



Oregon

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Oregon Solar Energy Code Committee
Thursday, January 14, 2010
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
Brian Crise, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 48
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 Rabirot, Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) **and** EC Company
Robert Rice, Oregon Building Officials Association (OBOA) **and** Josephine County Building, Official
Jaimes Valdez, City of Portland – BPS/BDS
Marcus Reed, State Fire Marshal

Members Absent: Robert Lane, Three Phase Electric
Len Ralston, Solar Installer for Dynalectric

Guests Present: John Caul, State of Oregon Fire Marshal
Mike Middleton, SolarCity
Evan Ramsey, SolarCity
Scott Cranford, Solar Assist
Chance Currington, Sunlight Solar
Derek Cropp, SolarCity
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
Greg Creal, Central Electrical Training Center
Russ Nicolai, NW Solar Solutions
Kyle Kobel, Tanner creek Energy
Josh Richards, KPFF
Nick Armstrong, SolarCity
Andrew Kerr, solar homeowner

Jerry Randall, Portland Fire
Vince McChellan, Energy Design

Staff Present: Chris Huntington, Policy and Technical Services Manager
Dennis Clements, Electrical Program Chief
John Powell, Facilitator
Richard Rogers, Structural Chief
Ree Armitage, Policy Analyst
Trevor Johnson, Policy Analyst
Areon Teverbaugh, Policy Analyst
Andrea Fogue, Green Building Services Manager
Shauna Parker, Rules Coordinator
Dana Fischer, Building Code Para-Technical

Introductions

John Powell, Facilitator called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chris Huntington, Policy and Technical Services Manager stated the committee will be discussing firefighter language that was discussed by the fire subcommittee. He explained the committee and Building Code staff are aware of the safety needs of firefighters as well as how the proposed language can affect the solar industry. Manager Huntington asked that the public guests refrain from comment until the committee has a chance to review the language.

Solar Arrays/Firefighter Access

Nathan Philips, a committee member, reviewed the [firefighter language](#) with the committee and public guests.

Manager Huntington asked committee members if they have any questions or comments about the language Mr. Philips reviewed. Committee members discussed different concerns and questions.

Manager Huntington asked public guests if they have any comments to share. There were none.

Structural

Chapter 3 Installation Requirements

Robert Rice, a committee member, reviewed the structural language, [installation requirements](#) with the committee and public guests.

Section 303 Minimum Standards and Quality

Committee members discussed the term “*approved manufacturer’s instructions*” questioning if the term means “approved by the jurisdiction that is inspecting the installation”, or if it means “the instructions that came with the products”. Concern was voiced that some manufacturer instructions are not as clear as they should be and can hinder an installation. Another concern voiced was that often there is a problem with finding a company with national certification, and that it becomes the installation companies’ responsibility to prove the equipment meets engineering requirements.

Section 304 Location

Mr. Rice continued his review of the installation requirements. He commented that it is important for installers to check local zoning laws for compliance and the importance of meeting flood hazard requirements.

Mr. Rice stated it is important that egress requirements are met, including keeping egress areas clear from equipment that would block an egress. Mr. Philips asked if the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) should be referenced as well. Mr. Rice replied that the language is primarily for buildings being built to the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) which requires more than one egress and that the ORSC only requires one egress, which means the language doesn't really apply. He further commented that Mr. Philips has a good suggestion and that the ORSC should be referenced in the proposed code where applicable.

Committee discussion and comment continued.

Manager Huntington summarized the meeting, stating today's discussion on the structural provisions will be incorporated and will be brought back to the next meeting. He thanked committee members for their help. He also stated the code committee is just the first step in the code adoption process, followed up with the Board's process, public hearing process and comment period. Public guests will have plenty of opportunity to provide further comments.

Adjourn

The committee meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.