

Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution  
Stakeholders Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2015  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Attendees:**

Stephanie Ficek – Oregon OSHA  
Sue Joye – Oregon OSHA  
Gary Boswell - PGE  
Marilyn Schuster – Oregon OSHA  
Mark Rettmann – Oregon PUC  
Mike Scarminach – IBEW 659  
Bill Harrington – Asplundh Tree  
Kim Garbutt – Consumers Power  
Russ Walters – SUB  
Ron Dubbs – EPUD  
Mark Hankins – EWEB  
Stuart Sloan – Consumers Power  
John Ganer – DEC  
Jeff Wilson – Oregon OSHA  
Jeff Carson – IBEW 124

Bo Mackey – EWEB  
Bill Haskins – PGE  
Ken Langley – Oregon OSHA  
Peggy Munsell – Oregon OSHA  
Fred Macy – International Line Builders  
Ward Andrews – Wilson Construction  
Tracy Harness – NW Line NECA  
Steven Harkin – Pacific Power  
Banjo Reed – IBEW 659  
Mike Kiessling – NW Line JATC  
Tony Schacher – Salem Electric  
Kurt Liptau – PGE  
Brian Aicher – Salem Electric  
Mark Maguire – EWEB

The group introduced themselves.

**History and overview of rulemaking**

Jeff gave a brief history of the power generation, transmission, and distribution rulemaking process with the stakeholder group.

**Purpose and goals**

Jeff reviewed the purpose of the meeting is to go over the whole merged rule and mentioned that there will be time to discuss the elbow rule at the end of the meeting.

**Review rule draft**

Ken Langley walked the group through the merged rule. He highlighted points that are different from the federal rule. He stated that 95 percent of the rule is the same as the federal rule. Our merged rule also has more clarifying language that makes it look different than the federal rule, although the intent is the same.

**437-002-2300 General**

We added a note to paragraph 1(a) that added clarifying language about energy from other sources of co-generation energy, such as thermal, hydroelectric, photovoltaic, wind-generated,

and chemical energy from fuel cells and batteries. We need to add “wave energy” to the list of energy sources listed in the note.

There was a question raised on 437-002-2300 General 1(e), which states, “Line-clearance tree-trimming operations, as follows: (A) Entire Subdivision RR, except paragraph (1) of 437-002-2317, applies to line-clearance tree-trimming operations performed by qualified employees.” We will look into this issue.

### **437-002-2301 Medical services and first aid**

We added clarifying language and under (1) First-aid/CPR training, we broke out requirements in paragraph (a) and (b).

### **437-002-2303 Hazardous energy control (lockout/tagout) procedures**

There was a question on 437-002-2303 Hazardous energy control (lockout/tagout) procedures. The references to 437-002-2314 need to be changed to 437-002-2312. 437-002-2303(1) third line: remove “Locking and tagging” and add “Hazardous energy control.”

### **437-002-2306 Personal protective equipment**

We put some Oregon-initiated rules into PPE under 437-002-2306 (2) Fall protection (d). The question was raised about what was the original Oregon-initiated rule for 437-002-2306 (2) Fall protection (d)(B) “Small tools carried in the belt must be placed so they present the least danger of coming in accidental contact with energized parts, and where they will not interfere with use of “D” rings. Sharp or pointed tools must not be carried unless in scabbards, or are otherwise effectively safeguarded.” We will research where this language came from and take out the last part of the sentence “and where they will not interfere with the use of the “D” rings.”

Under the note on Page 27 “Note 2 to paragraphs (2)(d)(J)(ii) and (2)(d)(J)(iii) of this rule” references should be (2)(d)(I)(ii) and (2)(d)(I)(iii). Change reference in (2)(d)(K) note from “Note to paragraph (2)(d)(L)” to (2)(d)(K).

### **437-002-2310 Materials handling and storage, and Helicopters**

The question was raised about why to put helicopters with material handling? Ken explained that a helicopter is a crane. Some in the group felt that helicopters should be its own rule. Helicopters will have rule number 437-002-2323 (Definitions will become 437-002-2324).

