

Electric Utility Safety Advisory Committee (EUSAC) Minutes
November 16th, 2021
9:30 a.m.
IBEW 77 Hall
19415 International Blvd.
SeaTac, WA 98188-5308

The EUSAC is an advisory committee consisting of IBEW and employer representatives from Washington utilities and utility contractors and the Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). The mission of the EUSAC is to promote the safety and health of the electrical worker and the public through communication, with consensus recommendations made to L&I.

Chair: Byron Allen

Recording Secretary: Travis Englehart

1. Self-Introductions

2. Old Business

a. L&I Rulemaking

- i. **Cranes:** Teri Neely shared that a stakeholder meeting will be held on 11/17. A small group of stakeholders has been formed to work through about five issues. Those have been addressed and will be discussed in the upcoming stakeholder meeting. Tracy Harness reminded the group that lift director testing is part of the current draft rule.
- ii. **Trenching Rescue & Excavation Plan:** Teri Neely shared there was a stakeholder meeting this past Friday, 11/12. Teri will seek further updates on the rulemaking process and share with Travis Englehart to forward to the committee.

b. Other Old Business

- i. **High Voltage Consultation:** Travis Englehart reported that L&I did receive EUSAC's letter encouraging the Department to fill this position.

3. New Business

a. Items from L&I

- i. **High voltage group staffing:** Teri Neely reported that Jim Rone is currently supervising the high voltage group and shared that filling staff vacancies is a high priority for him. Teri will share Mr. Rone's contact information with Travis Englehart to pass along to the group.
- ii. **COVID-Related Mandates:** No new information currently available on any pending action from Washington State.

b. Items from the IBEW: None.

c. Items from Employers

- i. **Cutout failures:** Jim Boyd shared the Tacoma Power has experienced numerous cutout failures recently involving cracking porcelain.
- ii. **OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS):** Justin Zucconi asked if Washington State is planning any action in the near future based on the existing language in the OSHA ETS. Would any action be most likely to mirror OSHA's language or exceed it? Teri Neely does not have detailed information but did say there is a group within L&I actively working on the issue. She will

seek further details and share with Travis Englehart to pass along to the group.

- iii. **L&I High Voltage Staffing:** Jason Pimental asked about L&I's plan for staffing in the high voltage group. Teri did not have detailed information. She reiterated that Mr. Rone has prioritized filling the two current vacancies in the group. The future of the supervisor role for the group is currently undecided. Teri was also asked about status of filling the high voltage consultant role. Teri will seek an update.

4. Accident / Near-Misses

- a. **Switchgear Failure:** Grays Harbor PUD experienced an incident after repairing a fault in a single-phase tap. After closing the fuse an arc occurred and flashed over in an associated three phase switch cabinet. The utility is currently seeking information from the manufacturer on what may have caused the incident.
- b. **Electrical Contact Update:** Jason Pimental shared that the lineman who experienced a contact in the Deer Park area is doing well. Byron Allen shared that some members of the other members of the crew received sanctions from IBEW. Jason also shared that Columbia REA is working on a safety services contract with the contractor.

5. Other Items of Interest Relevant to EUSAC

- a. **L&I Staffing:** Damian Hernandez asked who has taken the position previously occupied by Alan Lundeen. Teri Neely shared his name is Ryan Allen. Damian asked that Mr. Allen be invited to attend future EUSAC meetings.
- b. **Sharing EUSAC Minutes:** Damian Hernandez asked when it is acceptable to share meeting minutes. He would prefer to share them in draft form to get them out faster. There were no objections, as long as it is clear that draft minutes have not been approved. Travis Englehart will add language to the draft minutes to make clear they have not been approved and send them out as soon as they are produced.
- c. **National Apprenticeship Week:** This week is national apprenticeship week. Please spread the word and support this important effort.
- d. **Recognizing Dick Maxwell's Service:** Rex Habner and the group recognized Dick Maxwell for his years of service to our industry and for all he has done to make it safer.
- e. **2022 Committee Leadership:** Chuck Campy will serve as recorder and Travis Englehart will serve as chair in 2022.
- f. **Voting Members:** The employer group has filled two vacancies - Beth Pape will represent Puget Sound Energy, and Jake Stroud will represent Seattle City Light.

2022 EUSAC meetings will be held on the following dates:

- i. February 8
- ii. May 10
- iii. August 9
- iv. November 15