

Minutes of Meeting February 20, 2025 9:00am – 2:00pm

Electrical Distribution Safety

Utility Advisory Council Members

LDC/Owner-Operator	
Alectra Utilities	Joseph Chiuco
Elexicon Energy Incorporated	Rajroop Saini
Enova Power Corporation	Shevan Mustafa
Festival Hydro	Bryon Hartung
Hydro One - Distribution	Paul Ankrett
Hydro One - Transmission	Ajay Garg
Hydro Ottawa	Edward Donkersteeg
InnPower Corporation	Arthur Berdichevsky
London Hydro	Scott Glazer
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	Eric Andres
Toronto Hydro	Sushma Narisetty
Seneral Interest	
Bell Canada/Telecom Industry	Zhi Lin
Consumer Advisory Council	Salim Khodari
CSA Group	Sarzil Rahman
Power Workers Union	Patrick Fee
Regrets	
IHSA	Al Leger

Quorum 2/3 of voting members (11/16)

Other Attendees

Peter Jurgeneit (Enwin Utilities)

Marvio Vinhaes (Enwin Utilities)

Marianne Dent (Enwin Utilities)

Brittany Ashby (EDA)

Esther Terner (Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement)

Fred Kouhdani – Hydro One Transmission

Muayad Tarabain (Hydro One Distribution)

Faisal Habibullah (Burlington Hydro)

Lori Gallaugher (USF)

ESA Attendees

Nansy Hanna, Jason Hrycyshyn, Patrick Falzon, Sean Burger, Goran Velickovski, Sylvia Gaidauskas, Declan Doyle, Devin Chaudhary



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1 Notice & Quorum

- Meeting has quorum

2 Agenda

The following motion was carried:

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 10, 2024 meeting

Motioned by: Ajay Garg Second: Arthur Berdichevsky

Motion carried.

3 Minutes of UAC Meeting

The following motion was carried:

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 10, 2024 meeting

Motioned by: Ajay Garg Second: Arthur Berdichevsky

Motion carried.

4 Review of Open Action Items

- 2019-03-01: ESA to develop a process for facilitating resolution of conflict between LDCs and a Third Party equipment owner
 - o On the agenda

5 UAC Chair and Vice-Chair Elections - Declan Doyle

- Sushma put her name forward to become Chair of the UAC
- No members opposed Sushma as Chair of the UAC
- Sushma was nominated as Chair of the UAC
- With Sushma accepting the position of Chair the position of Vice-Chair is vacant
- Members need more time to decide if they would like to put their name forward as Vice-Chair
- Vice-Chair election to take place at June 26, 2025 meeting
- Sushma offered if anyone wants to reach out with questions about the Vice-Chair position she is available to discuss



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6 UAC Term 3 Renewals - Declan Doyle

- Sandy Manners reached the end of her term on the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) so her time at the UAC also comes to an end.
- Salim Khodari is the new CAC representative
- Group 3 members elected to renew their term for another 3 years

7 Group 1 Term Renewal (June 2025) - Declan Doyle

- ESA will be contacting Group 1 members to confirm if Group 1 members want to renew their membership for another 3 year term

8 Advisory Council Bi-Annual Survey - Sylvia Gaidauskas

- Sylvia reviewed the survey results from the Advisory Council Bi-Annual Survey
- ESA asked if the Council liked that all the councils received the same survey or if they prefer a separate survey
 - The Council did not have a preference
- ESA was asked about the size and composition of ESAs other councils
 - Other councils are typically 9-12 members
 - The UAC is the largest Council

9 OESC 2024 Effective Date – Patrick Falzon

- 29th Edition 2024 OESC effective May 1, 2025
- Changes to rules that may have an impact on LDCs were shared

10 OESC Inspections in Proximity to the Ownership Demarcation Point (New Installations) (Action Item 2019-03-01) - Jason Hrycyshyn

- When an ESA Inspector is performing an inspection they will inspect the equipment listed on the notification of work from the LEC
- When items are found during an inspection that are not on the notification of work the inspector will be instructed to inspect only equipment that meets the following 2 conditions:
- The equipment is on the customer side of the ownership demarcation point; and
- The equipment is above-grade equipment
- ESA understands this may not work in all cases, however wanted to have simple rule of thumb that picks up the majority of cases.



