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Electricity Engineers'
Association

Electricity Industry Update



ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - MAY 2024

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Editorial from Peter Berry



This month, the FlexTalk project which started some two years ago delivered the final output of its initial project focus with the publication of the *Demand Flexibility Common Communication Protocol Project Report* and the *OpenADR Technical Insights Report*.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this project and everyone who joined us on the night of our launch. While there are several findings and recommendations to absorb from the reports, what I particularly want to highlight is the way the industry has come together on FlexTalk to share and collaborate in pursuit of solutions to difficult problems.

However, the publication of these reports in no way means, problem solved. There are a wide range of recommendations made in the report, some of which the EEA and EECA will pick up,

That's why I'm thrilled to say that that FlexTalk 2.0 is already in the planning. We aim to continue providing practical transition pathways with and for industry and we need your help. It is likely this next project will focus on larger scale testing including real home setups with a wider range of technologies (EV chargers, solar arrays, home batteries, HEMs, electric hot water heating, heat pumps and other appliances). Watch this space for more opportunities to get involved.

This month we bid farewell to a couple of members of our working groups. The Safety Standards and Procedures Group (SSPG) would like to say a massive thank you to long serving member **Graeme Jackson** who has decided to take off his PPE and go fishing! Jacko - thank you for all the practical knowledge you brought to the SSPG, and we hope you enjoy your retirement.

And it's another massive thank you to **Pat Inglis** who is stepping down as Chair of the Public Safety Working Group. Pat has really energised the group since joining as a member in 2022.

Which means we are putting the call out for new working group members. This is a great opportunity for you to influence the direction of our safety work and make a real contribution to industry. See more below.

Don't forget also to check out the list of events we have running. Health and Safety professionals should register for the Health and Safety Workshop and our ICAM training while asset/operations/data and engineering managers should look at the Asset Management Forum and the Asset Information Managers Forum. Plus our Annual General Meeting is a way for everyone to have a say on our business – register your attendance for the meeting on 9 July.

Finally, keep an eye on your emails next week when our Conference programme is released along with an announcement around some of our key note speakers!

Nga mihi nui and enjoy this long weekend!

Peter Berry
Chief Executive



LATEST NEWS

Release of the FlexTalk reports

thank you to EECA and the industry participants who were involved.

FlexTalk used communication protocol Open ADR 2.0. The report is recommending the electricity sector adopt a standardised protocol for communication and data exchange, to manage the challenges in achieving wide-spread customer engagement in demand flexibility.

It concluded that any adopted protocol should deliver standardised functionalities, namely that it should enable real-time data exchange and be interoperable, secure, scalable, maintainable, platform independent, backward and forward compatible, and non-proprietary.

On Wednesday 29 May we hosted a webinar discussing the project's findings, recommendations and next steps. [You can watch a recording of the presentation here.](#)

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 !

[Read all about Flextalk and download a copy of the reports here.](#) If you would like a hard copy sent to you, email admin@eea.co.nz



FlexTalk panel members left to right: Murray Bell (EECA), Rodger Griffiths (Industry Design Team Chair), Connie Dunbar (Assurity Consulting), Dr Stuart Johnston (EEA).

Seeking new members for our working groups

With the departure of Pat Inglis from the PSWG, Graeme Jackson from the SSPG and Richie Inglis from the NCLW we are now seeking new working group members. This is your opportunity to directly influence the work of the EEA and the safety of your colleagues and the public.

discussion and resolution of national issues affecting safety in the electricity supply industry participants.

The PSWG is a joint working group, established in 2014 by the Electricity Networks Association (ENA) and the Electricity Engineers Association (EEA). Its key role is to support the safety of the public, in and around industry assets.

The NCLW acts as the authoritative industry body for discussion and resolution of national issues affecting high voltage (HV) and low voltage (LV) live work.

To obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference and the position description for either group, please email hayley@eea.co.nz. Please note that you will need company approval to be a member of a working group.

EEA Awards Programme: Opening soon and a new Award to be won!

Entering industry awards is a fantastic way for companies and individuals to raise the profile of amazing work and to support cross-industry learning. We strongly encourage our members to enter!

Engineering Excellence, Safety and Professional Development entries accepted from 1 July

We had a fantastic response to the Young Engineer of the Year call for applications. The judges shortlisting process is now underway with our winner being announced in the coming months.

From 1 July we are accepting entries for Engineering Excellence, Workplace Safety, Public Safety and Professional Development with winners being announced at Conference. [All you need to know is on the website.](#)

New Excellence in Health and Safety Leadership Award

This year we are introducing a new award for Excellence in Health and Safety Leadership and are seeking nominations of individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership, commitment, and excellence to improving health and safety outcomes for the industry.

