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Electricity Engineers'
Association

Electricity Industry Update

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - APRIL 2024

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Editorial from Peter Berry



Welcome Hiko Energy Insights to EEA2024!

I am thrilled to announce [Hiko Energy Insights](#) as the major sponsor for EEA2024 in September. It is fantastic to have them onboard!

As a leading provider in low-voltage smart meter data solutions, Hiko is engineered and designed to offer actionable insights. These empower networks to manage, plan, and improve their operations effectively. With a commitment to collaboration and a data-first approach, Hiko provides enhanced data, geospatial visualization tools, and a suite of insights that delivers 99% of necessary information straight out of the box to optimize low-voltage networks.

[and Technology Exhibition the success it is](#). Please support them as they support us. Work is continuing at pace as we shape up this year's event – we had 165 paper abstracts received so lots of great suggestions for us to sort through as we develop the conference programme. Thanks to everyone who submitted.

Also in this month's newsletter we have our submission to the EA on the future operation of the power system, updates from National Committee for Live Work and the Public Safety Working Group, a suite of events and workshops for you to diarise and a summary of the latest Health and Safety statistics report.

On the subject of health and safety, like many of you, I will be watching the trial of former Port of Auckland CEO Tony Gibb with interest. The trial is being described as a first-of-its-kind prosecution in New Zealand. Regardless of outcome, I am sure there will be significant lessons that come from this trial which is expected to last seven weeks.

Our release of the final FlexTalk report and technical insights is getting closer so stay tuned for that coming at the end of next month.

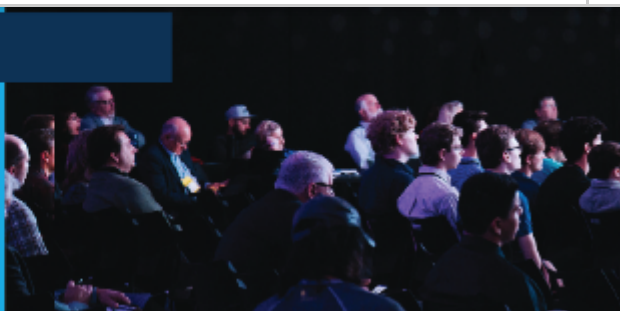
It's also awards season! I hope you have all planned your entries to the [New Zealand Energy Excellence Awards](#) as entries close on May 8. EEA is a proud supporter of the Awards as another way we can recognise excellence and achievement across the energy sector. I look forward to catching up on some of the amazing projects and advancements happening across the industry at the gala event on August 28. [Check out the awards website for all you need to know](#).

The EEA also has its [awards programme](#) and this year, entries for the Young Engineer of the Year award must be in by 17 May. Yes – you can apply for EEA awards if you have already applied for Energy Excellence. In fact, it's a great way to maximise the effort that goes into an award entry.

Finally, for anyone seeking a change, there is a fantastic Chief Executive opportunity going here at the EEA. Hobson Levy are managing the process of recruiting for my replacement so if you are interested, drop Ellie Tomoana at Hobson Levy Executive Search a line: ellie@hobsonleavy.com.

Nga mihi nui,
Peter Berry
Chief Executive

LATEST NEWS



EEA Awards: Change in timeline - more time for entries!

EEA Awards are given in recognition of outstanding contribution to the industry, and to showcase, reward and celebrate excellence and innovation.

Last month we promoted a timeline that we have sadly, had to change and most of our awards will be presented at the Annual Conference in September as per usual.

However, we are still on an early timeline for the Young Engineer of the Year – 17 May.

We need to identify this year's recipient early so they can plan for their trip to the IEC Meeting in Edinburgh 19-25 October. Entries need to be received by admin@eea.co.nz by 17 May!

Our winner will join the ranks of other inspirational young engineers like last year's winner Mitch Graham. [You can read all about Mitch here.](#)

[All the information you need is available on the website](#) including the answers to some frequently asked questions, to make the process as easy as possible.

ESI trainers' forum was a massive success!



Last week we had 65 people attend the Trainer's Forum in Christchurch. Building on the success of the 2021 event, attendees heard from and participated in:

- The EWRB discussing changes to the Electrical Licensing Regime
- Updates to the Common Competency Framework
- Updates from Connexis and Waihanga Ara Rau

- Showcasing of work done at WEL Networks, Northpower and the EEA.

Even better was the opportunity to chat, share ideas and catchup with others who share the same passion for education, training and skills development.

It's safe to say there is an identified need for a mechanism for internal trainers to share issues, solutions, and ideas. We also need broader industry engagement with those undertaking work inside formal tertiary education and training organisations, and to ensure government agencies have a clear picture of the needs of the power supply industry.

A huge 'thank you' for all your feedback – clearly next year, we're going to need a bigger venue.

[A copy of all the presentations from the day are available here on the EEA website.](#)

Submission to the Electricity Authority

We have provided a submission to the Electricity Authority on their consultation paper 'Future operation of New Zealand's power system'. In summary, we support the Authority's endeavours to establish this work programme to manage and we have provided some input on where we believe more focus is needed.