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- If equipment ends up being inspected by the Inspector and LDC then that is good
- Do the inspectors check the loading or panel size when inspecting?
- The Inspector would ask the LEC to provide loading data to determine if there is enough capacity.
- The Council would like to see loading added to a future UAC agenda. There
 appears to be a lack of understanding around the loading of a consumer service in
 the LEC community.
- When an LDC requires a customer to install specific equipment on the customer side of the demarcation point the requested installation cannot be installed contrary to the current OESC
- For equipment where both the OESC applies and the distributor is involved and has requirements that need to be met, it may be inspected by both the LDC and ESA.
 ESA may pass the inspection because it meets the OESC but it does not meet the requirements of the LDC
- Inspectors may not know what the LDC requirements are so they may pass an inspection because it meets the OESC, but it wouldn't meet the distributor requirements.
- It would be beneficial to have this in a bulletin as there are instances were a customer asks "why do I have to do more?" when it meets the OESC and the inspection was passed, but it doesn't meet the distributor requirements

11 ESA to develop a process for facilitating resolution of conflict between LDCs and a customer equipment owner (Action Item 2019-03-01) - Jason Hrycyshyn

- What sort of timeframe would this be looking at?
 - o It will vary based on the specific situation and circumstances in each case.
- Does this process work if a customer is having an issue with an LDC and they can contact ESA?
 - Yes, ESA has a process for this
- Some LDCs have a process for working with customers where the LDCs equipment relies on customer equipment like poles or vaults. The LDC will advise the customer that not maintaining or communicating with the LDC when changes are required could potentially result is the customer being disconnected.
- Test case 3 Follows the 2 key factors in the previous slide, but what about when the conduit pulls away from the meter base
 - o ESA encourages the LDC to work with the customer to address the issue



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12 Section 10 and Section 11 Working Group Update - Jason Hrycyshyn

- An update on the progress of both Working groups was provided

13 Pole Steps - Jason Hrycyshyn

- ESA is looking for feedback on pole steps
- Background on Pole Steps
 - For pole steps the requirement before 2000 was 2.5m
 - Many pole steps were installed before 2000
 - o After 2000 the height requirement was changed to 3m.
- Do we have any instances where incidents happened as a result of these steps?
 - Yes, there was a recent incident where a person piled furniture to reach the pole steps, started climbing the pole and ended up falling.
 - Actions taken after the incident:
 - Had students use Google Maps and identify all the poles with pole steps.
 - Removed pole steps below the 3m mark.
 - Pole Steps is now a part of the checklist now when doing inspections to note the height of pole steps and anything near the pole that would aid in reaching the pole steps.
- With heavy snow it is very possible that snow is piled up to a height that makes these pole steps accessible
- What happens with 3rd party poles where the 3rd party has installed pole steps and the pole has LDC infrastructure on it? Will there be any challenges in removing these or having them removed?
 - This may be a challenge as their agreements don't allow for the LDC to remove the pole steps.
- Pole steps are useful in cases like rear lot where a bucket truck is not able to reach the pole
- If the pole steps are being removed do that affect the integrity of the pole?
- Hydro One does have specs to install pole steps when necessary.
- In speaking with pole line techs they all appear to prefer spurs and a belt for climbing as it gives them more flexibility when climbing and there is less stuff to work around. There is also the possibility of pole steps having deteriorated and breaking when used.
- ESA can issue a bulletin to provide recommendations.
 - There is interest from the council to draft a bulletin.



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Can pole steps be tackled as public outreach – advise public not to climb/access
 LDC infrastructure

14 Consumer Supply Conductors In Multi Unti Complexes run under basement Concrete Slab - Vicky Khamar

- Are the conductors in the slab?
 - Alectra is forcing the conductors to be put in a duct bank
- A homeowner would be required to dig up a foundation to bring a new cable to the panel because of a blockage or collapse of the duct bank
- Are the meters installed on the unit or a meter wall?
 - One side of the wall will have a blanket easement for the installation of meters on the customer's wall
 - The easement is specific to the meters on the customers wall
- Could the duct or service conductors be compromised if a homeowner decides to renovate (put a bathroom in the basement) and the renovations require breaking the concrete floor
 - Developers have indicated that the customer service wires are well below the foundation so if someone put in a bathroom their sewer drainage lines should not interfere with the service duct
- The is not a distributors issue, but the LDC is looking after the interest of the customer as this is always customer owned. Have you considered saying no that condo board is multi gang and freehold the services conductors come to each individual unit from the outside
 - Currently don't allow this kind of servicing, but are receiving a lot of pressure to allow this.
 - There are other LDCs in the GTA that are allowing this type of installation
- The pictures depict 3 units, but townhome complexes can be larger. What happens when there are 6 or more units?
 - Because of OEB requirements the max number of units that can be serviced without installing huge cables is 3 units
- Space is very restricted in some of the developments as some of the units are back to back so there are no backyards and there are no driveways as the parking is shared parking
- Asked if Vicky is interested in leading a working group with ESA to look for potential solutions to this issue as this is becoming more common.
 - Alectra is in support of a working group
- Registering the easements on title is very complex and costly so the developers would rather not register them



