

## **Manitoba Electrical Advisory Committee ( MEAC )**

Minutes of Meeting #2 March 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

Marty Gorman, West Supervisor Commercial, 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

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

Absent- Bryan Trottier, Owner, Trotco Electric

Jason Huley, Customer Service Center Supervisor, Manitoba Hydro

Prior to the meeting, a copy of the MEAC Terms of Reference was sent out to the membership for their records. Minutes from the inaugural meeting were not yet ready for distribution due to the workload at Manitoba Hydro. Bryan and Jason Huley sent regrets prior to the meeting.

A second round of introductions was done for Paul Chartier, along with a brief explanation of our purpose.

**Items 1.3 and 1.9.** We agreed as a group that retaining the Rules in 30-500 and revising Rule 26-704 made sense. Manitoba Hydro will amend the MEC to reflect this.

Prior to getting to other specifics, a general discussion reflected the contradictory nature of the flood hazard requirements and the rules around running protection.

**Item 2.1** Section 22 changes. The Chair suggested referring the proposed Section 22 (for livestock and barns) changes to Conrad for discussion with the engineering community as his firm does extensive work in that segment. Conrad agreed to report back with his findings.

Specific discussion of previously noted Items:

**Item 1.6** Wiring in roof decks. Vigorous discussion concerning the added costs and complexity of adopting this proposed change as written. The standard wiring practice could be greatly affected including potential added risks for installers working at heights. Gary Jones gave some background information from the CSA June meetings. A suggested alternative would have been racking and/or 50 mm clearance as per the NEC.

It was pointed out by several members that damage to cables on roofs has been minimal in our jurisdiction, and damage could equally be suffered to unseen cables in slabs. There are techniques such as scanning to determine if cables are at risk.

A proposal was made to strike the proposed change and redraft a new rule requiring the identification of a potential hazard due to cables and an as built showing locations.

**Item 1.8** Rules 12-514, 12-516, and 12-518. Running protection for nm cables.

General discussions of the current requirements and whether the proposals were practical, particularly for truss engineered roofs. Cables on the underside of rafters can be seen. These rules would apply to crawlspaces too. The changes might work on new builds but be tougher for renovations. Again, Gary provided some context from the June meetings. A suggestion was made that since the rules for open wiring (knob and tube) were being deleted for 2021, perhaps those current rules in 12-214 could form a basis for a stronger rule in place of the MOR. Manitoba Hydro to draft a suggested rule for discussion next meeting.

Specifically, to Rule 12-516, the consensus was to leave it as is since there are techniques and products available to accomplish the same goal of protecting the wiring.

Discussion to keep the proposed 12-518(2) to allow protection of nm cables for water heaters.

**Item 1.4** Discussion concerning MOR proposed 12-010(5) and cold air returns. Questions arose regarding flame testing of cables, should cables be run into the space at all, is it really a problem in a house full of combustibles, seems overkill, does it need explanation for residential

only. Differences currently between Manitoba Hydro and the City of Winnipeg. Perhaps a residential amendment adding single dwelling or detached housing is required. Manitoba Hydro is to come up with a suggested wording for a new rule to discuss next meeting.

**Item 1.5** Rule 12-020 General discussion concerning the requirements for plenums, in light of the previous item. The proposed types of cable in the MOR may be in question regards fire rating. More industry specific discussion is required. Matt, Ron and Conrad to discuss with industry and report back next meeting.

**Item 1.10** Proposed Rules 26-651 and 26-712 (sump pumps). The flood hazard zone rules seem to contradict or be impracticable (not feasible) with sump pumps and the requirement for submersible rated receptacles. Ian offered to obtain advice from the Manitoba Building Officials Association (MBOA) whether there is a registry of flood information easily available. Questions arose as to where this info is available; is it possible to find a submersible receptacle; will a sump pump cord reach the main floor if the receptacle is located there; will extending the cord void the CSA approval of the pump; if we get a longer cord does the receptacle have to move; “(ground level is normally grade for pumps)”.

We need more information from the Province on flood hazard levels.

**Item 1.9** Rule 26-704 discussion to keep the proposed rule but make 8-400 exempt for commercial parking lots.

**Item 1.10** Continued for rule 26-712 Sump pumps. A longer cord may be a solution but it depends on the flood hazard level. This elevation would normally be the responsibility of the building official. More info needed.

We agreed to continue the discussions as noted above at the next meeting. Scheduled for April 6/21. Chair to confirm if am or pm is better for the participants. Adjourned at 11:40 am

Available in accessible formats upon request.