

STAC Workplace Health & Safety Committee meeting notes

Meeting: March 28, 2017; 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. EDT



Structure, Tower &
Antenna Council
Conseil des structures,
pylônes et antennes

Next Meeting: Monday, June 5, 2017 – 11:30 a.m. EDT

DIAL IN INFO: Toll-free: 1-866-234-0247; Local (Toronto): 416-443-4589

Conference ID: 612392

Action Items:

- Nick to reach out to Tower Work and Lightning project team to move project forward starting in late April/early May
- Nick to reach out to carriers to request information on their signage policies/guidelines and whether those documents are available to contractors
- Nick to reach out to Gary Chisholm at Bell to discuss how unsafe conditions are communicated to Bell's wireline contractors
- Nick to reach out to Transport Canada to request information about when variances are granted and what the painting/lighting requirements are

Attendees:

- Nick Kyonka (STAC)
- Clay Parchewsky (WesTower)
- Adam Gale (Vertical Specialties)
- Brent Hrywkiw (Stantec)
- Cesar Galvez (Trylon)
- Dan Gaudette (Tbaytel)
- Dan Renaud (Telecon)
- Grant Sill (Trylon)
- Hany Danial (Rogers)
- Jeanne Piercey (P-SEC)
- Jill Cairns (Titan)
- Joseph Neglia (Rogers)
- Mike Hunter (IHSA)
- Rick Lee (WireIE)
- Scott Connor (TEAM-1 Academy)
- Tom Lee (Rogers)

Meeting Notes:

1. Review of committee projects

- STAC Climber Training Guidelines: Nick notes that this committee's top-priority project has been and continues to be the STAC Climber Training Guidelines project
 - Project team completed Climber 1 chapter (for new climbers) late last year and the committee provided input on that document
 - Climber 1 still being updated here and there as we move through other chapters
 - Currently working on Climber 2 chapter (for climbers with 6 months of experience or more)
 - Nick notes that work has not moved along as quickly as previously during the last few weeks as conference preparation has slowed things a little, but he expects that this project will pick up again following the conference
 - Nick notes that most of the Climber 2 sections require much less work than they did when we were first drafting them for Climber 1
 - Nick hopes to be finished with Climber 2 by early summer
 - After completing Climber 2, the project team will move on to draft Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 chapters, as well as a general Introduction chapter to highlight some specific points
 - Some items for introduction chapter include: how to read/use the document; who should be a Climber 1 vs. a Climber 2, etc ...
 - Nick estimates that we could drafts of all four of Climber 1, Climber 2, Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 in advance of STAC 2018
 - Nick notes that he doesn't want to rush this project though to meet arbitrary deadlines

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- Committee member asks whether the Climber 1 and Climber 2 notes have been posted to the STAC Members website
 - Nick says they haven't posted the Climber 1 chapter yet, as it is still subject to some changes, and because it makes sense to release all chapters at once
 - Notes that there also isn't much context to explain what it is
 - General agreement not to post them to the website for now, though Nick will send them along to any individual who requests them
- Committee member asks whether the project team has reviewed the Climber 1 chapter to ensure that it will be consistent with the proposed amendments to the COHS regulations
 - Nick says they have not done so yet, and that it would make sense to wait until after those regulations are finalized
 - Clay notes that many of the changes to the regulations are being covered by the industry already
 - Project team member notes that much of the Climber 1 chapter frequently refers to abiding by applicable laws and regulations
- Tower Work and Lightning Guidelines: Nick says this project has stalled since it was first launched last September as it has not been a high priority
 - Notes that the overall objective is to provide information about practices and policies that can help ensure safety from lightning when working on towers
 - Said the project will not be developing policies for companies to adopt, so much as identifying approaches to lightning safety that are recommended as well as tools for identifying when lightning might be approaching a site
 - Nick says he has received some notes from project team members with some research, and that he will circle back to the team in late April or early May to discuss next steps
 - Scott, Mike and Dan Gaudette all say they may have information they can share, and that Nick should add them to the project team list
 - Anyone else with interest in joining this project to contact Nick and ask to be added to the team list
 - Nick says he hopes to push this project along as much as possible this summer, and to aim to get this document completed by no later than Spring 2018
 - Committee member says he believes it should be released as soon as it's ready, even if that's in the fall/winter
 - General agreement
 - Committee members suggests that we could "re-release" the document in the spring to bring attention to it
 - Committee member suggests that we begin working on the document through project team calls and aim to have a draft completed by mid-summer at the latest
- Rope Access Study: Nick says this project is just getting off the ground and running
 - Held a team meeting in February to get some initial input on this project
 - Team includes two members from NATE as NATE would like to work with STAC on this project
 - General agreement that it makes sense to work with NATE
 - General project objective is to develop rope-work guidelines for the tower industry across North America
 - STAC would also like to see those guidelines approved by the various provinces that specifically site which standards/guidelines can be followed when doing rope work