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- Go a few years in the future and the original owners may not remember that there are easements in each unit
- New owners will not be aware of any easements unless they are registered on title

15 Update on the 3-Phase 3-Wire Solidly-Grounded Wye Installations - Jason Hyrcyshyn

- Update on the status of the program was provided

16 Maintenance Inspections (DB-01-25-v1) - Jason Hrycyshyn

- This Bulletin has been published (https://esasafe.com/utilities/bulletins/)

17 Multi Gang Meter Base Distributor Bulletin - Patrick Falzon

- CEC allows 4 subdivisions and the OESC allows 6 subdivisions.
 - Have allowed 6 at the request of LDCs and ESA has not seen any issues as a result of allowing 6
 - This is a good point. ESA will take this back and discuss this.
 - Will consider what Alectra's presentation on townhouses and if that would impact this as well.

18 Copper Theft - Scott Glazer

- Huge increase in copper theft, mainly in the downtown core.
- Thieves are breaking into downtown vaults and stealing everything copper.
- London Hydro is currently experiencing at least 1 copper theft a week.
- London Hydro has an internal copper theft committee and one of the takeaways from this committee was to bring this issue to the UAC to see what other LDCs are experiencing and how they are handling it.
- Hydro One is experiencing an increase in copper theft. Seeing people break into DSs and stealing the neutral. Sometimes you can tell it's an electrician.
 - Have tried a spray that isn't visible to the human eye, but it is traceable.
 - Have also tried relacing with copper clad cable. Use copper clad where theft has happened.
 - Techs don't like working with it because it's harder to work with than copper.
- ESA had a presentation last year that we can share with the UAC.



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- There are a lot of complexities due to the many reasons why copper is stolen and due to the fact that it is more of a police issue
- Increase of theft typically follows the market price for copper. Maybe following market trends is a good idea.
- For prosecution and follow-up if it's less than \$5000 it's not taken as seriously as other crimes.
- ESA issued a letter to the Chiefs of Police indicating that this is a safety issue.
- ESA did some profiling on copper thieves. Had some research done to provide details on motives and profile of people stealing copper. There was also discussion around what communications companies are doing as this is also an issue for them can we partner with them?
- An LDC had a pole stolen and taken to a scrap yard for the rebar.
- Starting to get calls for a reconnect as thieves are stealing copper up to the stack.
- Has anyone addressed scrap yards to assist with this issue?
- London Hydro talked to scrap yards and the ones in the area have said after a certain dollar value they ask for ID
- Alectra had recommendation from a supplier on a lock that is not defeatable by ordinary tools
- This has also become an issue with EV chargers as the copper is easily accessible. A lot of these are government funded. Can we partner with them due to the downtime and cost to repair at taxpayer cost?

19 LDC Scorecard - Jason Hrycyshyn

- ESA is on track with the data for LDC scorecards
- ESA was asked about the timeframes and how many years in the past the data is as it is confusing with other data submitted to the OEB due to conflicting timeframes
 - While the timeframes are not ideal it was the best fit to be able to provide complete data

20 ESA Powerline Safety Campaign - Saira Husain

- ESA provided an update on it's safety campaigns



Advisory Council Bi-Annual Survey Stakeholder Relations

January 2025



Table of Contents

- 1. 2024 Process
- 2. Executive Summary of Results
 - a. Quantitative Questions
 - b. Qualitative Questions



1.0 2024 Survey Process

- Survey to be conducted every two years as per Administrative Agreement.
- 2024 survey sent to approx. 60 members of five Advisory Councils: CAC, CoAC, ECRA/MEC, OPCC and UAC
- 18 responses received (30%) which fell within target range of 20 – 40% response rate
- Response window December 18th, 2024 to January 3, 2025
- Responses were collected in an aggregate, not separated by council





Executive Summary of Results

Quantitative and Qualitative

2.0(a) Quantitative Survey Results

- "Quantitative" questions included a choice of response such as strongly agree, agree, neutral, etc.
- The response to the majority of questions was positive with strongly agree or agree selected. "Neutral" responses or worse did not exceed 25% on any given question.



