



Safety Codes Council

MINUTES OF THE SECOND PLUMBING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2021

DATE: June 1, 2021

TIME: 9:02 a.m. to 12:07 p.m.

LOCATION: Videoconference

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*

Mark Harrold, Chair
David Dallaire
Jonathan (Mitch) Colwell
Paul Fullam, Vice Chair
Joe Howdle
Tim Kosolofski
Quenton Kusiek
Stephen Laurie
Angus Potskin
Al Steenbergen
Shawn Van Velzen

Safety Codes Council

Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Sidney Manning, Joe Petryk, Claude Valliere, Stephen Hirose, Tom Knull, David Dobson

REGRETS: Roger Lebeuf

GUESTS: Steve Neff (item 4.1)

RECORDER: Kathryn Derkach

2021 MEETINGS: October 19, December 14

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A round table introduction was held.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Paul Fullam / Joe Howdle moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the February 2 Minutes

Stephen Laurie / Al Steenbergen moved to adopt the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

None Identified

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Water Quality re. Water Reuse Alternative Solutions	Bring forward further policy documents from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Environment.	Jan 24/17	Manning	Item 4.3 on agenda Remove from action list.
		Research water quality topics (Water Safety Plans, Log Reductions, DALY) and bring findings to next meeting.	May 22/18	All	No further update, remove from action list.
2.	Requirements for Combination Heating Systems: Dual Purpose Water Heater STANDATA	Investigate a path forward for the expired STANDATA once the revised B214 is issued. (Full discussion in Oct. 2019 minutes, item 4.9) STANDATA still needed as this won't be addressed in NBC until the next edition.	May 2/17	Manning / Harrold	Item 4.4 on agenda Remove from action list.
		STANDATA has been presented to the sub-council for review. Members will review and make a recommendation to keep, update or remove the STANDATA.	June 1/21	All	
3.	Low Temperature Testing	Report back from NSF relative to NSF/ANSI 40 and NSF/ANSI 350 – if there is no longer a Canadian standard, this should be addressed in NSF standards. (1)	Dec 5/17	Petryk	NSF is the in the process of arranging for a testing facility in Ontario to provide testing to the BNQ standards for cold weather testing. It has

					not been clear if the NSF 40 would be amended to accommodate low temperature testing. Leave as ongoing.
4.	Removing Sewer and Water Service Restricted Certification	Assist the Administrators to determine jurisdictions that could be included in an Info Bulletin regarding jurisdictional challenges between plumbing systems and private sewage systems.	Dec 3/19	Fullam/ Harrold/ Kusiek	Discussions are ongoing and it was felt this should be looked at further once the Permit Regulation review is complete.
5.	Temporary Work Camps	Provide final draft guidance document with content to address systems over 25 m ³ for comment from members.	Dec 3/19	Petryk	Guidance document has been posted. Item can be removed.
6.	Cisterns – Scope of Plumbing Code	Work with AMA on drafting a code change request for the NPC 2025.	Sep 18/18	Dallaire/ Kosolofski/ Harrold	The Plumbing Administrator is collecting more information on the B216 for the group. Alberta Health is reviewing their role within the B216.
		Provide CAN/CSA-B126 SERIES-13 (R2018) – Water cisterns to the group developing a code change request on cisterns.	Dec 3/19	Petryk/ Maning	It was noted that the Private Sewage Administrator will get the group access to the Standard.
7.	Permit Regulation Review	Private Sewage Administrator would like to revisit the use of the word equipment.	May 5/20	Petryk	Ongoing.
8.	IAPMO Call for Participation	IAPMO is looking for members to participate on a code development committee for Alternate Water Source Systems for Multi Family Residential and Commercial Use. See more information in the Feb. 2021 Member Portal folder.	Feb 2/21	Steenbergen	IAPMO is developing a draft Standard which will only be applicable in the USA for now. AI will continue to give updates as part of the formal agenda under Reference Standards. Item can be removed from action list.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Proposed changes to Permit Regulation regarding permits for water, sewer, and storm services

Steve Neff, the Manager of Safety Codes for Leduc County, presented his submission to the sub-council.

