

Introduction of Utility General Inspections (UGI)

Overview

Electrical Safety Authority conducted Working Group consultations with respect to a “Risk Based Approach for DDIs” on February 2nd 2012. As a result of the consultations ESA is implementing a new Utility General Inspection (UGI) process to complement the existing DDI process. Please note the UGI is a voluntary process that the LDC may choose to participate in and is a replacement for a DDI.

ESA encourages LDCs to participate in UGI program, however the maximum number of UGIs performed with a LDC will be at the discretion of ESA. UGIs shall not be used to replace a majority of the DDIs for a LDC. The goal of a UGI is to help LDCs identify and monitor any “high risk” infrastructure on their system and is not necessarily targeted at recently constructed infrastructure.

What is a Utility General Inspection (UGI)

The Utility General Inspection process is a voluntary process, where the LDC has the option of converting a DDI into a UGI. During a UGI the ESA Inspector would review infrastructure that a LDC may define as “higher risk” infrastructure, relative to other LDC infrastructure. This infrastructure is typically out of scope of Regulation 22/04. The UGI would have the Inspector review, typically pre-Regulation 22/04 infrastructure of a “high risk” nature and report any findings

How is a UGI Set Up?

The LDC would inform the ESA Inspector that UGI information, instead of DDI information, will be provided. The Inspector will then perform the inspection and ESA’s Utility Regulations staff will draft feedback documentation to the LDC from the inspection.

What Does The Communication After a UGI Look Like?

The communication from ESA will be delivered in one (1) of the following two (2) formats:

1. The LDC shall receive a UGI Report when findings the Inspector recorded address a worker safety concern or other general observations. These findings do not require a response from the LDC.
 - Examples of findings:
 - “Significant vegetation growth exists within in Distribution/Municipal Substation.
 - “Bar Codes not installed on poles”.
2. The LDC shall receive a Public Safety Concern (PSC) when findings the Inspector recorded address a public safety concern. The existing processes ESA has for PSCs will be followed and may require a response from the LDC.
 - Examples of findings:
 - “Clearance to publicly accessible space not to standard”
 - “Damage to LDC equipment exists in the field”