2.0(a) Quantitative Survey Results – cont'd

- The areas that were scored more poorly and may need some attention or corrective action:
 - Council Meeting Effectiveness (Q7)
 - Recommendations include improve adequate level of ESA staff, increase member input into agenda, allow more time for discussion.
 - Collaboration between Council and ESA (Q9)
 - Little context beyond concerns over ESA staff turnover was provided
 - Council Effectiveness (Q10)
 - No specific comments provided as to how to improve council effectiveness
 - Sector Representation and Communication (Q11)
 - More senior management presence at meetings is recommended
 - Increased availability of materials to circulate to the organizations / sectors that members represent 2024 Advisory Council Survey | January 8, 2025

2.0(b) Council Accomplishments

- Council Accomplishments (Q2) received the most responses and comments were favourable. Top responses in regards to accomplishments were:
 - Updates and revisions to O.Reg. 22/04 Section 7 & 8.
 - Updated flash notice regarding acceptable barriers for temporary work.
 - The bulletin tailored to LDCs.
 - Listening to members and taking decisions into considering. Some examples mentioned were comments on EV charging, hot tubs, ...
 - Approval of the amendments to the 2024 Canadian Electrical Safety Code
 - Recruitment of new council members



2.0(b) Summary of Top Issues Identified

- Increase presence of senior / executive management. Specifically VP of Operations and Director of Licensing referenced.
- ESA staff turnover noted as an issue affecting effectiveness of some councils and field inspectors.
- Increase checkpoints with council members for input to workplan, agenda topics e.g. emerging technologies, ESA finances.
- Allow more time in meetings for discussion.
- Communicate role of Advisory Councils (potential Communications piece).
- Develop more relevant materials to be shared with member constituents / sector (for LEC community).



Contact

For additional information or feedback, please contact

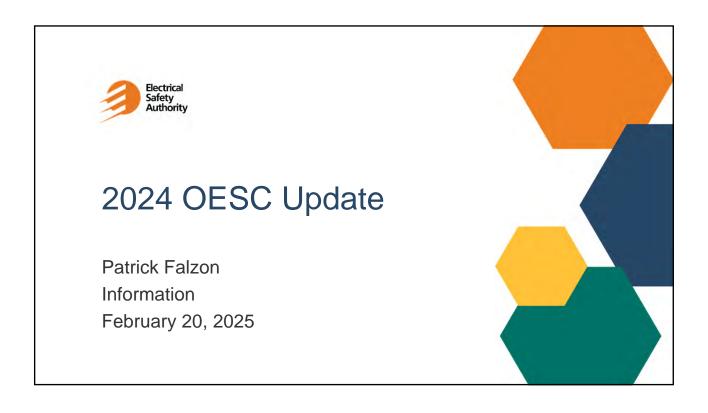
Sylvia Gaidauskas

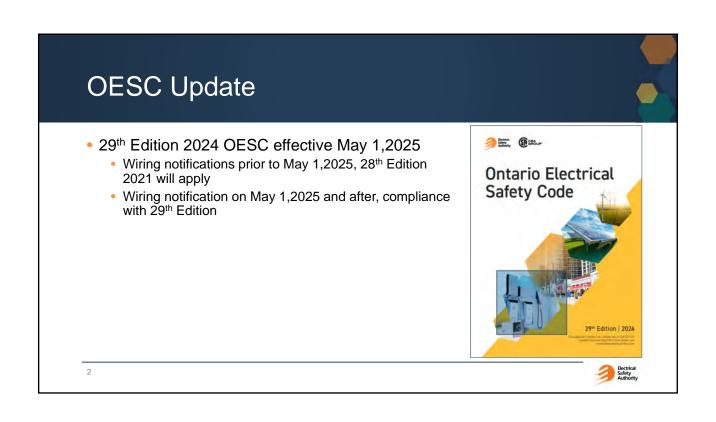
Stakeholder Advisor

Sylvia.Gaidauskas@electricalsafety.on.ca

437 929-5394







OESC Update

New Rule 2-038:

2-038 Application of Code requirements

Electrical equipment forming part of an electrical installation that is not covered by the scope of this Code shall not be used to meet the requirements of this Code

- Rule does not permit the use of Distributor assets to meet the requirements of the OESC
- Example using the Distributor's:
 - · Grounding for customer's service equipment
 - Example service equipment located adjacent to Distributor transformer
 - Over current protection or disconnecting means for customer owned transformer(s)
- Does not apply when Distributor has embedded transformers