The change made to the Permit Regulation in 2008 to exempt the requirement for plumbing permits for water, sewer and storm service installation has resulted in inconsistencies in the application and administration for the Safety Codes Act (the Act) and the National Plumbing Code (NPC) in Alberta.

The NPC and Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice (SOP) have specific and prescriptive requirements for the installation of water, sewer and storm services, which are regulated by the Act.

It was noted that Municipal Affairs have issued STANDATAs to help clarify requirements but are limited to remain within the confines of the Permit Regulation exemption. Amending the Permit Regulation may be a better solution for industry and regulators.

It was requested that the sub-council consider supporting an amendment to the Permit Regulation to remove the exemption for permits for water, sewer and storm services and to clarify the qualifications needed to obtain a plumbing permit for these installations.

The following was discussed:

- The Restrictive Plumbing Ticket (R Ticket) is used by the plumbing discipline to certify that someone is qualified to install water, sewer and storm services. Currently the demand for R ticket is low because permits are not required.
- If engineering services are required then a permit should be as well.
- The City of Red Deer has a service connection fee which allows for inspections of installations.
- It was noted that the Permit Regulation is not open for amendments at this time but the sub-council was encouraged to complete their review and forward any recommendations to Municipal Affairs in the event the Regulation does open up.

This issue, along with a full Permit Regulation review, will be added to the next sub-council meeting agenda.

4.2. Wording in the Plumbing Regulation and alignment with NPC

Item was chaired by the Vice Chair

A document outlining the confusion created by the difference in wording between the Plumbing Regulation and National Plumbing Code (NPC) was posted in the member portal and reviewed. The Plumbing Regulation uses the term 'approved' while the NPC uses the term 'conformance'. It was questioned whether the two terms mean the same thing.

It was discussed that the two terms have the same meaning as used in the NPC and Plumbing code regulation. It was noted that the preface of the NPC may answer this question.

4.3 Public Health Guidelines for Water Reuse and Stormwater Use

Guidelines for water reuse and stormwater use can be found on the [Open Alberta website](#). These guidelines set water quality targets and provides guidance on how to evaluate and mitigate the risks to health of reusing wastewater and using stormwater. It was noted that these guidelines are not retroactive.

The Plumbing Administrator asked that sub-council members provide advice on any next steps that need to be taken with these guides, such as any additional information or guidance needed by industry. [All]

It was reported that the City of Edmonton has their own variance template for this issue and they would support the guidelines provided. The City of Lethbridge doesn't have any type of guidelines to produce a variance.

It was noted that there have been discussion with Alberta Environment and Parks for companion documents that could include flow charts and templates to explain where our water comes from and where to get approval to reuse water.

4.4 Draft Combination Heating STANDATA

The draft Requirements for Combination Heating Systems STANDATA was included in the member portal and the Plumbing Administrator requested that the sub-council review and provide advice on any concerns, necessary updates, or whether the STANDATA should be retired.

Members will review the draft and this item will be added to the next meeting agenda to provide comments to the Administrator. [All]

4.5 Global Shortage of Plastic Resin – ABS, PVC and cellular core pipe

There has been talk within the industry about a shortage of plastic resin for ABS and PVC, which has led to people asking to mix ABS and PVC for the use of cellular core pipe. PVC is not referenced within the National Plumbing Code, therefore a variance is required. AHJs need to be able to consider these variances and there are lots of questions around these variances. While the National Plumbing Code 2025 will reference PVC cellular core pipe with restrictions, it is thought that this shortage could be long term.

It was reported that industry is already seeing the effects of this shortage with lack of stock and price changes.

4.6 Expansion of application of backwater valves for secondary suites

Clarification about a discussion held at the May 30, 2012, Plumbing Sub-Council meeting was requested. An excerpt of the minutes regarding backwater valves for secondary suites was shared in the member portal.