Under **437-002-2310** (p) Helicopter Work Tasks (B) Aerial Skid Transfer – should be called “hover transfer.” Under this same paragraph (B) there was issue with this statement:

“(ii) If a platform system is used to transport crews or where a crewmember performs work from, the platform system and all aircraft attachment points must comply with applicable FAA regulations and requirements. All platform operations must be conducted in accordance with the 14 CFR Part 133 Class A - External Load. Flight and hovering capabilities of the helicopter must not be adversely affected by the design of the platform.

The platform must not adversely affect the auto rotation and emergency capabilities of the helicopter. The platform and loads may affect the lateral & longitudinal CG weight and balance of the helicopter in flight. An engineered counter-balance system must be used if the platform exceeds the lateral CG limits of the manufactures specifications for the helicopter which will ensure stability.”

It is not a requirement, but rather a statement. We agreed to remove the one sentence.

### **437-002-2312 Deenergizing lines and equipment for employee protection**

There is a wrong reference to in (h) The employer must ensure the installation of protective grounds as required by 437-002-2315. It should be 437-002-2313.

### **437-002-2313 Grounding for the protection of employees**

We discussed the following note:

Note to paragraph (1): This paragraph covers grounding of generation, transmission, and distribution lines and equipment when this section requires protective grounding and whenever the employer chooses to ground such lines and equipment for the protection of employees.

We agreed to remove the note.

### **437-002-2316 Overhead lines**

It was noted that Note 1 and Note 2 were reversed in (2)(d).

It was mentioned that the language in (1)(a) is confusing.

“(a) Before allowing employees to subject elevated structures, such as poles or towers, to such stresses as climbing or the installation or removal of equipment may impose, the employer must ascertain that the structures are capable of sustaining the additional or unbalanced stresses. If the pole or other structure cannot withstand the expected loads, the employer must brace or otherwise support the pole or structure so as to prevent failure.”

Ken will look at clarifying the language in this paragraph.

437-002-2316 (1)(h)(C) “Must not be carried up or down poles or structures in belts” is redundant. We could remove this.

Gary mentioned this could be a place to bring in requirements about raising and lowering tools when you’re in a boom-lift bucket?

### **437-002-2317 Line-clearance tree trimming operations**

We put drop starting in the rule rather than a note: (5)(d) “A power saw must be started on the ground or where it is otherwise firmly supported. Drop starting of saws over 6.8 kilograms (15 pounds), other than chain saws, is permitted outside of the bucket of an aerial lift only if the area below the lift is clear of personnel. Drop starting chain saws is prohibited.” There was conversation about prohibiting drop starting a chain saw. Do we need to define “drop start”? It’s really drop starting in an uncontrolled manner that is prohibited.

Gary mentioned adding the requirement to wear chaps with chainsaws. The group clarified that it creates a greater hazard.

**437-002-2317 (1)(b)(A)** It was mentioned that we should have 600 volts on (1) (b) (A) “If a line-clearance tree trimmer is to approach more closely than 3.05 meters (10 feet) to any conductor or electric apparatus energized at more than 750 volts...” and (B) “If branches or limbs being removed are closer to lines energized at more than 750 volts than the distances listed in Table R-5, Table R-6, Table R-7, and Table R-8 or...” and throughout the rules.

**437-002-2317 (1) Electrical hazards**

This paragraph does not apply to *qualified employees*. It was brought up that it is confusing that this section applies to unqualified workers, but we state that it does not apply to qualified employees. We are open to proposals with clearer language.

**437-002-2317 (8) Fall protection**

We will look at this language.

**437-002-2318 Communication facilities**

We will look at adding a definition to (2) Power-line carrier.

**437-002-2320 Substations**

We found an error in (3) – it should read “section” instead of “rule.” (3) Substation fences. Conductive fences around substations must be grounded. When a substation fence is expanded or a ~~rule~~ (section) is removed, fence ~~rule~~-(section) must be isolated, grounded, or bonded as necessary to protect employees from hazardous differences in electric potential.

