

IEEE Workshop February 2014
EFCOG Electrical Safety Sub Group Meeting Minutes
Feb 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8: 00 by Greg Christensen. Discussion to plan details of the summer Meeting July 14-18 at NREL ensued.

A joint effort between the EFCOG ESSG and the Army Research Laboratory culminated in the development of the new mobile application for use in theater. Comments received were very positive regarding usefulness of the tool.

The summer meeting website was spammed and large amount of registrations were deposited overnight. Webmaster to dump registrations into a spreadsheet and filter there. Only 35 people registered thus far; reminder that DOE conference approval is not required. Had @129 registered for Fall Workshop and Workshop July 14 – 18 should have comparable number unless budget impacts number. Several speakers lined up with two other possibilities.

Task groups:

1. HV distribution – Lloyd discussed paper by Brooks available online
2. DC systems - Gary D.
B Gray invited to join IEEE working group to develop standard for home DC use, along with earth-moving equipment, solar / PV installations (!). Lots of manufacturer presence. Greg C. mentioned INL research on battery systems.
3. Compensatory measures - Greg/Jackie
Discussed use of compensatory measures when equipment is not maintained as required, such as 2 second rule, increasing distance, automatically bumping up one hazard level in PPE. Discussed development of field tool for estimating arc flash at distance. Need to include a note regarding “arc in a box” consideration. Discussed impact of extended wear of flash hood and CO2 effect.
4. AHJ policy (Doug Coffland and Joe Kiler to lead at workshop)
Policy now has DOE delegating AHJ authority to local site for equipment at that specific site. Transferring that authority to apply to all sites will require DOE policy change. Gary D believes intent is to document the issue and EFCOGs position to keep as is. Important to work with Procurement to require US NRTL listings. His research yielded 18 NRTLs recognized by DOE. Lloyd mentioned expanding to include world wide to help DOD; suggested naming GRTL (globally recognized testing laboratory). Largest firms are not UL.
5. Hazardous energy control – Marc W
Typically broken off into two working groups: LOTO and Electrical Safety month. Thought was LOTO WG was to develop basic LOTO program that could be shared across crafts. Other WG was to come up with ideas/theme for 2015. The group needs to identify a new PoC for electrical safety month.

Other:

LBNL incident - Lloyd G / Mark Scott

Several people from many different DOE labs formed task group to investigate incident. Discussion with subcontractors and union heads led to conclusion that 70E training is provided but not required since OSHA Doesn't mandate it. The understanding and implementation of NFPA 70E requirements by subcontractor electricians is an issue. How can we promote 70E training nationwide?

IEEE Workshop February 2014
EFCOG Electrical Safety Sub Group Meeting Minutes
Feb 3, 2014

A concern was discussed with decreasing PPE levels for normal operations in 2015 version of 70E. Action item: define arc hazard terms for clarity and consistency across complex when reporting incidents. Jackie mentioned that DOE put out a FAQs for ORPS.

The group lamented the passing of Frank Russo who was a champion for electrical safety. Pat Worthington is the current champion for the group.

Skip's monthly report does not seem to have full support from HSS. Many find his monthly reports very useful. Lloyd will speak to Skip to see if process can be documented; perhaps someone else can pick up. Control reports were discussed and it was concluded they are not understood well or used by the complex. Greg has action to link to the group so everyone can review them and weigh in.

Jackie is working on a gap analysis for the NEC. A gap analysis will need to be done for 2015 70E when released later this year. Most of the sites are still on earlier versions however. NFPA 70E 2012 gap analysis is posted on the website.

BNL mentioned they have an issue with which code of record to use between AE/design, construction, and AHJ inspections. Their AHJ believes new code adopted in entirety or not at all