

**Eastern Oregon Utility Safety Committee
Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op
Baker City, Oregon
October 15, 2009**

Minutes

Attendees

Ned Ratterman	OTECC	John Ivey	OR-PUC
Jason D. Louttit	Verizon	Gary Putnam	OR-PUC
Ken Johnson	Umatilla Elec. Co-op	Terry Dunn	Umatilla Elec. Co-op
Gary Boswell	PGE		

Call to Order

- Ned Ratterman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Introductions were made and Ned read the minutes from the previous meeting.

Accidents Report

- Ned read the OUSC incident reports. John Ivey discussed the number of damages for this quarter.
- Ned asked if JR was still working on Locator Certification. John and Gary Putnam stated that they thought he was. John also stated that JR was working with Michael Thompson on the issue, and he would get back to us.

Report of Westside Oregon Utility Safety Committee Meeting

Gary Boswell covered the discussions from the Salem meeting. He also covered the issue of soft tissue injuries.

Old Business

Ned wanted to thank Dave Willis for taking over the last meeting and for handling the golf tournament.

Ned stated that a new Secretary would be elected at the next meeting for 2010.

Ned also stated that the presentation given by the Burn Center was excellent. He thought it would be a good idea to keep bringing them back if they are so willing to go out and give presentations. He finds this to be a critical issue and feels that one cannot give too many reminders to employees on this issue.

Ken Johnson stated that their company has discussed the H1N1 vaccination, but most of their employees do not qualify to receive the injection.

New Business

- Gary Boswell discussed FR and a meeting he was in with Westar Energy to get quotes.
 - Arch Flash exposure - Types of clothing.
 - Up-coming resolution - Utilities have until October 15 to comment.
 - New change - all parts of body must be covered.
 - Issue of change in distance of low voltage around 300v or less.
 - Fed OSHA is pushing change for low voltage criteria.
 - How to classify a car accident - there are 3 ANSI Standards but everyone uses a different one.
- Gary Boswell discussed an incident where an employee using a boom, ran a pole into a primary and asked why no one was watching.
- Ned spoke about employees sending in reports stating that there are no problems, but incidents were still happening with many of them being repetitious.
- Terry Dunn discussed Buck Squeeze.
- Ned discussed OTECC FR Program and stated that they have purchased items for their employees that are required to wear FR clothing at all time. He also stated that if other companies purchase the clothing.
- Ken stated that their company has ordered FR clothing for their employees.

Gary Boswell brought up the issue of the new law on the use of cell phones starting January 1, 2010. He stated that House bill 2377(g) is written so that a person operating a motor vehicle in the scope of the person's employment if operation of the motor vehicle is necessary for the person's job then they are not required to use a hands free device while driving.

Program

Ned gave a presentation on Falling Hazards.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Minutes submitted by John Ivey of the Oregon Public Utility Commission.