Nominees do not need to hold a specific leadership role but the nomination must be able to demonstrate how this individual showed leadership through their actions.

[For more information visit the website](#)

Awards season across the industry

Zealand Workplace Health and Safety Awards. Congratulations to all finalists and our sector representatives Connetics; Contact Energy Ltd; Downer; Omexom; Victoria Bouton, Matthew Sadgrove and John Skudder.

The EEA is also proud to support the New Zealand Energy Excellence Awards. We are looking forward to hearing who are the finalists this year, announced in the middle of June. For more information about these awards and details on the awards dinner 28 August, [visit the website](#).

Updates from Standards New Zealand

New draft standards published for comment:

[DR AS/NZS 1891.4:2024 - Personal equipment for working at height, Part 4: Selection, use and maintenance](#)

Closing date for comments to Standards is 10 July.

This standard specifies requirements and recommendations for the selection, safe use and maintenance of industrial fall-arrest systems and devices. There are several changes for consideration.

The EEA previously consulted and submitted feedback on this draft through our representative on the committee for this standard. We recommend that you review the standard and submit your own company feedback directly to the committee, however if you share your feedback with us, we will consider whether to make another submission on behalf of industry.

Please send your feedback to hayley@eea.co.nz – it does not have to be your full submission, just your initial feedback. **Deadline for sending content to us is Thursday, 27 June.**

To discuss the Standard with others from the industry head to the [Health and Safety forum](#) on the Knowledge Network.

New publication:

[SA/SNZ TR IEC 63377:2024 - Procedures for the assessment of human exposure to electromagnetic fields from radiative wireless power transfer systems - Measurement and computational methods \(frequency range of 30 MHz to 300 GHz\)](#)

This document describes assessment methods to evaluate the conformance of radiative wireless power transfer (WPT) systems operating in the frequency range from 30 MHz to 300 GHz with electromagnetic guidelines on human exposure. It is identical with, and has been reproduced from, IEC TR 63377:2022, Procedures for the assessment of human



ICAM Training - Two Opportunities

For the first time since 2022, the EEA in collaboration with Safety Wise Solutions are excited to provide two ESI industry focussed ICAM Lead Investigator training courses.

There are two planned training courses: one in Christchurch and one in Wellington:

- 5th and 6th August - Christchurch - [Registration link here](#)
- 8th and 9th August - Wellington - [Registration link here](#)

The two-day course covers:

- An introduction to systemic investigations
- An introduction to understanding human error in the context of organisational systems
- Data gathering methods including witness interviewing
- Data organisation methodologies (timeline and fault tree processes)
- Data analysis using the ICAM model
- Development of corrective and preventative measures
- Practical application of incident investigation tools in case studies

Choose this course to turn safety leaders into ICAM experts.

Industry Training

This month, 12 people completed the first of the power systems design courses PSD-101 Power System Components. This cohort not only had the opportunity to learn about the people, organisations, rules, and assets that define the New Zealand Power industry, but they were given an insight into the decarbonisation journeys of Australia, the UK and America. A

Plus, another 12 people starting PSD-030 Power Systems Earthing course with [Patrick Coombe](#). To date, 73 people have completed the course, and we now offer an 'assessment only' option for those who wish to count the course towards the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design.

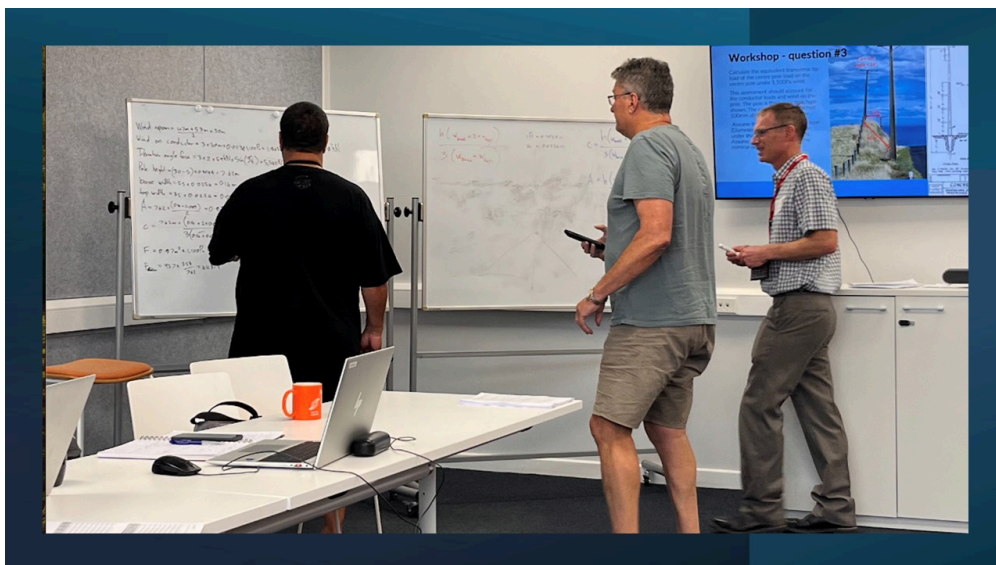
Coming in June:

