

**Electric League Code Committee
Meeting Notes from 11/18/2009
Submitted by Greg Batie**

Attendance:

Allan Toole	Power Plus	Linda Howell	Electric League
Greg Batie	Sparling	Dick Becker	EEL
Bop Fuhr	Power Studies	Mark Gibbs	City of Seattle
Cameron Clark	GE	Len Whalen	Holmes Electric
Ken McGowan	CB Engineers	Dan Steinert	SASCO
Tom Ripple	Siemens	Gary Lydum	Hozack, Inc.
Jim McDougal	Snohomish PUD	Al Hewitt	Bussmann
Joe Kellar	Snohomish PUD	Bob Johnson	City of Bellevue
Bob Eugene	UL	Joe Andre	NEMA
Uzma Siddiqi	SCL (via phone)	Syd France	PSE
Joanna Bowers	Seahurst Electric	Rich Adams	PSE
Kristyn Clayton	McKinstry/ SBBC (via phone)		

Opening:

The meeting was opened at 7:30 AM by Chairman Allan Toole and introductions were made.

Previous Minutes:

Minutes from the September 23, 2009 meeting were approved with the second paragraph under New Business changed to read "The 2008 NEC requires Arc Fault circuit breakers for some circuits in a residence."

Deleted: all

Reports:

Washington State Energy Code - Kristyn Clayton

- A round of building codes were passed last week. Residential sprinklers was moved to appendix so local municipalities can elect to adopt or not.
- Energy Code postponed until Friday. The committee is going to slog through about 30 amendments to water the package down to mitigate the damage.
- Chapter 9 is an issue. Requires a selection of 2 options that are high efficiency (i.e. furnace, heat pump, insulation values). Oregon has had this requirement in their energy code for 18 months.
- On the commercial side most of the changes are in lighting. Lower watts per square foot. Mechanical is tightening up on commissioning.
- Residential energy savings as a result of the proposed code changes is 15 to 18%, commercial savings 12%.
- If the energy code is passed, it will become effective on July 1, 2010.
- WABO is tasked with enforcing the State Energy Code.

City of Seattle - Mark Gibbs

- They are busy. Projects 2500 sq. ft. and larger have to go through plan review. They have 3.5 plans reviewers and the average turnaround is 3 to 4 weeks.
- They are also chasing down expired permits. Standard permits are good for a year. Plans jobs 1.5 years.
- Permit fees for plans projects have been reduced. The plan review fees are based on the contract amount at the beginning of the project.

City of Bellevue – Bob Johnson

- They are staying busy. The projects being submitted for plan review are smaller. They laid off one inspector who then went to work for the City of Kirkland.
- They have been working on the Washington Cities Electrical Code.
- Smoke Control Permit Applications changed October 15th. See <http://search.bellevuewa.gov/search?q=smoke+control>
- The City of Bellevue will be hosting focus groups in December to review the 2009 IBC requirements for 1 & 2 family dwellings, multifamily dwellings, tenant improvements in high rise buildings. These groups will look at adopting sections of the 2009 IBC prior to when they are adopted by the State of Washington.
- You can send suggestions, proposals and comments about the 2009 International Codes to 2009ICodes@Bellevuewa.gov

City of Tacoma - Not present

Snohomish County PUD - Jim McDougal <http://www.snopud.com/conservation.ashx?p=1100>

- They have been awarded a 15.8 million dollar grant to embark on a major smart grid technology upgrade, which will create a stronger, more efficient and reliable electrical system. The grant will allow the utility to install a new 156-mile state-of-the-art fiber system. The funds will support the installation of a smart grid framework on the utility side, including a digital telecommunications network, substation automation and a robust distribution system infrastructure. It will connect to 62 substations, two radio sites and PUD buildings. It will allow for future smart grid technologies, such as smart meters, which will help the utility and its customers manage power consumption, plan their energy use and ultimately reduce green house gases. Installation and testing will begin in early 2010.
http://www.snopud.com/newsroom.ashx?p=1102&173_na=55

UL – Bob Eugene (www.ul.com)

- The Code Connection has articles on outdoor luminaires, optic fiber cable and the difference between Canadian and US Standards.
- The Code Authority has an article on new UL standard 2201 for portable generators.
- UL is opening a new test center to test energy efficiency for HVAC systems.
- Electrical equipment can be sold in the State of Washington without a UL listing. The only sales restrictions for electrical equipment is for spa's and hydrotherapy tubs.

Puget Sound Energy – Rich Adams

- They are preparing for potential flooding in the Green River Valley. They have 5,000 gas customers and 15,000 electric customers. They are working with Ron Fuller to coordinate with the State of Washington on a system to identify which residences and businesses have been inspected and approved to be re-energized.
- PSE is building flood walls around 2 large substations.
- PSE central stores are also located in the middle of the Kent valley.

IEEE - Dick Becker (<http://www.ieee-seattle.org>)

- There is no Industry Applications meeting scheduled this month.

NEMA - Joe Andre (www.nema.org)

- ICC meetings were held in Baltimore. Pressure from the lighting division to ramp up energy efficiency in a reasonable manner.
- Short lists of results were posted on the ICC website on Nov.16th. Final up or down vote will be posed the middle of December.
- IECC International Energy Conservation Code - Washington State has voted to transition to this code with amendments.
- Several cities have adopted the Washington Cities Electrical Code.

IAEI (www.psiaei.com)

- IAEI meeting in February will be looking at fuel cells.

Electric League - Linda Howell (www.electricleague.net)

- The Electric League luncheon is tomorrow in Tacoma. Topic is Integration of Technology in Utility Systems
- December 3rd is the Holiday Party at Hotel Monaco in Downtown Seattle

Seattle City Light - Uzma Siddiqi

- Seattle City Light has partnered with Microsoft on the Hohm program to enable it's to track energy usage and get personalized recommendations for improving their energy efficiency.
<http://www.seattle.gov/light/consERVE/hohm/>

New Business

Next Meeting: December 16, 2009 at Puget Sound Energy in Bellevue.

Adjournment