

High Voltage Ten Foot Rule Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2004

Location PGE, Salem

<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Phone Number Changes:</u>
Dennis Klein	PGE
Dan Sabatino	AGC
Dan Freeburg	Cherry City Electric
Theresa Hollan	Tice Electric
Mike Murphy	NECA/IBEW 48
Stan Penrose	Oregon Building Codes
Dave Kaiser	NECA – Oregon Pacific Cascade
Stan Strickland	E C Company (503) 224-3511
Amy Eschete	PacifiCorp
Bob Sipler	Oregon PUC
Doug Caven	EWEB
Mike Matney	Edgewood Consulting (503) 440-2210
Steven Harkin	PacifiCorp
Larry Darling	Idaho Power
Mike Mitchell	Oregon OSHA
Marilyn Schuster	Oregon OSHA

Mike Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The minutes from the November 20th meeting were reviewed. Two misspelled names were corrected. It was moved, seconded, voted on and passed to approve the minutes as corrected.

Copies of NFPA 70E, Part II, “Safety-Related Work Practices” were distributed and reviewed. Comments were made by members of the committee. Mike Murphy pointed out, and the committee agreed, that NFPA 70E does not address power generation, distribution and transmission issues. Stan Penrose explained that he had originally suggested reviewing NFPA 70E since it provides guidance in recognizing “qualified/competent persons”, as suggested in the Overhead Line Safety Act. The committee agreed that defining “qualified” or “competent” was not necessary since the committee had already established that no one working under OAR 437-

003-0047 is allowed within 10 feet of energized lines unless the lines are de-energized or adequately barricaded. No provision exists for “qualified” persons (working under the scope of the standard) to breach the 10 foot distance. Dan Sabatino commented that it still takes someone who is “qualified” to identify a barrier that complies with the standard. Possibly a definition of “competent person” is needed in OAR 437-003-0047.

Copies of the draft language for OAR 437-003-0047 Proximity to Overhead High Voltage Lines and Equipment were passed out and reviewed. Discussion resulted in several suggested changes, deletions, or additions. Emphasis was placed identifying definite clearance distances from energized lines, required safeguards, how safeguards are to be installed or erected, and who installs or erects them. Requirements were divided into individual sections for clarity. The requirements involving safety spotters for operating equipment near energized lines were discussed at length. Limiting the observer to only observing clearance distances was well received by committee members. The most concern was over how a warning would be given to assure that it is adequate, and does not distract or interfere with the operator. Mike Mitchell will draft new language for the proposed standard and e-mail to members for their comments.

Copies of draft language to clarify the summary of Oregon’s Overhead Line Safety Act were passed out and reviewed. The committee approved the language. Additional language was requested to remove confusion created by present language addressing “failure to comply”. It was suggested that a direct reference to “safeguards”, located in OAR 437-003-0047, be added to the summary. Mike Mitchell will draft new language for the summary and e-mail it to members. Amy Eschete will make sure that future printings and web posting of the brochure will reflect the new language.

Attention then turned to developing a plan to educate contractors, workers, utilities, and anyone else covered by The Act. Ideas included using various web sites, such as Oregon OSHA’s, OUNC’s, utility sites, and NECA’s , using direct mailings to contractors, and providing information through unions. An Education Subcommittee was formed to develop and implement a plan for educating everyone affected by the Act and/or the OAR. Amy Eschete will chair the subcommittee. Members include Doug Caven, Mike Murphy, and Mike Matney.

Marilyn Schuster explained that it may take some additional time for rule making due to a current federal OSHA review of Oregon OSHA's program. Rule making procedures may take until Spring or Summer.

The committee decided not to set a date for another meeting until after review of everything, comments, changes, etc. The Education Subcommittee will stay in contact with everyone through Mike Mitchell.

Everyone was thanked for their time and hard work, and the meeting was adjourned.