The Plumbing Administrator explained that in the time following the 2012 discussion, the building discipline has defined secondary suites as a dwelling, and therefore the same backwater valve cannot protect both the main home and secondary suite. When planning, people will need to make sure they have the appropriate valves to ensure the two dwelling systems are not protected by a single backwater valve

It was noted that this would apply to secondary suites built under the 2019 National Building Code Alberta Edition. It was recognized that this may create some challenges for pre-existing secondary suites, and with so much variety in application, variances would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.7 Reference Standards

4.7.1. NSF

There was nothing to report.

4.7.2. ULC

There was nothing to report.

4.7.3. CSA

CSA is holding their AGM on June 14.

4.7.4. BNQ

BNQ 3680-600 Onsite residential wastewater treatment technologies is currently in public consultation.

4.8. Working Group Reports

4.8.1. NPC 2020

There was nothing to report.

4.8.2. PSDS

A report was included in the member portal and members were encouraged to reach out if they had any questions.

4.9. AMOS Report

The spring conference will take place virtually on June 18 and will include executive elections.

4.10. Administrator/AMA Report

The Plumbing Administrator reported:

- Water reuse policy developed with Alberta Health
 - [Alternative Solutions Guide for Small System Water Reuse and Stormwater Use](#)
 - [Public Health Guidelines for Water Reuse and Stormwater Use](#)
 - The next steps include a STANDATA/education/bulletin to reflect new policy and joint Environment/Health/AMA relationship
- NPC 2020/2025 ongoing development by NRC's HVAC and Plumbing standing committee with proposed publication of NPC 2020 in December 2021. A number of working groups are focusing on specific topics like blackwater vs greywater and condensate drainage.
- Stainless steel gasketed DWV variance issued.
- Change of direction has been interpreted for building sewer and is identified as 45° maximum of all fittings.
- The Safety Codes Council's [website](#) has links to the NRC codes, including some historical codes.
- Fire stopping of CPVC 636 (3M has a system but Hilti does not).
- Autopsy/morticians table pictures were shown on screen to show the different devices that have been created.

4.11. Council Updates

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

- COVID-19 Update
 - In light of the province's directives for a safely staged relaunch, the Council will continue to offer services remotely.
 - Please visit our [website](#) for updates on programming and services offered by the Safety Codes Council.
- Staff Adjustments
 - Now that Allison is back from maternity leave, we are making some changes to the way we distribute work within our team.
 - Kathryn will be the lead for the Building, Barrier Free, Fire, Electrical and Electrical Utilities.
 - Allison will be the lead for the Plumbing, Private Sewage, Gas, Pressure Equipment, Elevators, Amusement Rides and Passenger Ropeways.
 - Both will attend every sub-council meeting, switching between hosting and minute taking.
 - Jennifer has moved to another area within the stakeholder relations department so please ensure you are contacting Allison on sub-council related items.
- Update on Private Sewage Disposal Systems Sub-Council
 - Council staff are currently reaching out to nominating organizations to confirm their participation and solicit members
 - The first meeting of this sub-council is anticipated in October or November 2021.
- Nominating Organization Contacts
 - Please check the attached nominating organization contacts and let Gerry know if there are any changes.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- No further items were brought forward.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for October 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.3 Public Health Guidelines for Water Reuse and Stormwater Use

The Plumbing Administrator asked that sub-council members provide advice on any next steps that need to be taken with these guides, such as any additional information or guidance needed by industry. [All]

4.4 Draft Combination Heating STANDATA

Members will review the draft and this item will be added to the next meeting agenda to provide comments to the Administrator. [All]

– MOTIONS –

1.1 Agenda Adoption

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1.2 Adoption of the February 2 Minutes

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– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)
PSDS	<u>Angus Potskin</u> Kenneth Wigmore, David Hughes, Rick Tipple, Lesley Desjardins, David Dallaire, Richard Stellmaker, Daniel Morris, Barry Bohn, Brent Bowerman; Mike Schmalz Municipal Affairs: David Dobson, Joe Petryk, Stephen Hirose;
NPC 2020	<u>Quenton Kusiek</u> Tim Kosolofski; Mark Harrold; Al Steenbergen, Shawn van Velzen, Paul Fullam