

Electric Utility Safety Advisory Committee (EUSAC) Minutes
February 9, 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: Chuck Campy, Local 77
Recording Secretary: Travis Englehart

1. Self-Introductions

Self-introductions were not conducted as the meeting was held via web and phone.

2. Old Business

a. L&I Website:

- i. Employer & labor group met with L&I on 2/4/21. Travis Englehart provided an update on L&I's progress and work yet to be done. Byron Allen added that L&I is looking for help with the specific terms/subjects to use on the high voltage industry page.

b. WAC 296-45 Reprint:

- i. Rod Julian shared there are about 700 books left. Once there are 300-400 left he can reorder printed books with the corrected MAD chart.

c. Crane Rulemaking:

- i. Bill Sloniker attended the call and provided an update on crane rule changes.
 1. A new draft has been written and is being reviewed by the L&I compliance staff. Qualification added where lift director will have to be a qualified rigger and take a lift director test. Going to accept a national certification for certifiers in addition to online test. Working with NCCCO on what test will look like.
 2. Working on a tool to streamline uploading of annual inspections done by crane certifiers.
 3. When forklifts are configured for suspended loads with an attachment the operator will need to be a certified operator. NCCCO working on a forklift test. When test isn't available for specific equipment certification on most similar equipment available will be accepted.

- ii. The group had several questions:
 - 1. Digger/derricks and whether new rules would apply to their use. Mr. Sloniker answered that they will be covered when work is covered by construction rules.
 - 2. Power lines: adding that when a meeting required to discuss power line issues the meeting must be documented.
 - 3. More stakeholder meetings will be held. An updated draft will be distributed prior.
 - 4. No proposal to alter the current exemption for power line construction and maintenance.
 - 5. Current capacity exemption: 2,000 lbs. and under.
- d. **Wildfire Smoke Rulemaking:** L&I moving forward with an emergency rule this year. An initial stakeholder meeting has been held with more to come.

3. New Business

a. Items from L&I:

- i. Rod Julian shared that the high voltage / telecomm. group is now fully staffed. Scott Waulters is new Telecomm inspector, and Rick Luiten is new Eastern WA high voltage inspector.
- ii. L&I was asked for any guidance on completing CPR/first aid training during the pandemic. Compliance hasn't been concerned to date with expired cards, but a lack of initial training would be more concerning. No plans to question employers with regard to how an employee's training was conducted.

b. Items from the IBEW:

- i. Damian Hernandez shared that Bill Meyer has resigned from safety positions at Local 77 and thanked him for all his work.
- ii. A crew was recently inspected and cited by a general industry inspector for sign placement / traffic control. There was a question whether this inspection should have been performed by general industry or by high voltage.

c. Items from Employers:

- i. Governor's Safety Conference: as of now an in-person conference is planned for this fall. The Electrical Panel has met to begin planning activities, including the pole top rescue competition.

4. Accident / Near-Misses

- a. Damian Hernandez shared that Rudy Habner, longtime journeyman lineman and IBEW member, has passed away.
- b. PGE experienced a fatality during restoration work on Mt. Hood. No details available yet.
- c. Bill Miller, former Local 125 Business Manager, has passed away.
- d. RJ Fronsman discussed an incident below a Grant PUD dam involving a capsized boat. Both people on the boat were rescued.
- e. Dick Maxwell discussed an incident involving a failed boom on a bucket truck and an apprentice fall from a pole.

- f. Ward Andrews at Wilson discussed an close call where a worker nearly closed a breaker that would have backfed onto the primary.
- g. An apprentice in Oregon received a contact injury. Apprentice was on the ground reconnecting hydraulic hose to tamper when the line truck boom made contact with the primary. Apprentice was injured but is now okay. Crew was all engaged with work and did not see where apprentice was, and apprentice believed the hydraulics were insulated.
- h. L&I discussed situation where a crew foreman is operating equipment rather than supervising/observing, and the issues this can cause.

5. Other Items of Interest Relevant to EUSAC

- a. **COVID-19 requirements:** Rod Julian discussed a situation where questions arose around how COVID requirements apply to a line crew. The full construction requirements would need to be followed if the crew were working on/as part of another construction site, but these instances should be rare.
- b. Damian reminded the group that there are good safe work practices to follow when cutting into conduit to avoid cutting into energized conductors.
- c. Grand PUD and Local 77 have begun mandatory COVID testing twice weekly at critical facilities.
- d. Local 77 has had over 100 cases in its jurisdiction with a few hospitalizations, but no fatalities. New cases have seemed to slow recently.
- e. It will likely be some time before in person EUSAC meetings can be held again. Not currently allowed under state restrictions, and meetings at the SeaTac hall are highly restricted.
- f. 2021 EUSAC meetings will be held on the following dates:
 - i. May 11
 - ii. August 10
 - iii. November 16