

Legislation Report – Sept. 24, 2007

I attended the Boiler Technology Committee meeting at the BC Safety Authority last Thursday, September 20, 2007. I was elected Chair of the Committee for the next term.

We received an incident report update where we learned that no boiler incidents had been reported since the last meeting. We need to work harder to convince Power Engineers to report incidents, including near miss incidents to the BCSA so that we can all learn from them. There was mention of an incident that occurred in Tennessee where the low water cutouts were bypassed on a Cleaver Brooks boiler. The boiler was run dry and overheated and a maintenance person started the feedwater pump. It was a very serious incident and I volunteered to put a notice on our website about the importance of reporting incidents to the BCSA.

There is a TILMA (Trades Industry Labour Mobility Agreement) meeting at BCIT on Thursday and Friday and I have been invited to attend as the new Chair of the Boiler Technology Committee. Alberta has made changes to their regulation and so have we. An example of a change that BC has made is the addition of a definition of heating plant.

Excerpt from ABSA Reg.:

(o) *“heating plant” means*

(i) a boiler in which steam or other vapour may be generated at a pressure that does not exceed 103 kilopascals and a temperature that does not exceed 121 degrees Celsius,

(ii) a boiler in which water or other liquid may be heated to a pressure that does not exceed 1103 kilopascals and a temperature that does not exceed 121 degrees Celsius at or near the outlet of the boiler, or

(iii) a system or arrangement of boilers described in subclause (i) or (ii),

and the pressure vessels, pressure piping systems and fittings used in connection with one or more of the boilers;

Another result is to return to the pre-1998 (additional 25 m³) requirement for 4th class power engineers. 86 plants are affected. All of the changes due to TILMA and all of the other changes to the regulation that we have recommended will be put together in a discussion paper by early December. This document will be circulated for comment with the TILMA changes clearly distinguished from the others. We will have four weeks (through Christmas) to comment on these changes before they are forwarded to government.

The BCSA reports that all 1800 boilers identified to be inspected after the BCIT incident will be done by the end of September. They still have to do another 3400 school/hospital boilers that are approximately half completed.

The BCSA is going through the database of certificates and has inputted the historical numbers.

Catherine Roome, VP of Engineering and Risk gave an overview of the re-organization of the branch indicating that leadership for certification will be from the Safety Manager's office. She says her announcement is a starting point to receive input from Power Engineers on exactly how to do it. A suggestion was for us to get our Education Committee up to speed to deal with it.

I met with Catherine after the Boiler Technology Committee meeting and asked her if she would be open to IPE involvement in Power Engineer certification. She said she was very interested and pointed to the crane certification model.

Pan Global has a new Chief Engineer's course out complete with textbook.

The next meeting of the Boiler Technology Committee is December 5 when the consultation document will be available for review.

Eric Steinson, PE