You can read our submission on the [members' section of the website here](#).

Did you know? IEC Just Published

The IEC lists every standard that has been edited in the past month, on its website in the Webstore listed under the title Just Published. Over the past month, there were 134 publications [which you can scan and purchase here](#). You can also sign up to receive their regular email newsletter which serves as a reminder of all the publications made.



We have been working in partnership with industry experts to develop the micro-credential in overhead line design, open to anyone wanting to become an overhead line designer.

OLD-010 Line Design Principles is a course that provides new line designers with foundational overhead line engineering knowledge and provides existing designers with theoretical understanding to complement their industry knowledge. This course has been running for four years and has been completed by well over 100 participants.

In July, 2024 Carl Rathbone of LineSmarts will be running the Line Design Principles module as an in-person workshop in Christchurch.

Find our more [here](#) and register your interest with admin@eea.co.nz.

The wait is over: Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design

For those of you who have either completed one or more of EEA's Power Systems Design (PSD) courses, or have been waiting patiently – in June we will be running:

- PSD-020 Substation Design for Electricity Supply
- PSD-040 Protection Systems for Electricity Supply

The EEA and ElectroNet have put a considerable amount of effort into preparing the content for these courses, and upon completion participants will be able to:

- describe the functional requirements for substations, explain how design decisions are made, evaluate and present options to improve the safety and performance of an existing substation.
- describe the purpose and objectives of protection systems, evaluate a range of protection devices, and design a protection scheme to meet a given set of safety and performance requirements.

If you have completed one or more of EEA's Power Systems Design (PSD) and have been waiting for either of these courses, we will be in touch with you shortly.

If you are interested in participating in the June cohort, or the October cohort please [register your interest here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Two Asset Management Forums: 12-13 June

Held over 12-13 of June, at Rydges, Wellington Airport - the Asset Management Forum and Asset Information Managers Forum are designed for anyone involved in asset management.

Hear from a range of industry experts and members of the EEA Asset Management Working Group and participate in the conversation around shaping the future.

[Register now on the EEA website](#). Note these are two separate events.

While we are still finalising the agenda, the Asset Management Forum will include presentations and discussion on the following:

- Updates from our regulators the Electricity Authority and the Commerce Commission on their key priorities and work plans
- The outcomes of the FlexTalk project and the objectives of FlexTalk 2.0
- EEA's work establishing industry guidelines on the technical requirements and commissioning standards for Connections
- What is new in Asset management?
- Access to data
- Resilience
- Discussion on vegetation management

Key topics to be covered at the Asset Information Managers Forums include:

- Using data to make decisions.
- The new data standard for asset management
- What data do you need to support Distribution Network Operators and Distribution System Operators

Probabilistic Methods Applied to Power Systems: 24-26 June

PMAPS is the leading forum for engineers and scientists worldwide to share and discuss their experience, ideas, and research on probabilistic methods applied to power systems.

The theme this year is “Uncertainties in power systems: current context, challenges, and future trends”. The technical programme includes plenary sessions, panel sessions, parallel paper sessions, parallel forum sessions, and a student poster session.

[Register here.](#)

Health & Safety Workshop: 17-18 July

Our annual Health and Safety Workshop will be back in 2024 – mark your calendars for July 17-18.

Held at the Harbourside Event Centre in Wellington, this is a fantastic chance to meet new people, share ideas and learn about the great work happening across the industry.

This year’s theme is Back to Basics. If you or your organisation are involved in some great health, safety or wellbeing initiatives and want to share what you are doing, or if you have any ideas of topics you would like covered, we would love to hear from you.

Contact hayley@eea.co.nz or give her a call on 027 7024746 to have a chat, no project is too big or small. You can find presentations from previous years’ workshops on [our website](#).

EEA2024: 165 abstracts received!



It is always exciting to see people’s abstracts as they are submitted for consideration and this year has been no exception! Thanks to everyone who has put forward an abstract – our job now turns to reviewing them all and notifying authors of the outcome by Friday 17 May.

In the meantime, Early Bird registrations are open so get one task off the list early in the year by booking your place at our industry’s premier engineering and technical event.

[Visit the conference website for more information here.](#)



ASSET MANAGEMENT

FlexTalk final reports coming in May

The final FlexTalk report and the technical insights report will both be published to industry in late May 2024.

The main report will detail the findings of trialling the OpenADR communications protocol in the local environment, and accompanying research into communication protocols and international adoption, contextualising what others have done and what we can learn from it. The report will also provide insights into some of the challenges we observed in the trial and what is needed for our energy system to be operational with flex.

The team will be hosting a series of learnings opportunities in May/June 2024 to discuss the findings - we hope to see you there (more details to be shared shortly)

The FlexTalk project has been an incredible collaboration opportunity, with industry coming together to design and deliver solutions. We are keen to continue this momentum and are working on what's next! Watch this space!