437-002-2320 (6)(d) (C) “The worker must not get off the ground without the specific approval of the person responsible for control of entry except to operate such equipment as light motor vehicles, which have no equipment or loads that can project above the cab.” We will look at changing the “get off the ground” language.

437-002-2320 (5)(d) “Proper identification and warning signs must be posted at all entrances to battery rooms or compartments.” It was mentioned that there are also battery rooms in telecommunications.

437-002-2321 (11) Coal and ash handling (j) “However if the employer can demonstrate that the system's function would be seriously hindered by the required time delay, warning signs may be provided in place of the audible warning device.” There was confusion about this paragraph. Gary will check on this issue.

**437-002-2322 Special conditions**

437-002-2322 (5) Protection against drowning. It was suggested that there should be some provision about the depth of the water. Ken will look into this.

437-002-2322 (6)(d) “The employer must protect excavated areas with barricades. We discussed the meaning of this paragraph.” This is a federal rule. We will check the preamble.

## **437-002-2323 Definitions**

We discussed both federal and Oregon's definitions of "system operator." We agreed to remove the federal definition.

(federal) **System operator.** A qualified person designated to operate the system or its parts.

(Oregon) **System operator.** *A qualified person who has been designated by the employer to have authority over switching, clearances, and operation of the system and its parts.*

**Voltage.** We discussed definitions of voltage. We will address the consistency of voltage.

Voltage (low). Any voltage of less than 600 volts.

Voltage (high). Any voltage between 600 and 230,000 volts.

Add "Power line carrier" definition.

## **437-002-2303 Hazardous energy control (lockout/tagout) procedures**

We discussed lockout/tagout in this first paragraph.

(1) Application. "The provisions of this rule apply to the use of lockout/tagout procedures for the control of energy sources in installations for the purpose of electric power generation, including related equipment for communication or metering. Locking and tagging procedures for the deenergizing of electric energy sources which are used exclusively for purposes of transmission and distribution are addressed in 437-002-2314 Deenergizing lines and equipment for employee protection. Construction activities requiring the deenergizing of lines and equipment are addressed in 437-002-2314."

We discussed using the phrase "Hazardous energy control procedures for the deenergizing..." and removing "Locking and tagging."

## **Other rules**

### **PPE – testing of rubber gloves**

Did we miss the requirements for testing rubber gloves? We will look into this.

### **Safety watch**

Did we miss the requirements and definition for a safety watcher? (437-003-0145, 437-003-0150 and 437-002-2305 were our previous safety watcher rules.) Evidently, we mistakenly removed the language. We decided to put the safety watch rule back. We will send the language out to the group.

## **Hearings**

We agreed to hold hearings in Medford, Bend, and at the Oregon OSHA field office in Durham.

## **Fiscal Impact**

Jeff asked if we have many any changes since our proposed rule that has had any fiscal impact.

The group agreed that there isn't any additional fiscal impact beyond the original proposed rules.

## **Discussion on 437-002-2311**

**437-002-2311(2)(b)(E)** states, “Routine circuit switching, including installation or removal of a load break elbow with a live line tool on a single phase line or apparatus, when the employer can demonstrate that conditions at the site allow safe performance of this work.”

Tracy and others would like “on a single phase line or apparatus” removed.

The group suggested taking the language back to the federal language if we are allowing the exception to the two-worker rule.

### **437-002-2311 (4) Type of insulation, Exception.**

It was suggested that this exception creates a dangerous situation. The exception states, “If the employer can demonstrate that conditions of a particular situation prevent live line tool installation of protective equipment, protective equipment may be installed or removed with rubber gloves on voltages not over 15,000 volts for that situation only, and conditions must be documented by the employer.” We will look at this issue and let the group know of the decision to remove the exception or not.

**Meeting Adjourned: 2 p.m.**