



Oregon

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Oregon Solar Energy Code Committee

January 28, 2010

DRAFT- 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:** 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)
Robert Lane, Three Phase Electric
Dave Mumford, Lear Electric
Robin Rabirotff, 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
Marcus Reed, State Fire Marshal
Jaimes Valdez, City of Portland – BPS/BDS
Nathan Philips, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
- Members Absent:** Doug Aljets, Electrical and Elevator Board and Solar Installer for NW Current Energy, LLC
- Guests Present:** John Caul, State Fire Marshal
Johnathan Balkema, Oregon Home Builders Association
Greg Creal, Central Electrical Training Center
Evan Ramsey, SolarCity
David Nilles, SEAO
Kyle Kobel, Tanner Creek
Wendell Whistler, Intertek
Josh Richards, KPFF Consulting Engineers
Steve Goodman, public guest
Kim Berhorst, National Solar
John Harley, National Solar
- Staff Present:** Chris Huntington, Policy and Technical Services Manager
Dennis Clements, Electrical Program Chief
Areon Teverbaugh, Policy Analyst
Richard Rogers, Structural Chief
John Powell, Facilitator
Debi Woods, Boards Coordinator
Dana Fischer, Building Code Para-Technical

Introductions

John Powell, facilitator, called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Aeron Teverbaugh, policy analyst stated that the discussion today will include moving through the structural provisions. She asked that public comment include only new comments relative to today's discussion and that a time limit of two minutes will be given to those who would like to speak.

Chapter 3 Installation Requirements

Mr. Powell asked that committee members and public guests hold their comments until the [Installation Requirements](#) document is reviewed all the way through. He then began reviewing each section in the document. Robert Rice and Nathan Philips provided comment and clarified language as Mr. Powell reviewed the document.

Mr. Powell stated that a [matrix](#) will be used to move through the document and record committee decisions on each section.

Section 301 General

The committee decided to change the reference to the "Oregon Structural Specialty Code" to "Building Code". Richard Rogers stated that if the term "Building Code" is going to be used, then a reference needs to be added which points the reader to the definition of "Building Code". It was agreed that "as defined in ORS 455.020" would be added. *The committee agreed to the modifications to this section.*

Section 302 Definitions

Mr. Powell stated that a few more definitions will be added.

The committee discussed the definition "Accessible Roof Plane" and determined that the word "Plane" should be deleted in two places. Marcus Reed commented that "20 feet" is adequate for the roof line height because most firefighters use a 25 foot ladder and the ladder would extend 3 feet above the roof line as is needed for support. Johnathan Balkema commented that it is just the access point that needs to be 20 feet, not the entire roof area.

Tabled: Ms. Teverbaugh suggested tabling the section until more definitions can be added. The committee agreed.

Section 303 Minimum Standards and Safety

303.1 General

Mr. Powell reviewed the section with the committee. The committee discussed whether the racking equipment should be "listed" or not. The comment was made that many manufacturers require their installation directions to be followed or they won't guarantee the warranty. Mr. Philips expressed his belief that the manufacturer's instructions should always be followed, whether or not the equipment is "listed".

Tabled: The committee agreed to table 303.1. Mr. Crise agreed to research the issue of equipment being "listed" or not and bring the results back to the next meeting.

303.2 Type of Construction

The committee briefly discussed this section and agreed to delete the word "applicable" and replace it with "required to be non-combustible" and *approved the section as amended.*

303.3 Material standards

The committee briefly discussed this section and *agreed that the section should be deleted.*

303.4 Photovoltaic Modules

The committee discussed this section and agreed to change the title from “photovoltaic modules” to “Fire classification” To align with the electrical provisions, the word “photovoltaic” was abbreviated to “PV”.

303.4 Testing

The committee briefly discussed this section and *agreed that the section should be deleted.*

303.4.2 Wind resistance

To align with the electrical provisions, the word “photovoltaic” was abbreviated to “PV”. The committee also agreed to delete the word “shingles” throughout the section. Robin Rabirotff expressed that the word “packaging” be changed to “supporting documents” because equipment does not always come contained in one package.

Tabled: The committee agreed to table the section for further discussion.

303.5 Wind Resistance

Jaimes Valdez suggested that the word “frame” should be replaced with the word “racking”. The committee discussed Mr. Valdez’s suggestion, which brought up other concerns.

Tabled: Mr. Rice suggested tabling the section until further research can be done.

Section 304 Location

Discussion began on 304.9 Fire Fighter Access and Escape, in hopes that the language could be finalized at today’s meeting.

304.9.1 General Pathway locations

Mr. Powell suggested the word “wide” be added after “36 inch” (and the following exceptions found in the section), the word “peaks” be replaced with “ridges” and “or ridge” be added after the word “roof”.

Committee members discussed the section at length voicing several concerns on how the language reads. One concern voiced is whether conduit lying across a pathway is more of a trip hazard by it’s self or more of a trip hazard if a bridge is used. The comment was made that if the conduit is bridged the height increases, making it a larger trip hazard. Committee members could not reach agreement on satisfactory language because so many concerns were raised. The committee did not finish their discussion due to lack of time.

Ms Teverbaugh wrapped up the meeting by asking committee members to review the definitions for the entire chapter, note specifics for each and bring them to the next committee meeting for discussion.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:03