Collaborative focus on streamlining connections

The EEA is collaborating closely with the Electricity Authority's Network Connections Technical Group (NCTG), and the ENA's Future Networks Forum's (FNF) 'Connections Programme' to collectively streamline and better enable distributed generation and load connections with EDB networks across the country.

Our role specifically is to enable more efficient integration into the grid of distributed generation and load connections by facilitating the establishment of standardised technical and commissioning standards. This will be achieved through the development of a suite of industry guidelines that will outline the technical requirements of connection based on the size and location of the distributed generation and load wishing to connect to the grid.

EEA is also working closely with both the ENA and EA, by liaising and receiving key

connections, and the work ENA FNF is doing to try and improve and streamline EDB connection processes.

While still in the early stages, the groups are making great progress in aligning their work programmes for a better outcome. If you have any questions or want to know more, [contact Stuart Johnston](#).



National Committee Live Work Seeking new members as we farewell Richie Inglis

A huge thank you to departing member Richie Inglis for the mahi he has completed since joining the NCLW in 2020. The electricity supply industry is fortunate to have highly skilled, knowledgeable and experienced people like Richie that volunteer for our working groups.

Safety is a journey of continual improvement so Richie's input into developing and maintaining standardised live work procedures, competencies, and industry guidance has been important in ensuring our people get home safely each day.

If you are someone who has a sound knowledge of live work and can share information, listen, and assess different views and constructively contribute to decision-making in the best interests of the industry think about putting your name forward for the NCLW.

For details contact hayley@eea.co.nz

Public Safety Working Group discontinues work on ISO work

potential implementation of ISO45001, an international standard that specifies requirements for an Occupational Health and Safety management system, as a public safety auditing tool for asset owners, and an alternative to NZS7901.

Section 61A of the Electricity Act 1992 states that ‘every electricity generator and every electricity distributor that owns or operates an electricity supply system must implement and maintain, in accordance with regulations made under [section 169](#), a safety management system.’

The Electricity Safety Regulations state that the safety management system must comply with either NZS7901 or regulations 49 and 50 and must be audited.

NZS7901 is a Safety Management System for public safety, developed by Standards New Zealand in conjunction with the New Zealand Electricity and Gas supply industries. The standard provides guidance to owners and operators of electricity generation, transmission, or distribution network assets, as well as gas distribution assets. These assets must have a safety management system that operates to safeguard members of the public or property of members of the public from safety-related risks arising from the presence or operation of these assets.

The PSWG took on the task of exploring whether ISO45001 could be used as an alternative following requests from the industry.

However, during consultation with key stakeholders, significant concerns were raised regarding the acceptance of ISO45001 including the accreditation of auditors and auditing organisations, the costs for accreditation (for a small auditing pool), and concerns regarding the coverage of the ISO45001 extending beyond general occupational health to asset management and its understanding.

Due to these concerns the PSWG has decided it is unlikely that the ISO45001 would be considered a viable alternative, therefore they have closed off this project.

Health and Safety Statistics

This month, we issued the ESI Health and Safety Statistics Report for 2022/2023 providing data and insights from the 36 companies that participated. Key findings from the report include:

- All sectors experienced a slight increase in the Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) from 2022, although the industry as a whole is still below the 2020 target set by the government in 2013.
- The ESI safety target of maintaining <1 Lost Time Injury per 200,000 hours works was again met by all sectors.
- 31% of all LTIs resulted in more than one week off work (last year it was 33%)

followed by Vehicle Impacts.

- There were over 2000 incidents of harm to the public, including motor vehicle accidents, ten of which were serious.

This year's report has raised a lot of questions about why data had changed and whether there is consistency in reporting. We are also aware that the Business Leaders Health and Safety Forum have paused their annual benchmarking project following the advice from CHASNZ on the limitations of TRIFR as a performance indicator.

In response, EEA have established working group to look at options for improving the survey and making the report more meaningful.



Looking ahead

To keep up to date with all of the EEA's activities and projects or to register for an event please visit the [Upcoming EEA Events page](#) on the EEA website.

8 May	Energy Excellence Awards: Entries due
17 May	Entries close for Young Engineer of the Year
5-6 June	High Voltage & Arc Flash Conference – Auckland
12 June	Asset Management Forum
13 June	Asset Information Managers Forum
18 June	EEA2024 Early Bird registration closes Energy Excellence Awards Finalists announced
24-26 June	Probabilistic Methods Applied to Power Systems
1 July	Accepting entries for EEA Engineering Excellence; Public Safety; Workplace Safety; Professional Development Awards
9 July	EEA AGM
17-18 July	EEA Health & Safety Workshop
9 August	Full papers due - EEA Conference and Technology Exhibition 2024
16 August	Entries close for EEA Engineering Excellence; Public Safety; Workplace Safety; Professional Development Awards
28 August	Energy Excellence Awards Gala Event

Connect with the EEA

- Staff within your organisation can now directly subscribe to our newsletters! Email us [here](#).
 - Follow our [LinkedIn](#) page to see more of our outreach and comment on our work and activities.
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