



**MINUTES OF THE  
THIRD PLUMBING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2022**

**DATE:** September 13, 2022  
**TIME:** 9:05 a.m. to 2:58 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Safety Codes Council Office

**PRESENT:** *Sub-Council Members*  
Mark Harrold, Chair  
Paul Fullam, Vice Chair  
Joe Howdle  
Al Steenbergen  
Stephen Laurie  
Roger Lebeuf  
Shawn Van Velzen

*Safety Codes Council*  
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach  
Kris Schmaltz (item 4.10)

*Alberta Municipal Affairs*  
Sidney Manning, Claude Valliere (virtual), Perry Wager (virtual), Tom Knull (virtual)

**REGRETS:** Jonathan (Mitch) Colwell, Quenton Kusiek, Angus Potskin

**RECORDER:** Kathryn Derkach

**2022 MEETINGS:** November 22

## 1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A round table introduction was held and 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 to declare any conflicts of interests.

### 1.1 Agenda Adoption

Paul Fullam / Stephen Laurie moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

### 1.2 Adoption of the May 31, 2022 Minutes

Joe Howdle / Shawn van Velzen moved to adopt the minutes of the May 31, 2022 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

## 2. Matters for Decision

### 2.1. Closed Session

Joe Howdle / Paul Fullam moved to enter into closed session; CARRIED

Shawn van Velzen / Joe Howdle moved to exit closed session; CARRIED

#### 2.1.1. Reappointment of Stephen Laurie to represent Major Municipalities - South

Paul Fullam / Shawn van Velzen moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Stephen Laurie to the Plumbing Sub-Council to represent Major Municipalities - South for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

#### 2.1.2. Reappointment of Roger Lebeuf to represent Mechanical Contractors

Paul Fullam / Joe Howdle moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Roger Lebeuf to the Plumbing Sub-Council to represent Mechanical Contractors for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

## 3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Cisterns – Scope of Plumbing Code	Work with AMA on drafting a code change request for the NPC 2025.	Sep 18/18	Dallaire/ Harrold / Potskin	It was noted by the Administrator that the window to get a code change in for 2025 is closing.  Council staff will reach out to all PSC members to set up a meeting. Those interested can respond to the meeting

					request.
2.	Public Health Guidelines for Water Reuse and Stormwater Use	PSC members to provide advice to the Administrator on any next steps, such as any additional information or guidance needed by industry.	Jun 1/20	All	<p>AMOS has not provided any further feedback.</p> <p>There is no current plan to create a STANDATA on this topic, but once the code is in force, Municipal Affairs will respond as needed to any issues that may arise.</p> <p>The Administrator took this document to national committees with some provinces are looking to see if they are able to use the Alberta guide.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to continue talking about this document with their nominating organizations.</p>
3.	Issues Arising from Plastic Shortages	Shortages are resulting in other materials being used; this situation will be monitored.	Oct 19/21	All	<p>Issues are now arising with non-certified piping being used for potable water, which needs to be replaced. There is confusion about what's actually certified and approved within code.</p> <p>ABS piping now seems to be difficult to get.</p> <p>This item will remain on the action list until the spring to see what happens over the winter and the new code.</p>
4.	Response to Leduc County Submission regarding Permit Regulation	Send a response to Leduc County after PSSC input has been discussed by PSC.			<p>The PSSC discussed this issue and felt it is within the scope of the plumbing discipline rather than private sewage, though they are supportive of the PSC addressing this issue.</p> <p>It was noted that the contact with Leduc County is a member of the PSSC and is aware of discussions, but a formal response still needs to</p>

					<p>be sent once a decision is made.</p> <p>Further discussions will take place under item 4.1.2.</p>
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## 4. Matters for Discussion

### 4.1. Permit Regulation Review

#### 4.1.1. Single Family Dwelling Definition

The Gas and Electrical Sub-Councils have been considering the Single Family Dwelling definition in the Permit Regulation and came up with a proposed alternative that has been circulated to the Building Sub-Council and is now being brought to the Plumbing Sub-Council. The group has already received some direction from Municipal Affairs that better definition is needed of the issues that are arising in industry because of the current definition. There has been no indication that the Permit Regulation is being opened in the near future, but the group would like to be prepared with rational in the event it is opened. It was clarified that the group should focus on defining the issues rather than drafting possible changes to the wording within the Permit Regulation.

The following was discussed:

- It was noted that not all municipalities have issues with the current definition.
- Backwater valves and protecting dwelling units have been brought up as the main issue in the plumbing discipline regarding the current definition.
- The Administrator clarified that if there is a suite of any kind in the house, it should have a separate backwater valve.

#### 4.1.2. Section 14(2)(a) and (b) permit exemption for water service and sewer installation

This topic has been discussed at previous PSC meetings, however the group has not been ready to take a position on the issue at those meetings.

