



**Technical Standards and Safety Authority**  
Minutes of the Operating Engineers Advisory Council  
Meeting on November 23, 2021

Minutes of the Operating Engineers Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 10:00 a.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2021.

**Present:** Greg Black, International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE); Ralf Klopf, Institute of Power Engineers; Mark Lambert, St. Clair College; Peter Michieli, Arlanxeo Canada Inc.; Ronald Morrison, TSSA Consumers Advisory Council; Rod Philip, Stelco; Randy Purves, J.D. Sweid Foods.

Alexandra Campbell, VP Communications & Stakeholder Relations; Danielle Fernandes, Advisory Council Coordinator; Brian Gee, Chief Officer; Nashir Jiwani, (Interim) VP, Operations; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Government Relations; Ajay Raval, Director, Boilers, Pressure Vessels, & Operating Engineers Safety Program.

**Regrets:** Jamie Dreveny, Ontario Power Generation.

### 1. Constitution of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. K. Kennedy provided an overview of the meeting format and stressed the importance of using the agenda item request forms for issue submission in advance of meetings. He advised that the objective of the meeting was to hear from council on priority issues and for TSSA to take issues back for further assessment and analysis and to report back to council accordingly.

#### a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, Council was shown a short video on ladder and workplace safety.

**Action:** D. Fernandes to circulate link to the safety moment to council.

### 2. Adoption of the November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, Agenda

Council adopted the agenda as presented.

### 3. Approval of April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, minutes

Council approved the minutes of April 6, 2021, as presented.

### 4. Review of Action items from last meeting

D. Fernandes spoke to the pending action item and advised that all action items were completed and are considered closed.

### 5. Chair's Update

The Chair treated the report circulated to council in advance of the meeting as read. He thanked K. Hillman and D. Belanger for their time and contribution to the OEAC. He noted that he was pleased with the TSSA's contribution to the Safety Education Fund in K. Hillman's name.

There were no questions or comments from council.



## **6. Council Administration**

### **a. Council Discussion**

A. Campbell spoke to this item and advise council that TSSA would be merging the Boilers & Pressure Vessels (BPV) and Operating Engineers (OE) advisory councils. She provided council with the rationale for this merger which included, issue alignment and synergy between the councils, efficiency, encouraging cross-sector discussions, and representation. She provided council with feedback that was shared by the BPV council, including the recommendation that meetings are well coordinated, facilitated, and that all voices are heard. She advised council of the next steps, noting that R. Philip, current chair of the OE council would be chairing the join council moving forward. Furthermore, she provided council with information on the circulation of the membership matrix and next meeting dates.

There was some discussion on this topic. Overall council was receptive of the change and made the following recommendations. First, to maintain the plenary/ industry council structure. Second, for TSSA to be open and flexible to changing the duration of meeting to ensure both councils' issues can be raised and discussed. Third, for TSSA to be open to convening ad hoc meetings as necessary; and fourth, to ensure that all voices are heard once the councils are merged, noting there was a concern that the OE perspective could get lost once the councils are amalgamated. A. Campbell acknowledged the comments and advised that the duration of meetings will depend on the agenda items proposed, noting this will be a consultative process when planning the meetings with the chair of the council. She explained there is a lot of value when stakeholders hear from each other about their priorities, noting that the BPV advisory council shared a similar concern about ensuring all voices are heard equally. She advised that facilitating productive meetings is key for this initiative. Additionally, she explained that working groups may be struck for agreed upon priority issues where TSSA has deemed it necessary, particularly for issues that require in-depth discussion/ analysis. A council member noted, in relation to the membership matrix, that it should be balanced in representation. A. Campbell acknowledged the comment noted that a proposal would be shared with council for consideration and comment.

## **7. OEAC Issue Prioritization**

R. Philip introduced the prioritization discussion and asked submitting members to provide a brief overview of the issue in advance of the discussion. The Chair recommended making the form more user friendly with drop down menus. A. Campbell acknowledged the comment and advised it would be taken back for consideration.

### **a. Dear Principal Letter**

R. Philip spoke to this item referencing the material shared in advance of the meeting. He raised for council discussion expanding the concept of the "Dear Chiefs" letter to target a younger demographic, namely those leaving high school. He proposed for council consideration the notion of a "Dear High School Principal & Guidance Counsellor" to introduce young adults to power engineering as a profession.

There was some discussion on this topic. A few council members noted that some work needs to be done to change the perception of the profession post-implementation of OE Alternate Rules. A Council member suggested an education piece was required for owners/users on their responsibility to safety and the role of Operating Engineers in safety. There was some additional discussion about the visibility of the role and the benefits of a letter geared toward raising awareness of the profession with a younger demographic. The Chair suggested a joint letter between TSSA, IPE, and IUOE for consideration.



**b. Expert Panel Recommendation Update**

The Chair spoke to this item and referenced the form circulated in advance of the meeting. He asked for an update on the status of the Expert Panel Recommendations. A. Raval advised that in April 2020 a presentation was shared with the OE advisory council which identified the status of the recommendations as being either addressed by current alternate rules, addressed elsewhere (i.e., not by the alternate rules), not addressed, or out of scope. He advised that an agenda item request form would be required for those recommendations which were initially not addressed or are out of scope, and which are still considered to be a priority by council. The Chair noted that a lot of work was done on the recommendations and so recommended that TSSA take the presentation back to update it and provide it to council so the requisite forms could be completed, if required.

