



Oregon

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Oregon Solar Energy Code Committee
Thursday, December 17, 2009
Meeting Summary

****NOTE:** *The following is a summary of the committee's discussion.*

To review the meeting in its entirety, the archived video of the meeting is available on the committee's Web site at the following link: <http://www.bcd.oregon.gov/committees/10sec.html>

Members Present: Doug Aljets, Electrical and Elevator Board **and** Solar Installer for NW Current Energy, LLC
Jerry Henderson, Independent Contractor for Department Of Energy (DOE) **and** Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO)
Dave Mumford, Lear Electric
Nathan Philips, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
Robin Rabiuff, Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) **and** EC Company
Len Ralston, Solar Installer for Dynalectric
Robert Rice, Oregon Building Officials Association (OBOA) **and** Josephine County Building, Official
Jaimes Valdez, City of Portland – BPS/BDS

Members Absent: Brian Crise, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 48
Marcus Reed, State Fire Marshal
Robert Lane, Three Phase Electric

Guests Present: Greg Creal, Central Electrical Training Center
Pat Stapleton, Stapleton Electric
Keith Knowles, Live Light Energy
Johnathan Balkema, Oregon Home Builders Association (OHBA)
Chance Currington, Sunlight Solar
Derek Cropp, Solar City
Rob LaVigne, Solar City
Laura Hannah, Solar City
Tom Baumann, International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers #280 (IBEW)
David McClelland, Energy Trust of Oregon
Andrew Koyannisqatsi, Solar Energy Solutions
Rob Delmar, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)
Ryan Mayfield, Renewable Energy Associates
Kim Berhorst, National Solar
Michael Mintz, Sustainable Solutions

Staff Present: Chris Huntington, Policy and Technical Services Manager
Dennis Clements, Electrical Program Chief
Gabrielle Schiffer, Sustainability Coordinator
John Powell, Facilitator
Richard Rogers, Structural Chief
Ree Armitage, Policy Analyst
Shauna Parker, Rules Coordinator
Dana Fischer, Building Code Para-Technical

Introductions

John Powell called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He thanked the committee members who worked on the two sub-committees for their time and efforts. Chris Huntington thanked committee members for their efforts and time working on the committee and sub-committees. He stated that he would like the committee to begin their discussion on agenda item number two, *Firefighter Access*.

Jerry Henderson handed out to the committee a document on [Access, Pathways and Smoke Ventilation](#) from the “*State of California’s draft for PV guidelines*”. He stated the information is helpful as a follow-up to the sub-committee’s discussion that took place on November 19, 2009 and for today’s discussion.

Mr. Powell explained that *Fire Sub-Committee* discussed a variety of issues such as “setback”, “access to equipment that needs maintenance” and “disconnecting-means”. He further explained a large challenge facing fire-fighters is the issue of “DC conductors” located on roof-tops.

Mr. Powell referred the committee to the document [Fire Safety Requirements/Fire Fighter Access](#), which was drafted by the “fire sub-committee”.

Fire Safety Requirements/Fire Fighter Access

Mr. Powell expressed his belief that this section does not belong in the Solar Code, but belongs in the Structural Code.

Scope

Mr. Powell read the section to the committee, explaining that clarifying language for “pipelines” has been added. He further explained that this document is just the “scope” and that the detailed requirements are located further on in the proposed code document.

Committee members discussed the section. Nathan Philips reminded the committee that the *sub-committee* did not write this document as “a code document” but as a “concept document” to help provide policy discussion. Committee discussion continued.

David McClelland, representing Energy Trust of Oregon, discussed his handout, [System setback requirements](#). He stated that Energy Trust of Oregon is concerned about “residential systems” and “small residential systems”. He explained the examples of “roofs” shown on his handout. Committee members discussed these examples.

Keith Knowles, representing Live Light Energy, reviewed his handout, [Solar Code: Proposed Roof Clearances for Arrays](#) with the committee members and expressed his concern about “array size”. He also explained the examples in his handout show different scenarios if the proposed code is applied. He further commented that the document was developed with the help of Oregon Home Builders Association (OHBA). Johnathan Balkema, representing OHBA, helped explain the scenarios, stating that prescriptive flexibility is important. He further stated that OHBA supports safety for fire services but at the same time wants to maximize the actual available space.

Committee discussion continued.

Break

Rob Delmar, representing The Department of Energy (DOE) explained his “array size” calculations to the committee which are slightly different than what has been shared today. He explained that DOE provides tax credit programs to approximately 300 to 400 customers per year for residential PV systems. He also explained why the number of systems installed will be affected by House Bill 3039, which could quadruple the number of systems that end up being installed.

Mr. Powell reviewed the “pathway” language. He noted the new language that allows a jurisdiction to grant permission to have the requirements waived or modified and that the request to do so must be in writing.

Mr. Powell reviewed the “firefighter access”, “access for maintenance” and electrical equipment” language with the committee. Committee members discussed the language at length. Several concerns were raised about different roof types versus different equipment types. One clear question raised is what type of solar equipment will fit on *all roof types* and if there is not a system that will fit on all roof types, how much compromise can be made without jeopardizing firefighter safety.

Installation Requirements

Manager Huntington asked Robert Rice to give an *overview* of the document drafted by the sub-committee, *Installation Requirements for Chapter 3*, stating that there are only a few more minutes before it is time for the committee to adjourn. He further stated that detailed discussion will happen at the next meeting.

Mr. Rice gave a brief overview of the document [Installation Requirements for Chapter 3](#).

Adjourn

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.