



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council

Meeting on November 11th, 2021

Minutes of the Natural Gas Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 9:00 a.m. on the 11th day of November 2021.

Present: Geoffrey Holloway alt. for David Hammond, A.O. Smith; Luymes, Martin (Chair), Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Institute (HRAI); Sunaina Menezes, TSSA Consumers Advisory Council & Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM); Alan Reitzel, Reitzel Heating and Sheet Metal Ltd; Ron Vanhevel, Rheem Canada; Andy Vella, Canadian Standards Association (CSA); Michael Wagle alt. for Michelle George, Enbridge Gas; Neil Waugh, NPL Canada Inc

Danielle Fernandes, Advisory Council Coordinator; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Government Relations; Nameer Rahman, Policy Advisor; Sam Sadeghi, Director, Fuels Safety Program

Guests: Dragica Jeremic Nikolic, CSA; Josip Novkovic, CSA

Regrets: Alper Ozdemir, Reliance Home Comfort; Greg St. Louis, Kitchener Utilities

1. Constitution of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 workplace safety as a shared responsibility.

2. Adoption of the November 11th, 2021, agenda

Council adopted the agenda as presented.

3. Approval of March 11th, 2021, minutes

The minutes of March 11th, 2021 were approved as presented.

4. Review of Action items from last meeting

D. Fernandes advised that the open action item would be address under item 8a of the agenda today and would be considered closed after the meeting.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair provided a summary of his annual report to TSSA's CEO which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

There were no questions or comments from council.

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6. Feedback on Plenary Format for NGAC

The chair opened the floor to a discussion about the new format of council meetings. He noted that the plenary meeting was informative about the constructive progress being made at TSSA albeit less room for discussion due to the number of people in attendance. A council member commented that other fuels councils have several issues they are raising as priorities, the chair encouraged the council to use these meetings as a forum to provide TSSA advise on issues faced by the industry.

7. Council Administration

a. Matrix Review

D. Fernandes detailed the purpose of the membership matrix review, namely, to ensure alignment with industry. She detailed a proposal for changes to the matrix and provided council with the rationale associated with each of the proposed amendments. The proposal included the following:

Overall:

- Removed maximum numbers for all categories.
- Changed name of Owner category to Utilities/ Distribution/ Suppliers
 - Added (1) mandatory position for CNG or LNG representation
- New category for transmission/ pipeline with a minimum of (1) member.
- New association category with a minimum of (1) member and examples to guide membership recruitment.
- New “Other” category with a minimum of
 - (1) member from TSSA’s Consumer Advisory Council; and
 - (1) member First Responders **or** /Safety Promotion **or** /Insurance

Manufacturers/ Designers:

- Added water heating, furnace, and BBQs **or** fireplaces **or** boilers as mandatory sub-categories to include a minimum of (1) member.

Contractors:

- Changed subcategories to include:
 - (1) member from the Residential sector
 - (1) member from the commercial sector

There was some discussion on this item. Council proposed the following amendments:

1. The addition of Hydrogen **or** RNG under the subcategory of CNG **or** LNG under Utilities/ Distribution/ Suppliers
2. Potentially changing the name of Utilities/ Distribution/ Suppliers to Utilities/ Distribution once M. Wagle advises on the extent to which commodity suppliers require representation on council.

Council approved the matrix as amended.

Action: M. Wagle to advise the Chair and TSSA on Suppliers

Action: D. Fernandes to amend the proposal to reflect the changes proposed by council.

Action: D. Fernandes to present the amended proposal to the CEO for approval.

b. Membership Renewal – Martin Luymes and Alan Reitzel

M. Luymes and A. Reitzel confirmed the renewal of their membership on council for another 3-year term. D. Fernandes advised that she has been unable to contact A. Ozdemir to confirm his status on council. It was noted that A. Ozdemir is no longer affiliated with Reliance Home Comfort and decided, by council, that the position be open to recruitment.

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Action: D. Fernandes to update membership list with renewal date.

Action: D. Fernandes to post calls for nominations for open positions after final approval of the membership matrix.

8. NGAC Issue Prioritization Discussion

a. CSA Research on RNG & Hydrogen blending for HVAC

D. Jeremic Nikolic, a guest from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), spoke to this item. She provided a comprehensive background on CSA, its mandate, and areas of focus. She provided council with information on two projects undertaken by CSA, first, the Hydrogen Blends Research Project, and second, the Renewal Gas Pathways Research Project. She provided an overview of both research projects, outlined underlying factors driving the research, noted methodologies, and provided applicable conclusions and next steps.

There was some discussion on this topic. Responding to a question about the relationship between heat output and decreased CO₂ emissions, D. Jeremic Nikolic advised that the research undertaken appears to show the reductions in CO₂ are higher than the decrease in heat output. In response to a question about next steps, J. Novkovic advised that there is work being done to expand on this initial hydrogen blends project, specifically to test with higher blends, including a broader scope of products, and the inclusion of in-service/used appliances. He advised that CSA is looking to create an advisory panel which includes regulators. M. Wagle advised council of the work Enbridge is doing in relation to hydrogen blending and noted that he is happy to hear that an advisory panel is being considered, adding that it would be an opportunity to share work, insights, and learned from the work being done in this area.

b. Climate Change/ Decarbonization

The Chair spoke to this item. He advised that in raising this he is hoping to discuss the implications of full electrification on TSSA and its mandate. He noted that he specifically wanted to address what this would mean for training and certificate holders and suggested a white paper on the matter. N. Rahman provided council with an overview of TSSA's involvement in relation to the government working group on hydrogen, noting that TSSA's role is one of striking a balance between policy and safety. S. Sadeghi advised that from an operational level, TSSA is looking and onboarding new staff with expertise in hydrogen, adding that he is keeping abreast of development in this area. There was some additional discussion about the development of a fully decarbonized society and what this would mean for TSSA. There was a request from council to share CSA's report and presentation.

Action: D. Fernandes to append CSA's presentation and link to the full report in the minutes.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:37 a.m.



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Appendix

1) CSA Presentation

The slide features the CSA Group logo in the top left corner. Below it, the date "NOVEMBER 11, 2021" is displayed. The main title "CSA Group Research: Hydrogen and renewable gas projects" is centered in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, the names and titles of two individuals are listed: Josip Novkovic, Program Manager, Fuels and Appliances, CSA Group; and Dragica Jeremic Nikolic, Project manager, Standards, CSA Group. At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: "© 2021 Canadian Standards Association. | All Rights Reserved." On the bottom right, a quote in italics reads: "The information in this presentation is limited to those who need to know the information in order to support the project and is not intended to be shared with anyone."

2) CSA Report on Appliance and Equipment Performance with Hydrogen-Enriched Natural Gases can be found [here](#).