

**EFCOG Electrical Safety Subgroup
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2008
Submitted by Jackie McAlhaney**

Attendees

Pat Tran	Yt Wang	Jeannie Boyle
Joe Kilar	Bobby Gray	Keith Schuh
Paul Chapman	Sal Sferrazza	Scott Gilmore
Jackie McAlhaney	Dave Mills	Mike Hicks
Mark McNellis	John Lacenere	Earnest Hamm
Jim Follansbee	Cliff Ashley	Keith Gershon
Jim Luhring	Gary Dreifuerst	Randy Unger
Pat Zona	Todd Bischoff	

Introduction

Lloyd Gordon chaired and welcomed everyone to the May conference call meeting. Lloyd reminded everyone to announce they are on the call in order to be included in the minutes and to also forward an email to Jackie McAlhaney.

Recent Electrical Safety Events

Joe Kilar discussed a recent event at Argonne where a worker disconnected a 208 volt lead in a control cabinet that he thought was 24 VDC. The worker did not use an insulated screw driver for the task. Joe used the severity measurement tool to score the event at 110 and reported it through ORPS.

Jackie McAlhaney discussed a similar event that occurred at Savannah River Site a few months back when an electrical worker lifted an energized 120 volt lead without insulated tools. The worker assumed that the terminal strip contained only 24 VDC wiring and lifted the wrong lead due to poor labeling. This event was also scored at 110 with the severity measurement tool and reported through ORPS.

Paul Chapman discussed a recent event at Y12 where a worker heard a relay pulling in while he was performing maintenance and cleaning an MCC cubicle. The MCC had previously been locked out and a safe energy state established through voltage checks. The worker stopped when he heard the sound and confirmed that the 120 volt relay was still energized and fed from a circuit in an adjacent room where operators was attempting to start some equipment with a push button that kept picking up the relay. The external 120 volt source was not shown on facility drawings. Paul is developing a lesson learned and will share it with the group.

Keith Gershon commented that this may be an example of where a specific LOTO procedure is needed for certain types of equipment.

Paul also discussed another event at Y12 where a construction electrician was troubleshooting an MCC cubicle. As he attempted to move some cables in the wireway, he heard a popping sound and noticed smoke coming from an adjacent cubicle above his work location. The worker stopped and determined that a cable had faulted to the metal case of the MCC. The worker was wearing the proper PPE and the event scored 50 using the severity tool.

Lloyd reminded Paul to forward the lesson learned for these events to either him or Jackie to disseminate to the group. Lloyd will post these lessons to the Center of Excellence website.

Plans for Summer Electrical Safety Workshop in Denver

Lloyd briefed the group on plans for the summer DOE Electrical Safety Meeting and Workshop to be held July 28 to August 1. The workshop will be sponsored by NREL and held at the Denver Marriott West. Lloyd reported that 45 people have registered to date and encouraged the group to register and spread the word about the workshop.

Jackie commented that the agenda for workshop is set and discussed an announcement/flyer that is being developed to advertise the workshop within the DOE. He indicated the flyer should be ready for distribution by 1st week in June. He will forward it to the group so they can further disseminate this information at their site.

Electrical Safety Qualification Training

Lloyd discussed a training session that was conducted on Tuesday May 13 for DOE personnel in Albuquerque. The purpose of the training is to qualify DOE facility representatives to provide oversight for the electrical safety program. The training is 8 hours and provides a basic overview of electrical safety practices and the electrical severity measurement tool. Lloyd said that the training may be offered again at the Electrical Safety Meeting and Workshop in Denver since some of the DOE reps could attend the one in Albuquerque.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Lloyd informed everyone that May has been declared Electrical Safety Month by the Electrical Safety Foundation International and endorsed by the NFPA. He explained that he was providing displays and flyers at LANL to promote awareness of electrical safety and encouraged all to do the same at their sites. Lloyd plans to bring these displays to the summer meeting in Denver to share

with the group. He also plans to post much of the materials and handouts to the COE website.

Jackie McAlhaney mentioned that a similar effort to promote electrical safety awareness is also on-going at the Savannah Rive Site. Site management at SRS declared May as Electrical Safety Month and declared that all safety meeting topics focus on electrical safety hazards and awareness.

Bobby Gray indicated that Hanford is also promoting electrical safety awareness in May. Mark McNellis said that Sandia will be promoting awareness through an electrical safety fair.

Severity Measurement Tool Feedback

Lloyd discussed how the sites are using the severity tool to analyze electrical safety events. Jeannie Boyle, DOE HQ, indicated that she supports the tool and emphasized that she would like to see the calculations and scores included in the ORPS reports. Bobby Gray indicated that many folks believe that tool can not be used with the current ORPS criteria. Bobby indicated that this is a misconception and Jeannie agreed. Bobby requested that Jeannie consider providing direction to the field offices supporting use of the tool for electrical events. Jeannie indicated that a previous letter was issued from HSS that supports the tool but she would be happy to provide further endorsement and will communicate this to her ORPS committee during its next conference call.

Mark McNellis suggested that we also consider providing training to the Facility Reps on the severity tool.

Lloyd reminded everyone that one of the workshops at the summer meeting will focus on using the severity tool. Jeannie indicated that she will plan to attend our meeting and participate in this discussion. Jackie McAlhaney indicated that he will post the revised agenda for the summer meeting to show the final workshop topics.

NFPA Proposed Revision to Section 110.1

Bobby Gray discussed a letter he is drafting for DOE to send to the chair of the NFPA Technical correlating committee to indicate concern with a proposed change to NFPA 70E. Bobby indicated that unless changed through the NITMAM process at the 2009 National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) annual membership meeting, a revision to NFPA 70E, 110.1 Scope [ROC 258] would limit application of work practices in Chapter 1 to electrical hazards only "while work is being performed on energized electrical conductors..." The DOE is concerned that as written, the wording in the proposed change could be interpreted to disregard the need for adequate hazard analysis and control whenever energized conductive components are approached nearer than a safe

distance by a worker unless the worker actually makes contact with energized parts.

Brad Davy expressed support for the letter and said he also liked the tone of a similar letter drafted by OSHA. Bobby said he plans to get the final draft to Brad Davy by end of this week.

General Discussion

Randy Unger recognized Lloyd Gordon and Bryan Drennan for providing the training in Albuquerque to the DOE Electrical Safety Officers. Randy explained that this training is not specifically mandated but is implied through requirements to establish personnel qualifications. Cliff Ashley commented that DOE Guide 426.1 requires qualified personnel.

Dave Mills, Savannah River Site, requested feedback from other sites on controls for replacing battery powered emergency lighting ballasts. SRS is attempting to develop a position to justify using a single point L/T when removing one of these type ballasts based on the battery output being controlled with a cord/plug connection.

John Lacenere requested feedback and guidance for developing electrician's qualifications standard. John stated that the recent battery event at PPPL was considered to be "skill-of-the-craft". Lloyd agreed to provide John with some qualification guidance that was developed for some of the other Labs.

The meeting was adjourned at 1205 Eastern Time. The next teleconference is scheduled for Wednesday June 11, 2008.