. Review Actions to be taken

Date	Action	Responsible	Status/Update
Sep 15, 2017	Review and confirm Terms of Reference for all Working Groups	Karch	In progress
Sep 15, 2017	Working Group Review added to agenda	Karch	Deferred to next meeting
Sep 15, 2017	Chief Administrator will work with CSA on what can be shared RE code change proposals UPDATE: Unable to share at this time, it is likely a 3-column document will be prepared by the Technical Advisor	Manning / Valliere	Update provided
Sep 15, 2017	Members encouraged to review latest draft of Combination Heating STANDATA UPDATE: Glen Aspen volunteered to serve on Joint Working Group	All	In progress
Sep 15, 2017	Chief Administrator will work with BSC/L. Girard/D. Reinhart on Building Openings STANDATA UPDATE: Discussion will need to be held once new representatives from large municipalities are appointed	Manning	In progress
Sep 15, 2017	Chief Administrator will discuss Proposed BTUs not installed at time of inspection with the proponents and will report back UPDATE: Up to the AHJ	Manning	Matter considered closed 2017-02-02
Sep 15, 2017	Update Edmonton and Calgary on recent nominees considering the potential to add a seat to have concurrent representation of both cities.	Karch	In progress
Sep 15, 2017	Clarification may be needed in Safe Temp Propane Heat materials about vapourizers relative to province-wide variance recently issued	Karch/Whiteman	In progress—revised materials expected Feb 24/17
Sep 15, 2017	IGAC Report – public document will be circulated to members	Manning	In progress
Sep 15, 2017	Add Direct Fired Process Air Heater STANDATA to the portal for review at Feb. meeting	Manning	In progress
Sep 15, 2017	Bring forward proposal for review by AMA and ASCA regarding potential exemption that could be included in the permit regulation.	Skeith	Completed 2017-02-02

4.2 Meeting and Agenda Feedback

A round table was held and feedback was brought forward regarding why suppliers are not notified of permits. It was reported that there is nothing in legislation to advise of load changes. It was suggested that ATCO may be able to assist with this on a voluntary basis and future consideration could be given to making an addition to the Regulation.

4.3. 2017 Meetings

The following 2017 meeting dates were reconfirmed:

- Thursday, May 25, 2017 – Edmonton – 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, September 21, 2017 – Edmonton – 9:00 a.m.

4.4. Meeting Adjournment

Jeff Skeith moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Note: 2020 Working Groups met following the meeting to consider B149.1 running draft.

--- NEW ACTION ITEMS ---

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--- MOTIONS ---

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