3

OESC Update

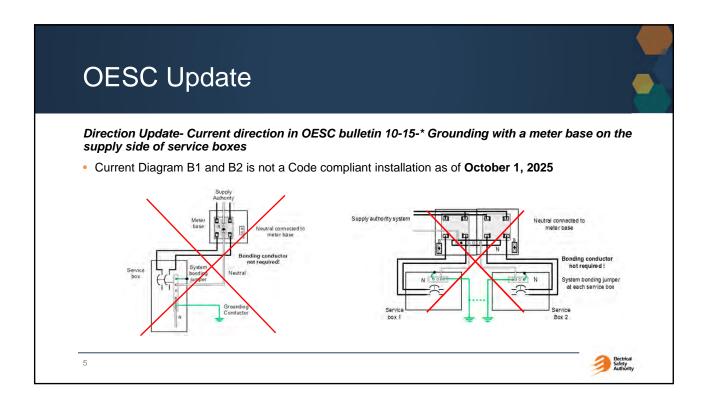
Amend Rule 6-402:

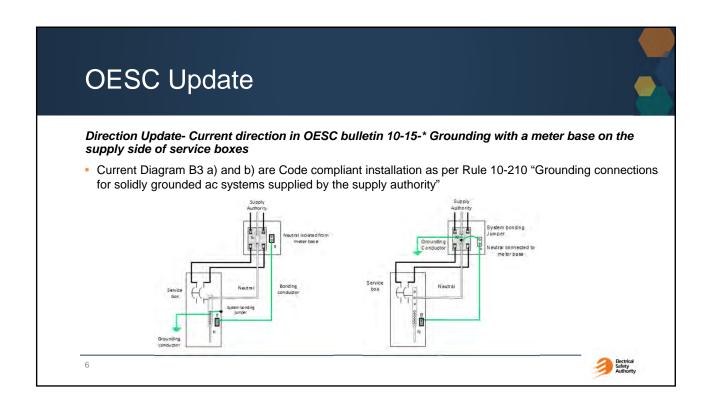
6-402 Method of installing meter loops

- Added new Subrule 2) b) permitting metering equipment to be connected on the supply side provided:
- single or multiple meter mounting device rated 300 V or less;
- · with built-in service equipment; and
- · to be used in non-hazardous locations

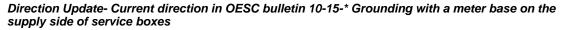




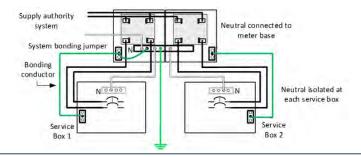




OESC Update



 Current Diagram B4 is Code compliant installation as per Rule 10-210 "Grounding connections for solidly grounded ac systems supplied by the supply authority"



7



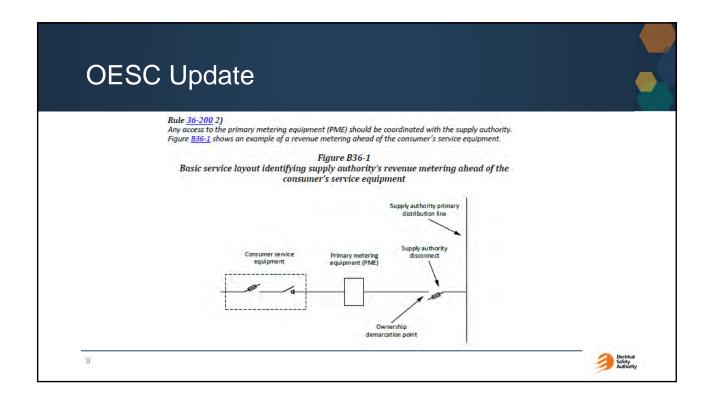
OESC Update

New Ontario amendment to Rule 36-200:

36-200 Service equipment and metering location (see Appendix B)

- 1) Service equipment shall be installed in a location that complies with the requirements of the supply authority and, in the case of a building, shall be at the point of service entrance.
- 2) Metering equipment shall be connected on the load side of the service equipment except it shall be permitted on the supply side when the equipment contains the supply authority's revenue metering.





