Legislation Report – February 20, 2009

Thursday at the Boiler Technology Committee we received a presentation on Contractor Licensing. Many changes are proposed and members of the Committee gave their feedback to the BC Safety Authority on the proposed changes.

We talked for a short time about the Trades, Industry Labour Mobility Agreement. There is a move to create a national regulation at the CSA level. Regulations regarding Power Engineers are to be standardized right across Canada by April 1, 2009.

A discussion took place again on the subject of re-registration of Power Engineers. A report from industry indicated that since it is clearly necessary to collect the required information on Power Engineers in BC, as in all other constituencies in Canada, there is no problem for Power Engineers to pay a nominal fee for the re-registration, as is done in many other professions.

Sonja Boskovic gave a very good update on the activities taking place in the Power Engineering department at BCIT. Six people from Canfor in the interior recently completed the Thermodynamics paper of their 2nd via online learning.

We learned that the BC Safety Authority will be going online with 4th and 3rd Class Power Engineering exams multiple-choice questions in the next few months. BCIT is working with the BCSA on testing these new online exams.

A discussion took place on how long the Chief Engineer can be away from the plant before a replacement would require an interim certificate. There is some grey area in the regulation, it seems. The Boiler Safety Manager, Mr. Siggers will be collecting information from a group conducting a cross-Canada survey on this subject.

The BCSA's risk registry was discussed with a lot of the talk focused on air compressors and how best to regulate them. A suggestion was made to require documentation from the supplier be passed to the purchaser at time of purchase along with an application to register the unit with the BCSA.

After the meeting I asked the Boiler Safety Manager, Mr. Siggers how Chief Engineers would know they are responsible for defining ancillary equipment in their plants for the purpose of helping to determine what regulated work can be done by Power Engineers.

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