**Action:** TSSA to update the Alternate Rules presentation delivered in April 2020 with the status of the recommendations and circulate to council.

**c. OE Demographics**

The Chair spoke to this request, referencing the material shared in advance of the meeting. He advised that council is looking for an update on OE demographics. There was some discussion on the importance of government incentives for certain programs, it was noted that these programs are not available for OE programs. B. Gee advised that a report would be appended to the minutes.

**Action:** TSSA to append OE demographic report to the minutes.

**d. Standardization of Practical Experience**

M. Lambert spoke to this item and reference the material shared in advance of the meeting. He recommended that council consider as a priority the standardization of practical experience between all provinces. There was some discussion on this issue. B. Gee noted that standardization has been considered for several years, adding that Quebec has recently endorsed the proposal. He explained that the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has been brought on board to write the standard for operating experience, noting this will guide the province in terms of how to change the jurisdictional regulations. He advised that the difficulty with standardization is that it involves regulatory amendments for each jurisdiction, and only once the authorities having jurisdiction have a draft of the standard can they work toward regulatory change. In response to a question about timelines, B. Gee commented that timelines are not determined at this point, adding that the process is out of TSSA's control. Responding to a question about why CSA is working on this and not the Standardization of Power Engineer Examination Committee (SOPEEC), B. Gee advised that SOPEEC was set up for examination harmonization, the standard for plant ratings was delegated to CSA. K. Kennedy explained the TSSA code and standard development and adoption process. He noted that if this is prioritized, Council should be aware that TSSA's ability to influence change is limited by the interprovincial pace of negotiations.

**e. Fernie Incident**

G. Black spoke to this item and provided an overview of the material shared in advance of the meeting. He noted that the purpose was to discuss findings from the investigation's lessons learned report, and protocols and procedures for prevention. A. Raval advised that British Columbia (BC) has done most of the analysis with respect to this issue. He explained that TSSA is looking at the two safety orders issued by BC which has already made it into the B52 handbook and would likely be included in the next code as code requirements. He noted that if this is the case, TSSA would automatically adopt the new code requirements and they would be in-force.



**f. Maintenance Training**

G. Black spoke to this issue noting that there seems to be a lack of practical maintenance skills for Operating Engineers. There was some discussion about the benefits in training in smaller plants as it relates to maintenance. Additionally, it was noted that ORFA has some material on maintenance as it relates to recreational facilities. Ultimately the council determined that the issue of maintenance should be raised with SOPEEC through the Institute of Power Engineers (IPE).

**g. Reprisal**

G. Black spoke to this item and provided an overview of the issue, noting there is no anti-reprisal language built into the OE regulation. He explained that the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) legislation speaks to this with respect to an individual employee's safety but does not protect against reprisals when issues are flagged that relate to plant safety broadly. K. Kennedy concurred with a council member that cross-adoption of OSHA is not feasible. Additionally, he asked if there are other jurisdictions that have legislation of this nature. R. Klopf advised that he can see if IPE has any information on this and advise council accordingly.

**Action:** R. Klopf to advise if there are any jurisdictions that have included anti-reprisal language in their regulations.

The council prioritized the following for TSSA consideration in order of importance:

- 1) Anti-reprisal language in the regulation
- 2) Dear Principal letter
- 3) Standardization of practical experience
- 4) Fernie

Other priorities, specifically OE demographics and expert panel recommendations would be taken as action items for TSSA while the maintenance issue was considered closed as it was determined this issued needs to be raised with SOPEEC through IPE.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.



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Appendix

1. OE Demographics & Registered Plant Information (see attachment column)

OE Registered 2021			
Registration Category	Count of Applicants	Count of Applicants	Count of Applicants
Operating Engineers - Class A	251	251	251
Operating Engineers - Class B	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class C	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class D	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class E	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class F	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class G	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class H	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class I	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class J	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class K	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class L	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class M	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class N	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class O	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class P	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class Q	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class R	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class S	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class T	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class U	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class V	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class W	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class X	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class Y	131	131	131
Operating Engineers - Class Z	131	131	131

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Operating Engineers - Class A	251
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Operating Engineers - Class N	131
Operating Engineers - Class O	131
Operating Engineers - Class P	131
Operating Engineers - Class Q	131
Operating Engineers - Class R	131
Operating Engineers - Class S	131
Operating Engineers - Class T	131
Operating Engineers - Class U	131
Operating Engineers - Class V	131
Operating Engineers - Class W	131
Operating Engineers - Class X	131
Operating Engineers - Class Y	131
Operating Engineers - Class Z	131

**SOPEEC Exam Stats - 2020 (30-Mar-21)**

Exam Name	Total # of Exams	Individual Applicants	Total Pass	Pass %	Total Fail
1A	65	40	47	72%	18
1B	47	32	28	60%	19
2A	229	176	143	62%	86
2B	283	188	143	51%	140
3A	336	231	221	66%	115
3B	418	264	284	68%	134
4A	394	330	168	43%	226
4B	350	297	152	43%	198

<b>Total</b>	<b>2122</b>	<b>1558</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>936</b>
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**Note: Exam Stats are reported to SOPEEC annually.**