The following was discussed:

- This will be a major change for how larger municipalities operate.
- Ultimately the plumber is responsible for work (water/sewer installation) that is likely done by someone else before the rest of the plumbing system is installed.
- A STANDATA was issued to clarify that if you add something like a catch basin, storm manhole or clean out, that the AHJ should inspect it.
- Organizations like AMOS should be involved in this discussion.
- Issues have arisen in the past with sewer and storm lines being mixed up and, because no permit and inspection was needed, it wasn't caught until after it became a large issue.
- Failures are typically seen in water/sewer in residential settings; commercial services are typically overseen by a professional engineer and failures are very rarely seen.
- Different municipalities (specifically rural vs urban) would be differently impacted by requiring permits for these installations.

- Requiring that water/sewer installations be included in the scope of the plumbing permit doesn't necessarily mean that they must be inspected in all cases.

As not all sub-council members are present for this discussion, this item will be brought to the next PSC meeting for decision. It was suggested that a special sub-council meeting be held to address this topic and Council staff will look into this. Once PSC makes a decision on this, Council staff will reach out to Leduc County with an update.

#### **4.1.3. Section 14(2)(e) permit exemption for water treatment devices**

The Administrator reported that the reason for this exemption was because water treatment devices were generally installed well after the rest of the plumbing system. With the NPC now requiring water treatment devices be certified, this exemption may no longer be appropriate.

**Paul Fullam / Roger Lebeuf moved to recommend removing Section 14(2)(e) regarding the permit exemption for water treatment devices from the Permit Regulation;  
CARRIED**

## **4.2. Working Group Reports**

### **4.2.1. NPC 2020**

The current chair of the working group will be retiring from the sub-council soon, so a new chair will be needed in the new year.

The working group may be dissolved because the code will be adopted in April 2023 under the timely code adoption process.

The group has looked at the code but hasn't brought forward any issues. Since the working group chair is not in attendance, this topic will be added as a matter for decision at the next meeting.

It was noted that there was some confusion with the new code regarding backflow valve having 'f' at the end of the designation, however it's not available anymore. The Administrator clarified that it was a consideration at the national level, however it was felt that if a manufacture decided to bring that product back, then there are no issues created and there was no strong case to remove from the code at this time.

### **4.3. STANDATA Review**

The following STANDATA will go through a technical, communication and legal review before being placed on the new templates. The Administrator will be monitoring each to ensure the prescriptive requirements are not lost during this process.

- 15-PCB-003 Requirements for combo heating systems
  - This may need to be reviewed after the next edition of the NBC(AE) is published because that code adopts the standard referenced.
- 19-BCI-011 Drainage system with municipal requirements
- 19-BCB-003\_P-20-03-NPC15 Radon/Soil Gas piping
- 19-BCI-011\_P-20-01-NPC15 Hydronic Heating Systems

- 19-FCI-008 19-BCI-027 15-PCB-002 Qualifications and approvals
- P-07-03-Expansion and Contraction
  - Everything is now covered in the NPC, there was support to archive.
- P-08-01-Single Wall Heat Exchangers
  - Considered good information for industry, support to keep.
- P-09-01-Drainage of water from elevator pits
  - There have been no changes with the NPC so there may be no need to reissue, however it's still new within industry and may provide valuable information so there is support to keep.
- P-09-02 Floor drains and trap seal replenishment
- P-10-03-Drainage and venting requirements for floor sinks
  - There is support to keep this STANDATA and request that it be first on the Municipal Affairs website list.
- P-11-02-Requirement solar domestic hot water systems
  - Support to keep.
- P-13-01-Interceptors
  - Support to keep.
- P-17-01-Reclaimed Water systems Single property

#### **4.4. CRCP/CACP Report**

The Canadian Regulatory Council on Plumbing (CRCP) is a committee under the Standards Council of Canada. The Canadian Advisory Council on Plumbing (CACP) is a committee under the Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating. The Administrator sits on both committees and will bring updates to the PSC as needed.

These groups work as regulatory accreditor advisory bodies, looking to support consistency and code development across Canada.

Oversight for these groups comes from the National Public Safety Advisory Council and the Provincial Territorial Advisory Committee.

#### **4.5. Whole House Air Admittance Valve**

This item is ongoing from the previous PSC meeting as part of the Administrator Report. The Administrator is asking the sub-council if they have a position on these valves. There have been a number of requests for variances to allow these valves but none have been issued yet.

It was noted that feedback from nominating organizations would be valuable as part of this discussion. The AMOS rep will bring to the next AMOS meeting. [Harrold]

It was discussed that the idea of the valve makes sense as long as there can be air flow to protect traps throughout the house.

#### **4.6. Reference Standards**

##### **4.6.1. NSF**

Nothing to report.

##### **4.6.2. ULC**

Nothing to report.

