

Manitoba Electrical Advisory Committee (MEAC)

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting February 2/21 @9:00 am (Teams Meeting)

Members in attendance electronically:

Todd Kjartanson, Chairman , Chief Electrical Inspector, Manitoba Hydro

Don Hallock, de facto Secretary, Training Officer, Manitoba Hydro

Jason Huley, Customer Service Center Supervisor, Manitoba Hydro

Wallace Christensen, Chief Electrical Inspector, City of Winnipeg

Ian Robinson, Senior Housing Electrical Inspector, City of Winnipeg

Conrad Asmundson, P.Eng., AMPS Services Inc.

Jason Geddes, Owner, Southside Electric

Gary Jones, Electrical Instructor, Assiniboine Community College

Matt Krahn, Project Manager, McCaine Electric, member of the Canem Group

Ron Nault, Project Manager, Wescan Electric

Chris Taran, Director of Apprenticeship and Training, Vice-president, IBEW 2085

Bryan Trottier, Owner, Trotco Electric

Absent- Paul Chartier, Owner, P.J.'s Electric

Marty Gorman, West Supervisor Commercial, Manitoba Hydro

Item 1.0 Introduction and purpose of MEAC

The various members of MEAC introduced themselves. The Chairman (Todd) explained the purpose of the Committee as an opportunity to provide Manitoba Hydro with industry feedback related to the Manitoba Electrical Code. Although advisory to Manitoba Hydro, MEAC members have the opportunity to influence code development and suggest changes to CSA CEC Part 1 rules that may adversely affect the provincial electrical construction industry.

Item 1.1 Explanation of the MEAC Terms of Reference

The Secretary (Don) presented the electronic copy of the Terms of Reference, based upon the original MEAC that was formed by Manitoba Hydro and operated from 1960 to about 1994.

The Terms indicated the purpose of MEAC, the composition of the membership, the expectations for meeting and the responsibilities of the membership. The primary responsibility for members is to take proposed CSA / CEC electrical code changes back to their respective industry segments and collect comments or feedback concerning whether these changes would adversely affect industry.

Manitoba Hydro would provide some assistance in organizing further meetings at the member level to assist in getting this information. Members are expected to represent the industry generally in their respective spheres of influence.

The Terms of Reference will be distributed to the membership for next meeting.

Item 1.2 Manitoba Hydro presented a list of items that were identified for discussion during our initial review of the latest CSA CEC Part 1 Memorandum of Revisions #4. The Chair wishes an opinion from MEAC on these items concerning potential adverse effects to the provincial electrical industry. (These items to follow separately below)

The MEAC members were also encouraged to review the MOR #4 on their own as well and identify any other concerns for further discussion by MEAC. A short demonstration of how to access the MOR # 4 was given towards the end of the meeting.

Item 1.3 Deletion of Residential Lighting rules 30-500 to 30-510 from the CSA CEC Part 1

Manitoba Hydro feels strongly that the deletion of these rules concerning residential lighting in MOR #4 will result in negative effects for industry and the consumer. Although the intent was to leave the requirements solely in the Manitoba Building Code, this would lead to confusion and inconsistency province wide. The ability of the local building official to enforce these rules is not consistent and it would compromise safety.

Several MEAC members agreed and further pointed out that this would also prove problematic in training apprentices, and result in extra costs for contractors who already have to acquire additional building codes and standards for what should be strictly electrical installations.

The MEAC consensus appeared to be that retention of the rules by Manitoba Hydro is the correct decision.

Item 1.4 Rule 12-010(5) Wiring in cold air returns

MOR #4 proposes to require minimum flame spread requirements for wiring in residential cold air returns. MEAC to obtain comments from industry and report back.

Item 1.5 Rule 12-020 Wiring under computer raised floors

MOR #4 has proposed allowing portable power cables. MEAC to obtain comments and report back.

Item 1.6 Rule 12-022 Wiring in roof decks

MOR #4 has proposed restricting the wiring that can be installed within the roof decking system. MEAC to obtain comment and report back.

Item 1.7 Rule 12-500 Changes to non-metallic rules specifying NMD-90 and NMWU cables only. This does not account for low voltage cables. Discussion required.

Item 1.8 Rules 12-514, 12-516 and 12-518 protection of nm cables. This proposed MOR #4 change will affect residential construction primarily. Requires feedback from industry.

Item 1.9 Rule 26-704 MOR #4 proposes requiring GFCI protection for all receptacles outdoors including parking fences. Initial discussion indicates that no one thinks this is a good idea with our climate. May also affect installations with IPLC devices.

Item 1.10 Rules 26-651 and 26-712 the provision of rules for Flood Hazard zones affecting the placement of service equipment and requirements for GFCI protection. Initial discussion centered around who would enforce these requirements and where would the information be obtained. More group discussion required.

A general question was raised as to how receptive Manitoba Hydro would be regarding suggested changes to the MEC. The Chair confirmed that the solicitation of industry feedback was the primary purpose for reconstituting the Committee.

A brief demonstration of how to access the CSA site and MOR#4 was given by Don. The group was encouraged to review the MOR#4 on their own in preparation for the next meeting. It was suggested that they should start the process of reaching out to other contractors in their sphere of influence and gather some feedback for the next meeting.

The meeting ended before noon, with a proposal from the Chair to meet again in March.

Available in accessible formats upon request.