OESC Update

New Ontario amendment to Rule 75-814

75-814 Multiple grounding of system neutral on primary lines (see Appendix B)

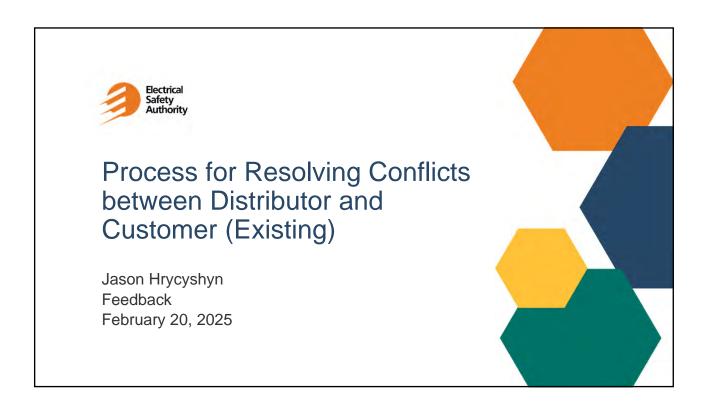
- 1) The system neutral on primary distribution lines shall be multi-grounded.
- 2) The standard number of grounds per km of circuit shall be four.
- 3) The neutral voltage to a remote ground at any point under steady-state conditions shall be limited to reduce the risk of shock hazard.

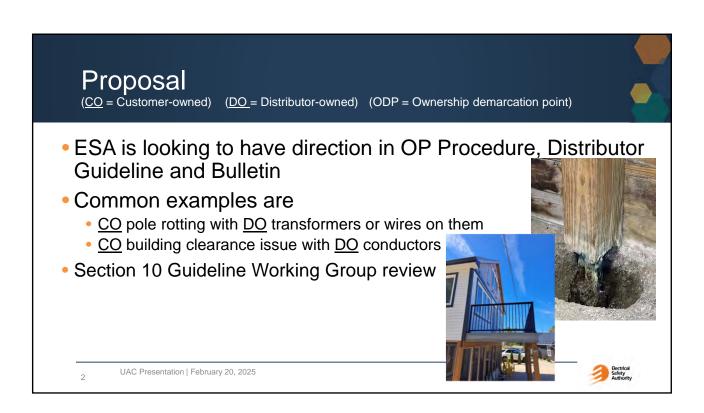
Appendix B Rule 75-814 3)

The intent of this Subrule is to limit the neutral voltage in order to reduce the risk of shock hazard, property damage, or loss. This may be achieved by limiting the neutral voltage to 10 V rms or less measured to a remote ground.









Proposal



Key Points

- Distributors have a responsibility to <u>resolve</u> the issue and shall attempt to resolve the issue. ESA doesn't have to be involved.
- If the attempt to <u>resolve is unsuccessful</u>, the Distributor may contact ESA to escalate the issue.
- "Main Utility Contact" shall be part of the communication requesting any escalation.
- "Order to Comply" or "Warning Letter" issuance will be assessed.

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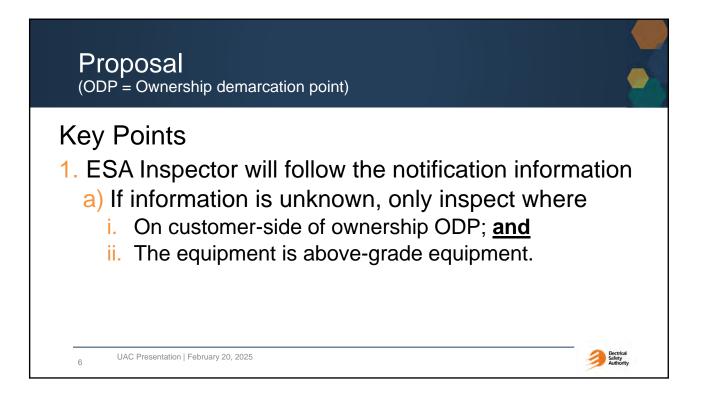
OESC Inspections in Proximity to the Ownership Demarcation Point (New)

Jason Hrycyshyn Feedback February 20, 2025



Proposal (CO = Customer-owned) (DO = Distributor-owned) (ODP = Ownership demarcation point) • Revising ESA internal procedures for Operations • Distributor Bulletin can be drafted? • Common examples are • CO poles with DO transformers or wires on them (downstream of ODP); • CO meter base with DO meter (downstream of ODP); • CO conduit with DO cables inside them (upstream of ODP); and • CO grounding (and similar) for DO transformers.

