



# Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Propane Advisory Council  
Meeting on October 5, 2022

Minutes of the Propane Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held at TSSA head office, 345 Carlingview Drive at 9:00 a.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

**Present:** James Callow, Budget Propane; Ian D’Cruz, Superior Propane; Jay Jackson, TSSA Consumer Advisory Council; Dave Karn (Chair), Dowler-Karn Ltd.; John Lastoria, Canadian Tire Petroleum Network Development; Ryan McLachlan, Slegers Engineered Products Inc.; Jeremy Mitchell, Parkland Fuel Corporation; Rob Loenhart, Canadian Propane Association (CPA)

Alexandra Campbell, VP, Communications & Stakeholder Relations; Olga Sousa-Dias, Executive Assistant; Gary Highfield, Manager, Fuels Engineering; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Stakeholder Relations; Sam Sadeghi, Director, Fuels Safety Program.

**Regrets:** Doug Fines, Huronia/ MED-E-OX Ltd.

## 1. Welcome & Constitution of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

### a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, Council was shown a short video on the safety risks of ice storms.

## 2. Adoption of the October 5, 2022 agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented. One minor change was noted for Item 7. R. Loenhart now represents the Canadian Propane Association (CPA).

## 3. Approval of March 9, 2022, minutes

The minutes of March 9, 2022 were adopted as written.

## 4. Review of Action items from last meeting

D. Karn spoke to the action items. All were complete except for propane fees. K. Kennedy spoke to the fee issue, noting that it remains the third priority on the prioritization list. The propane sector wants a deeper dive on fees to determine why it is so costly to authorize a propane site. TSSA operational processes affecting propane versus other fuels need to be reviewed vis-à-vis other fuels to understand why costs are different for propane.

## 5. Chair’s Update

The chair treated his update as read.

There were no questions or comments from the council.

## 6. Council Administration

### a) Matrix review – Update

J. Callow will renew his membership for another term.

October 5, 2022  
Page 1 of 3



## 7. PAC Issue Prioritization Discussion

### a) Tank and Cylinder Draining Training Requirements

S. Sadeghi spoke to the item. He explained that the prioritization process will follow the Priority Issue Resolution Plan (PIRP). He provided background on the issue of tank drainage. He spoke to the collaborative work done between industry and TSSA on the problem statement. The request from TSSA is to allow trained employees to gain a Record of Training (ROT) for a specialized task of draining tanks of LP to facilitate the change out of pressure relief valves (PRVs). Planned activities are to obtain alignment with industry regarding what training requirements will be and to prepare a TSSA Director's Order.

J. Jackson asked about jurisdictions. S. Sadeghi indicated that the jurisdictional Scan is one of the slides in the PIRP framework that is not currently populated. R. Loenhart said other jurisdictions do permit it, Alberta being top of mind. He will check on other provinces. S. Sadeghi said he will connect with R. Loenhart offline on the matter. D. Karn commented that one of the slides referenced "truck employee" and he clarified it should be a qualified employee generally, not only truck employees. He also commented that industry would be comfortable with having employees with some bulk plant training that should be able to do the purging activities with the ROT. R. Loenhart concurred. G. Highfield added that the Propane Training Institute (PTI) training courses offer a training programs and TSSA would encourage other training providers to offer a course in this regard. R. Loenhart asked which TSSA channel should pursue next steps: training and certification or the Fuels program. S. Sadeghi replied that this would be discussed offline as the project progresses. R. Loenhart also commented on a bullet in the deck that spoke of not creating an unlevel playing field for other fuels sectors, and stated that industry should not feel penalized by an unlevel playing field as only Gas Fitter 1s and 2s can do the work anyway. J. Jackson asked if this would be a permanent or temporary relaxation of requirements. S. Sadeghi replied that the intent at this point is not to keep it temporary. D. Karn said that the requirement for drainage is long-term, so the Director's Order will have to endure over time. J. Callow commented that the PIRP process is excellent, a major improvement from the Risk Reduction Group approach. D. Karn echoed J. Callow's comments. He likes the format and hopes it will be used for subsequent issues raised by council. For next steps, S. Sadeghi commented that the objective will be to finalize the Director's Order. D. Karn added that this change could be an amendment for eventual regulation change.

### b) Draft Advisory for Underground Tank Installation

G. Highfield spoke to this issue, providing an overview and background on the subject. He highlighted the objective of the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" (AHJ) provision in the code, which permits the AHJ to have a registry of tanks in the province for safety oversight. TSSA will work to get the issue included into a PIRP format. Preliminary meetings have been held and there is a consensus on having additional meetings to detail what the industry would like to propose.

R. Loenhart stated that it is the industry's perspective that underground tank installations are just as safe as aboveground tanks. D. Karn commented that underground tanks can be safer than aboveground tanks, for example they will not be exposed to radiant heat when underground. G. Highfield commented that the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs concurs with this observation. R. Loenhart remarked that for more than twenty years these tanks have been installed in the province without extensive provincial oversight. There have been no reported incidents. The 2020 Code Adoption Document contained all the necessary provisions to meet TSSA's safety objectives as the AHJ. The wording of CSA B149.2 does not appear to suggest that every tank must be approved by the AHJ. The provision of the code can be construed as meaning the province allows the tank to be buried underground. The Technical Standards and Safety Act (TSS Act) and its regulations provide further safety requirements, such as only permitting



## Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Propane Advisory Council  
Meeting on October 5, 2022

authorized and qualified persons and compliant sites to do the installations. The contractor audit process can also be used for TSSA oversight. CPA proposes that the periodic contractor audit system, aligned with the AG approach and the OBR, so no valid reason for additional fees and administrative effort. Also, under the TSS Act there are additional requirements for underground tank installations, such as TSSA's pressure vessel requirements like the Canadian Registration Number process, which ensures tanks are fabricated to set specifications. TSSA could use that area of activity for oversight. Given the number of measures in place before the installation happens, further requirements are unnecessary and pose undue burden.

R. Loenhart added that underground tank installers who do installations in both Ontario and Quebec are no longer doing installations in Ontario due to the added costs. J. Callow commented that the propane tank risk is not the same as fuel oil or gasoline. In the US, underground propane tanks are extremely common. A high percentage are installed underground. A permitting system is not required. R.

McLaughlin questioned whether industry's request really amounts to an Ontario-specific amendment. The contractor audit process, a proposed alternate route to compliance, is part of the Ontario regulatory regime. R. Loenhart cautioned that some provinces do not allow underground tanks due to ground-shift and other geological factors. S. Sadeghi said the council will be privy to the outcome of the jurisdictional review. D. Karn asked if this issue will be put through the PIRP process. The Council confirmed that from priority standpoint, "Tank and Cylinder Draining Training Requirements" continues to be the first priority. S. Sadeghi commented that this issue should also be transferred into the PIRP framework. It will be part of PIRP. He does not want to see the issue get postponed. R. McLaughlin appreciated the efforts of TSSA in putting the information together. He offered to assist with the legwork, noting that industry does not expect TSSA to do it all. R. Loenhart echoed R. McLaughlin's offer.

S. Sadeghi spoke to the desire to avoid Ontario-specific amendments. From a prioritization standpoint he understands that the training program is the priority. The second priority would be this underground tank requirement.

### 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:52 a.m.