

Manitoba Electrical Advisory Committee (MEAC)

Minutes of Meeting #3 April 6/21 @1:00 pm (Teams Meeting)

Members in attendance electronically:

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

Marty Gorman, West Supervisor Commercial, Manitoba Hydro

Serge Vincent, East Supervisor Commercial, Manitoba Hydro

Ian Robinson, Senior Housing Electrical Inspector, City of Winnipeg

Jason Huley, Customer Service Center Supervisor, Manitoba Hydro

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

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

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

Absent- Bryan Trottier, Owner, Trotco Electric

Jason Geddes, Owner, Southside Electric

Wallace Christensen, Chief Electrical Inspector, City of Winnipeg

Todd Kjartanson, Chairman, chief Electrical Inspector, Manitoba Hydro

Note: some members had trouble connecting electronically due to working from home.

Mr. Kjartanson and Mr. Christensen had sent previous notice of absence.

Marty Gorman took the minutes with Serge Vincent as an observer.

Minutes from Marty's notes with subject numbers added in parentheses:

Don opens meeting with talk about how Manitoba Hydro Commercial Inspections is moving over from Customer care to Operations, things are status quo for now. May work well as we will be combing residential and commercial inspections within Manitoba Hydro. Service delivery timelines may speed up

which is a requirement under bill 38. Todd to report directly to Cyril Patterson Director Rural Operations.

Manitoba Electrical Code will be submitted by the begin of May to our new Director and then to the Board of Directors etc.

Item 1.5 Review of this subject was passed to a sub-committee of Ron Nault, Matt Krahn, Conrad Asmundson – no firm conclusions yet. Resumed discussion from last meeting as below.

Ron Nault, Conrad and Matt Krahn to review the changes to under floor wiring and installation methods. Conrad and Matt discuss the use of portable cable as an extension of the raceway to the point of utilization. Cable must be FT6 rated which is not readily available. Don displays MOR for review and suggest that interested party's discuss what would work for the industry. Gary Jones references that the equipment must come with the cable or a table 11 rating may be used.

The panel does not feel that any reason at this time to make changes to the rule but will hold meeting soon to review and see if they feel any changes may be required.

Action item – subcommittee to report back after their discussion

Item 1.4

Don speaks that last meeting we would change the wiring requirements for cold air plenums, Don, Todd and Ian from City had meeting and agreed that no devices will be installed in the space, City of Winnipeg to update their website so Manitoba Hydro and City are consistent. Manitoba Hydro to explore a TI notice.

Ian to work on the language internal with the City stakeholders, currently the City is accepting gasketed pot lights and some other equipment in the space.

Hydro and the City to have some further talks in the near future. Gary Jones comments that he likes the current rule and wording should be changed to “ single dwelling” . Ian notes the City has their own definition, further talk about duplexes and row housing and multifamily buildings is discussed. Single dwelling does not apply to apartments.

Definition may need to be added to the MEC. Don talks about shipping container definition and the many uses for them current. City Uses term single detached.

Action items – Wording of the proposed amendment was revised to indicate “ single dwelling”.

Definition of shipping container added to proposed MEC amendments

Item 1.6

Don back to MOR, cable in roof decking and we all agree that the rule needs to be amended. Warning labels to be install no one feels a drawing or as built is a workable solution.

Item 1.8

Nonmetallic cable protection running protection would be change to allow fished in cable and eliminate the requirements for cable under the rafters. Gary Jones feels a clearer note should be added and sub 1 a needs to change to strike out upper and lower. Are we planning on leaving the open face of wall studs? Our preference is we want people to drill the wall studs.

Ian feels it's not a big issue but it's not clear, non-concealed is a funny wording. Don to go back to Todd to discuss the running on the lower side of floor joists in crawl spaces/ open face of studs, they will contact residential contractors to review.

Action item – Todd directed that the amendment exempt existing fishes cable installations, lower faces of roof rafters, and exposed faces of studs. Existing rules seem adequate in most cases.

Item 1.7

Cable rule would apply to all NM cables everyone agrees,

Item 1.8 continued

12-518 We were all good with that one.

Item 3.1 New

14-100 We wanted to bring this to everyone's attention and we want to strike out rule to avoid confusion for service conductor installation, Gary Jones does not recall reason for rule and 14-100 g accomplishes the change.

Action item – Proposed amendment to strike rule out this sub-rule.