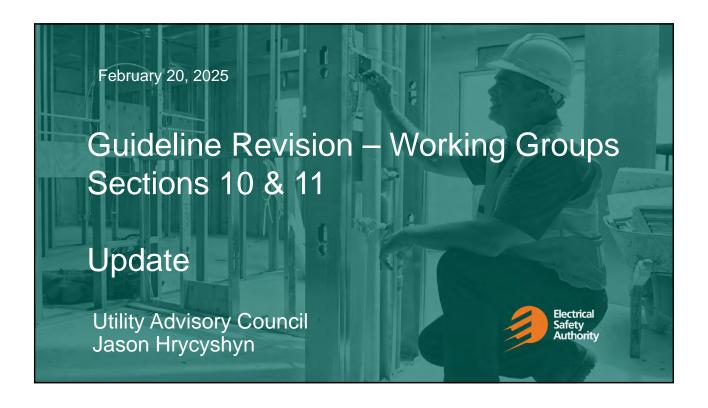
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Examples – ESA Inspection

- Customer-owned <u>poles and conductors</u> with distributor-owned <u>transformers</u> attached (downstream of the ownership demarcation point). (Yes - Inspect)
- Customer-owned <u>meter base</u> with distributor-owned <u>meter</u> attached (downstream of the demarcation point). (Yes Inspect)
- 3. Customer-owned <u>conduit</u> with distributor-owned <u>cables</u> inside them (upstream of the demarcation point). (No Inspection)
- Customer-owned <u>conductors and grounding</u> with distributor-owned <u>pad-mounted transformer</u> (downstream of the ownership demarcation point). (No Inspection)





Guideline Revision – Working Groups Sections 10 & 11

Highlights

- September 20, ESA emailed Stakeholders a request for participation on Guideline Working Groups for Sections 10 & 11
- 2 Guideline Working Groups created, first meeting complete.
 - Section 10 January 22, 2025
 - Section 11 February 4, 2025
 - Future meetings scheduled

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Guideline Revision – Working Groups Sections 10 & 11

Highlights

- Section 10 (Proximity to Distribution Lines)
 - Expected to meet 4 times (3 ½ Day Meetings)
 - Minor revisions expected and escalation process detailed
- Section 11 (Disconnection of Unused Distribution Lines)
 - Expected to meet 2 times (1 − ½ Day Meetings)
 - Minor revisions expected and addressing record accuracy
- Working Groups agreed to start with an ESA seed document

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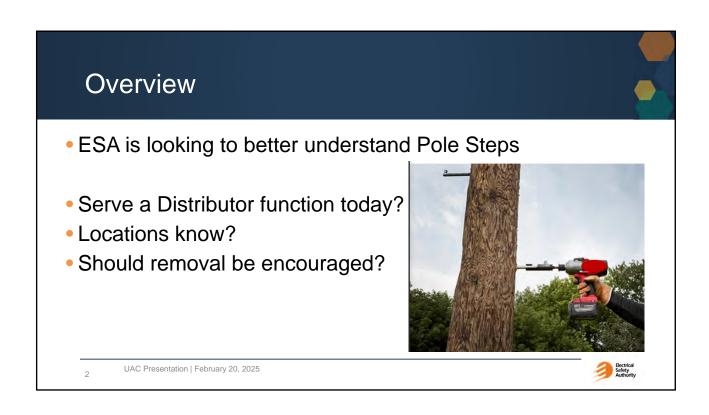
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Reference - C22.3 No.1

4.2.5 Protection against climbing

4.2.5.2 Other locations

Unguarded poles carrying conductors that exceed 750 V shall not have permanent steps that are located less than 3 m above the ground or surface and that provide access to the pole.



Bectrical Safety Authority

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Discussion

- Would UAC recommend taking on an Action Item?
- If yes, Action Item Potential Items for Discussion
 - Recommend recording of Pole Step locations for visual inspections and training on 3m.
 - · Recommend removal program for Pole Steps.
 - Recommend no Action Item.

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3-Phase 3-Wire Solidly-Grounded Wye **Customer Services FLASH NOTICE #1** April 2024 October 2024 February 2025 Number of Possible Configuration of Concerns Number of Concerns Number of Possible Configuration of Concerns Number of Concerns ~15,000 964 792 626 Number of LDCs without a Possible Configuration of Concern Configuration of Concern Configuration of Concern Configuration of Concern 47 48 48 12 UAC Presentation | February 20, 2025



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CSA C22.3 No. 11 - 2022 - Maintenance of Electric and Communication Utility Equipment and Systems

Background

- UAC discussed possible actions to address maintenance and C22.3 No.11 and ESA agreed with the discussed direction.
- ESA use to only the Distribution System Code's Appendix C entitled (Minimum Inspection Requirements). Even though C22.3 No.11 was published in 2022. (Maintenance of Electric and Communication Utility Equipment and Systems)

