

Technical Codes Study and Advisory Committee
April 14th, 2015
10:00 AM
8181 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed all present and **called the meeting to order at 10:00 am**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: Steve Boudreaux; Chris Brown; Bobby Byrd; Bren Kramer;
Foy Gadberry; Al Courouleau; Mike Metcalf; David
Thibodeaux; Scott Wallace;

Members Absent: Jerry Hebert; Phil Hoffman; Jake Causey

Notice of Absence: Jerry Hebert; Phil Hoffman; Jake Causey

9 members present and 3 members absent constitute a Quorum.

Old Business:

(1) Review and Adoption of the Minutes from the February 10th, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. B. Byrd to accept the minutes as written for the February 10th 2015. The motion was seconded Mr. Kramer. The Chair asked for any objections to the motion, there were no objections. The motion passed.

(2) Next committee meeting time and location to be determined.

A **motion was made** by Mr. Brown to have the next Technical Codes Study and Advisory Committee meeting on May 12th, 2015, at 9:00 A.M. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. B. Byrd. The Chair asked for any objections to the motion, there were no objections. The **motions passed**.

New Business:

(1) Discussion of proposed statewide rules for installations of Solar Photovoltaic Power Systems (Steve Boudreaux).

Time line for the emergency rule realistically looks to be finished by May to June according to Mr. Joiner. The Chair reminded the committee that then they would have 90 days to file the permanent rule; which provides the committee about 120 days to get things in order to make sure that the permanent rule is completed.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Jeff Canton, Gulf States Renewable Energy, with the solar trade group statewide and adjacent states spoke on the appreciation to the committee and the council to take the time to discuss concerns with Solar Photovoltaic Power Systems. Mr. Canton stated that the industry has been prepared for the implementation of safety requirements. One particular requirement the industry is concerned with is the electrical part of Section 690.12 concerning Rapid Shutdown of PV Systems. This provision requires Photovoltaic Power Systems have a disconnect feature at the roof level within so many feet of the panels. Mr. Canton commented that there are only a few manufacturers currently supplying this technology. Mr. Canton further commented that a time frame of when this technology will be more readily available is not sure at this time. Mr. Joiner asked if there was another technology available that the industry had that could provide the same protection for the first responders. Mr. Canton stated there was a technology available to disconnect on the roof manually. Mr. Joiner stated that one of the concerns was not to have to disconnect the panels from the roof but from a distance and allow time for the voltage to drain down. Mr. Brown asked if Louisiana would be the first state to implement Section 690.12. Mr. Canton did not know of any other states that were implementing this section without some allowances for the technology to catch up with the new safety requirements. Mr. Roberts stated it is an NEC requirement. Mr. Joiner noted there were between 22 to 24 states that have already adopted the 2014 NEC without any amendments. Mr. Boudreaux and Mr. Joiner discussed if the committee decides to make a change to the emergency rule what would be the time frame and steps to make those changes. Mr. Joiner noted that there was a request by the NEC Committee to delay the implementation for a time frame, like for the micro inverter, in order to allow the industry to be able to prepare and get product in stock to provide this safety requirement. The understanding was that the product was out there and available. Mr. Boudreaux requested we check with the other states to see if they were having challenges in attaining the safety requirement. Retrofitting for the systems that cannot be supplied at this time was discussed as well as a color coding of the shutdown/conduit to be used, the color red was suggested. Mr. Joiner questioned if the rapid shutdown/disconnect could be provided by a different method, such as a shutdown switch/box other than a micro inverter.

A **motion was made** by Mr. Brown to have full implementation of Article 690.12 to take place by August 1st, 2015. In the interim period of time the PV systems shall be equipped with a minimum of a manual disconnect within 10ft of the array, with the location of the disconnect properly labeled in a readily accessible area. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Courouleau. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Discussion between members of the committee and the council continued. Question was called, the Chair called for those in favor of the motion and any opposed. There was one opposed. The Chair called for a vote of the members present. The roll call voted reflected 7 Yes, 2 No, the **motion was approved**.

With no other items on the agenda and no motion to accept other business, a **motion** was made by Mr. Metcalf and seconded. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

END OF MINUTES