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- Committee member says the project should avoid the term “rope access” because this would tie it too much to SPRAT or IRATA
 - General agreement
 - Committee member suggests “Rope Techniques,” though other committee members suggest using a term that doesn’t include “rope” at all
 - Other suggestions include: Advanced Techniques, Ladderless Access
 - General agreement that project team should develop a few ideas for potential names and to take them to the committee for feedback
- Committee member says that most of the training someone receives in IRATA Level 1 would be appropriate for the tower industry
 - Says Levels 2 and 3 could be simplified based on reduced needs for the tower industry
- Nick says next steps are as follows:
 - Figure out new name for project
 - Get IRATA Level 1 training requirements and compare to our needs
 - Strip away unnecessary sections and add the rest to our own document
 - Get IRATA Level 2 and 3 training requirements and compare to our needs
 - Locate any requirements we want to keep and add to our document
- Mike says he can reach out to an IRATA trainer for feedback
- Tall Tower Rescue Benchmarking: Nick notes that there is a plan to go out to a site this summer and simulate a few rescues, with a specific eye to benchmarking rescue times
 - Will look at how long it takes to complete each component of a rescue to identify where seconds can be saved
 - The whole project will be video-taped with the goal of developing a video to demonstrate the different components of a rescue and how long they take
 - Nick notes that this project will likely go forward in late summer/early fall due to weather and insect-related concerns, particularly since we will be conducting the simulations at a remote location
 - Clay notes that he will be talking about this project during the Tall Tower Rescue presentation at the STAC conference
 - Notes that NATE is also getting involved in this project

2. Review of other related activities

- Nick notes that this committee just launched a new activity last week, which is focused on preparing comments to submit to the federal government as part of its consultation on proposed amendments to the Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations
 - Nick notes that this project has identified team members and project leads, and has asked all team members to review the proposed amendments and to submit comments to Nick by the end of the week
 - Team will then review all of the comments and try to build consensus around points to comment on in our submission to government
 - Nick notes he will only have four working days to bring this all together once he returns to the office from the conference
 - Says he will try to send out proposed comments to the committee before the submission, but cannot guarantee that he will do so
 - UPDATE: This activity was completed and STAC submitted comments to the government by the April 17 deadline

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- Nick asks if anyone has reviewed the proposed amendments and had any concerns they want to discuss
 - Clay says he has noticed that the fall restraint requirement doesn't fit with what the provinces are saying, and that the fall protection plan requirement is new but not a concern
 - Nick notes that one clause says that the most recent CSA standard will be the requirement going forward, starting 30 days after any given standard is published in both official languages
 - Says this would be a potential issue in the case of the new trolleys, since many contractors had indicated that they might not switch to the new trolleys
 - Committee member notes that STAC should be sure to start issuing notices to its Members to advise on new standards being published once this comes into effect
- Nick notes that one other project launched under this committee dealing with Safe Roadside Work Procedures has been moved to the STAC Road Safety Committee (formerly National Safety Codes Committee) and will be progressing this summer

3. Identification of potential future projects

- Nick notes that it has been approximately 12 months since this committee was launched last March, so it seemed like a reasonable time to take stock of where we are at, what we're working on, and whether there's anything else we should be looking at
 - Notes that we have a few things on the go for this project at the moment, as discussed earlier in this call, but can still add to our list of projects/future projects
- Nick asks whether anyone has any other items that this committee should be looking into
 - Committee member says RF signage is one potential issue
 - Nick notes that this is an issue that the RF Awareness Committee will be looking at
 - Committee member says a lack of enforcement is a problem
 - Nick notes that we likely won't be going to Industry Canada to say that they need to do more inspections
 - Committee member says the problem is that there is no strong communication of the requirements in the first place
 - Suggests that STAC should run a signage project to definitively identify needs and outline signage guidelines for the industry
 - Nick suggests that the first step here could be to reach out to carriers to request their current signage policies/guidelines and to ask whether they make those documents available to their contractors
 - Nick notes that RF committee will be examining this issue as it relates to RF, and asks whether there are other areas that we could be looking at in terms of signage through this committee
 - General agreement that there is enough, including caution signage, CSA non-conformance, etc ...
 - Committee member says unsafe sites is another potential issue
 - Says information about unsafe sites needs to be communicated better as the "leave-a-note" system doesn't seem to be 100% effective
 - Committee member suggests that Nick speak to Gary Chisholm at Bell to discuss communication of unsafe sites as a starting point

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- Nick says he will talk to Gary, and urges others to consider this topic over the next two months in advance of the next committee meeting
 - Committee member says communication of variance lighting is another issue
 - Notes that he was on a tower recently when a helicopter came in and landed very close to the site
 - Committee member says this is basically a signage issue
 - Says we should talk to Transport Canada to figure out how they assign variances and when they are required to be painted/lit
 - Committee member agrees that this would be useful: notes that it seems to be arbitrary whether they assign a variance or not
 - Nick to reach out to Transport Canada to request information on this topic
- 4. Planning and priorities for 2017**
- Nick notes that the Climber Training Guidelines will continue to be a priority for this committee, and will continue holding weekly meetings
 - Says the COHS Regulations activity will be top priority between now and April 17
 - Nick says next priority is to get the lightning guidelines project completed as a high priority
 - Says Tall Tower Rescue simulation would take priority over Rope Access project due to need for specific weather conditions to compete this simulation
 - Of the new projects/activities proposed today, Nick says that communicating signage and unsafe conditions activities are likely to be a bit slower coming together and likely won't be prioritized immediately as a result
 - Notes that these are still items that he wants to push along as quickly as possible though