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CSA C22.3 No. 11 - 2022 - Maintenance of Electric and Communication Utility Equipment and Systems

Update

- ESA published the following Direction under (DB-01-25-v1)
- Distributors have the <u>option</u> of meeting either the minimum obligations of the Distribution System Code, Appendix C entitled "Minimum Inspection Requirements" <u>or</u> C22.3 No.11 entitled "Maintenance of Electrical and Communication Utility Equipment and Systems"

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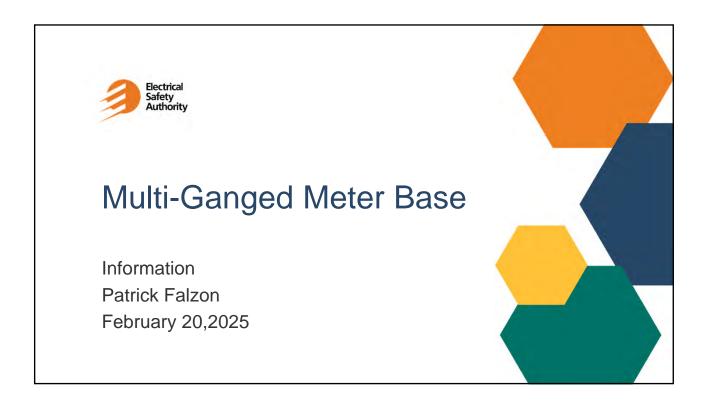
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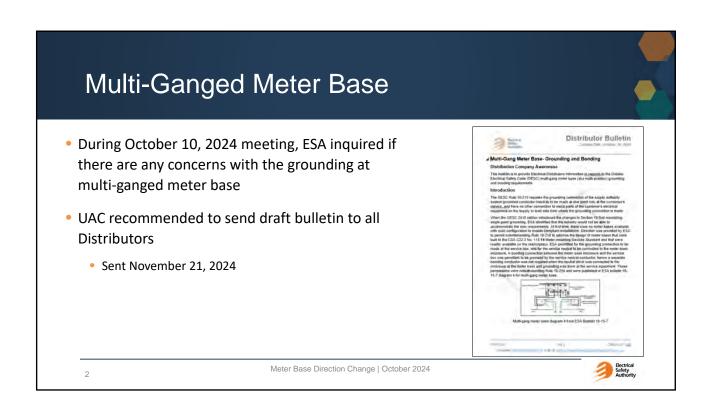
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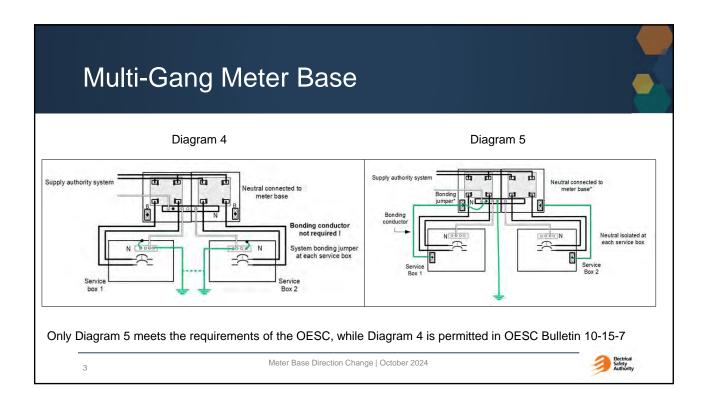
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Multi-Ganged Meter Base

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- ESA did receive comments from some Distributors
- Responses included:
 - No concerns with the arrangement of grounding at the multi-ganged meter base
 - Concerns with installing the grounding conductor in same raceway as Distributor supply conductors
 - Comments provided with respect to items beyond the ownership demarcation point
 - Who is responsible for maintenance of ground wire due to multi ganged meter base ownership-still discussing internally

Meter Base Direction Change | October 2024





Overview



- ESA expects the Safety, Performance Category data to be available to all Distributors within the first week of March.
- <u>Reminder</u>: Distributors have the month of March to review the data and enter into discussions with ESA if they believe there is an error in the data.
- Emails will go to the "ESA Scorecard" contacts or "Main Utility" contacts if issues occur.

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Reference Material

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Scorecard Data Includes:

- Audit and DoC Jan 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 (Group dependant)
- DDIs April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024
- Compliance Reviews April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024
- SEIRs Jan 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

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