Item 2.1

Section 22

Todd and Conrad to review the rule and suitably cut off requires a definition, no vapor transfer and would have to walk outside. Conrad/Todd to come up with wording.

Action item – proposed amendment removes building code conditions that would be hard to meet

Item 1.10

Flood Hazard Level information to be provided by Ian, so far the COW have a registry to address what is a flood hazard zone. Portage, Brandon, Red River ect planning district would know if building falls into

the zone and it should be discussed prior to the build. Ian feels that the Electrical Contractor is aware to find information and follow applicable codes.

Marty suggested it be put into the permit portal when you go online for a permit.

Rule to remain as written.

Action item – Todd to see if this information could be linked to our web page at permit application

Item 1.9

Rule about commercial parking lots to change so no GFCI protection is required.

Action item – amendment proposed in MEC to exempt commercial parking lots

Item 1.3

Lighting rules should remain in the Electrical Code for both safety and training of electrical installers.

By maintaining the existing lighting rules in the Code we are also promoting consistency which is a priority of the Manitoba electrical industry which includes the Manitoba housing industry.

Action item – amendment proposed in MEC to restore residential lighting rules to Section 30.

Item 3.2 New

Manitoba Hydro to the requirements of section 10 in place, no grounding in CSTE or metering, The utility does not want people cutting seals and locks to check on their grounding. Missing sub rules to be added.

Action item- proposed amendments to be included in MEC

Item 3.3 New

Manitoba Hydro to add inspection notices, panel board splitter notification, require transfer equipment inspection notice to be added, high voltage equipment notice to be put back.

Action item – these items were formerly Inspection Notices posted on our website which will now be included as formal amendments to the MEC. For information only with no discussion required.

General action items:

(Stakeholder consultation)

We will be still discuss with COW other items.

(Don note: MEAC Chair and Secretary will follow up with sub-committee and absent residential contracting members to see if any additional concerns have been referred to them from their industry

partners. All members have been advised that any other concerns or suggestions are welcomed even though the formal code adoption process is proceeding.)

Don asks for any other concerns in MOR, committee members will contact us in the next few weeks if they have any concerns before we submit the code. Committee members request minutes ASAP to review.

Action item – Minutes will be posted on the website once they are finished and the Chair has completed their review. Along with public access to the minutes, a provision for code suggestions or questions, similar to our existing ECS mailbox, will be sought.

Item 3.4

Next big changes will be to calculations for RV lots, Gary Jones mentioned changing to watts simplifies the calculations.

Action item- After further discussion with Todd, an amendment is proposed for MEC

Don asks for anything other concerns;

Round table discussion

Item 3.5

Gary Jones tells index will be going back in the Code a book, Tim Pope to have an exchange program to get books with an index. Free Code version of Code is currently online.

Action item – Don will contact CSA before ordering codebooks for Manitoba Hydro Inspections.

Item 3.6

Ron asks about 0-10 volt control and running in the same raceway/cable. Don explains the cable is not approved as a power cable and that it was not acceptable. City gave code deviation in a few cases. CSA did not change the rule when given the opportunity. Ron feels that it is a huge cost to run a separate conduit. 12-904 2c still does not permit this and a proposal would need to be submitted to CSA. Rules do not support current products; industry feels that the Code rules currently don't make sense.

Action item – Don offered to put any MEAC member in touch with the appropriate people at CSA to see if a change in rules is possible – 3 separate rules involved.

Item 3.7

Red Tape reduction required by the Province require us to limit changes to the Code.

Action item – Electrical Codes and Standards will review amendments, old and new, to ensure that no unnecessary ones are proposed. Most jurisdictions have extensive amendments to the CSA Part 1 CEC.

Item 3.8

Don talks about web page that will post information in the future.

Action item – Follow up required with IT Department. Some delays due to Covid, strike and IT Department changes.

Item 3.9

We will keep the committee posted on when the MEC is sent to board of directors.

Action item – materials being prepared for Manitoba Hydro Electric Board review. MEAC will be advised when appropriate.

Item 3.10

Meeting with City Of Winnipeg starting next week.

Action item – Meetings scheduled. Update: after initial delays in scheduling, 2 meetings have been held with the City with possibly a third to follow.

Next MEAC meeting

It is proposed that the next MEAC meeting be scheduled after meetings with the City.

At least one more meeting is anticipated before the end of 2021.

Available in accessible formats upon request.