#### **4.6.3. CSA**

The following was discussed:

- The reference standards within the plumbing discipline are under current review for publication enforcement dates.

#### **4.6.4. IAPMO**

The following was discussed:

- Meetings have been held on Alternative Water Systems for Residential and Commercial Use.

#### **4.7. AMOS Report**

The following was reported:

- The last meeting had good attendance.
- A nominee may have been found to replace the current AMOS representative, who will be retiring from the sub-council in January 2024.

#### **4.8. PSSC Liaison Report**

The following was reported:

- There was support for the Leduc County submissions.
- The cistern issue should stay with the PSC and not with the PSSC.

#### **4.9. Administrator/AMA Report**

The Administrator provided a written report in the member portal and reported:

- The 2020 code adoption
  - Update STANDATA
  - Review from existing documents/draft
  - Save, retire and/or change
- Canadian regulatory committee for plumbing and the Canadian advisory Council on plumbing - Halifax, August 15 and 16, 2022.
  - Code adoption spreadsheet and timely code adoption.
  - Food trucks/tiny homes working towards consistency across Canada.
  - Backwater valve/secondary suites task group developed for Ontario and Alberta.
  - Standards Council of Canada accreditation update and CETA agreement.
  - Effective dates for publication of standards including expired and withdrawn standards.
  - Water reuse update.
  - Cannabis update.
  - ABS/PVC shortages.
  - Passive House Alberta Foundation to explore whole house air admittance valve application.
  - Water line sizing project.
  - Canadian Commission for Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) dissolution to Board for harmonized construction codes (NHCC) being driven by PTPACC.

- General discussion regarding the ability to consider variances an alternate solutions across Canada; Alberta proposed there may be value with the alternate solutions course from the Council.
- Health Canada has now created maximum amounts of different chemicals, as a result of the plastic industry (PFOA/PFOS/PFAS), in drinking water. (Perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctane sulfonate and Perfluoroalkylated substances.)
- NRCan has proposed date of January 1, 2025 for household water heaters and the removal of water heaters with natural draft efficiencies take effect.
- Presentation from IPEX regarding shaft/chase/space lacks vertical service November.
- Standard for glass piping was withdrawn which means the product line is no longer certified. Product can still be sold and accepted until manufacturers run out.

#### **4.10. Council Updates**

The Director of Certification, Education, and Training, Kris Schmaltz, gave an update on Code Update Training for SCOs.

- The goal is to have training ready by April 1, which is the anticipated in force date.
- Historically, training has only been provided to SCOs, but anyone could take the course.
- Courses provided by NAIT/SAIT are overseen by AIT.
- Municipal Affairs has historically provided their review and 3 column documents to AIT. NRC is now distributing 3 column documents across the country.
- The Council is trying to be more consistent in how they notify SCOs of code changes, including providing a summary of changes and the 3 column document.

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

- Members were reminded of the recent update to the Council's communications policy which now is applicable to members.
- The Council's AGM and volunteer appreciation event is being held in Edmonton on October 21, 2022.
  - Council staff will arrange hotel rooms—please include your hotel needs in the registration form if applicable.
- Member Training dates—two virtual half-day sessions for each course, you must attend both days to complete the course:
  - Appeals Training: November 15 & 16, 2022
  - Effective Meetings: October 31 & November 1, 2022
  - Contact gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca to register.
- Clarification was provided about the approach to in-person and virtual sub-council meetings.
  - The Council's overall approach is a hybrid of some meetings held in person and some held virtually.
  - All members are asked to make an effort to attend in-person meetings in person, but there will be the option to attend virtually if they're not able to attend because of illness, etc.



- Please notify Council staff as soon as possible of any contact info changes for yourself or your nominating organization.

## **5. Meeting Finalization**

### **5.1. Round Table**

- It was reported that there are issues with single family dwellings and secondary suites. It was questioned if anyone is hearing of issues with pushback for separate shut off valves for different suites within one dwelling.
  - Some jurisdictions have had this issue for years with no clear solution.
  - As long as it meets the intent of ensuring the service from one doesn't affect the service of the other.
  - It may be easier to look at from a ventilation standpoint which is more critical.

### **5.2. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was reconfirmed for November 22, 2022 virtually at 9:00 a.m.

### **5.3. Meeting Adjournment**

**Al Steenbergen / Stephen Laurie moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

**4.5. Whole House Air Admittance Valve**

It was noted that feedback from nominating organizations would be valuable as part of this discussion. The AMOS rep will bring to the next AMOS meeting. [Harrold]

**– MOTIONS –**

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**5.3. Meeting Adjournment**

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**– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –**

<b>WORKING GROUP</b>	<b>WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)</b>
NPC 2020	<u>Quenton Kusiek</u> Mark Harrold, Al Steenbergen, Shawn van Velzen, Paul Fullam