EEA and the team at ElectroNet are running PSD-020 Substation Design and PSD-040 Protection Systems Design. These two courses are fully booked for June, but if you do wish to participate in future, please let us know.

A new approach to Line Design Principles

In July, we have a cohort of learners undertaking our first OLD-010 Line Design Principles workshop at Connetics in Christchurch. This course builds on the successful pilot delivery of the principles course trialled as a workshop at Northpower earlier this year.

Carl Rathbone of [LineSmarts](#) will be sharing tools, and leading participants through a range of worked exercises. If you are in the North Island and you or any of your team would be interested in participating in this course please let us know and we can arrange. Email admin@eea.co.nz



Carl Rathbone (right) with Northpower course participants



There is still time to register for these two forums being held in Wellington.

Asset Managers Forum:

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

Presentations and discussions will include:

- 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 the new FlexTalk 2.0
- EEA's work establishing industry guidelines on the technical requirements and commissioning standards for Connections
- What is new in asset management and vegetation management

For further information and to register, [visit the EEA website](#).

Asset Information Managers' Forum

The agenda will be finalised at the start of the forum. Themes and topics that have been proposed by attendees so far include:

- Using data to make decisions.
- The new data standard for Asset management
- What data do you need to support DNO/DSO

For further information and to register, [visit the EEA website](#).

SSPG - Low Voltage Work Management Masterclass: 25 June, 9.00am

Following the release of the updated low voltage updated guides and rules, the SSPG are hosting a masterclass to support industry to better understand the requirements of LV work management. The session will cover overarching principles, specifics of the Portable Equipment Guide and Safe Work with Cables Guide and provide examples of how companies are meeting the requirements.

There is something in this session for everyone regardless of where you are on the journey to making work on the LV network safer. The masterclass will be held online from 9:00am

[Register here](#).

26 June, 9:00am

This masterclass is being held to remind people of the reasons for, and requirements around, sending and receiving assurances. If you are a network controller or are planning work on the network that involves other network owners – this is not to be missed!

[Register here](#)

Annual General Meeting: 9 July, 1.00pm

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the EEA will be held electorally on Tuesday 9th July from 1.00 to 2.30pm, via MS Teams.

A minimum quorum of 20 Members is required for the meeting.

For matters of General Business members wish to include in the AGM Agenda, or to tender an Apology, please email us at admin@eea.co.nz.

Other notification details and papers are available via the Member login - [to view the Draft minutes and full notification use this link](#).

Health & Safety Workshop: 17-18 July

The program is out for this year's Health and Safety Workshop. For the full details and to register, [click here](#).

Over the course of the two days you will hear from electrocution survivor Troy Hall, presentations on psychological safety and a leadership panel discussion lead by Francois Barton from the Business Leaders Health and Safety Forum.

The workshop is also your chance to have a say on what should be in our annual survey and how we could better use the 'Back to basics campaign'.

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.

HEALTH & SAFETY



Sharing safety alerts for the benefit of everyone

The EEA strongly encourages members to share their safety alerts as a means of learning from one another and helping to keep all workers in our industry safe.

Safety alerts submitted to the EEA are shared on our website in the members only section. You can view them [here](#).

In May, Downer, Transpower and Powerco provided seven alerts regarding the following subjects:

- Flash over
- Civil works on the OTA STATCOM project
- Returning equipment to warehouse stores safely
- Finger laceration
- Web sling failure
- Operation of safelink series 1 ringmain units
- Broken Insulator

[A further two safety learnings were issued on the StayLive site](#) regarding the use of batteries in a hazardous area and water overflowed the BOP.

Company visits kick off



Hayley Head and Graeme Johnson from the SSPG completed the first of their company visits this month with a trip to see ElectroNet in Greymouth. They gave an overview of the work being completed at the EEA, how best to use the Knowledge Network, LV works management and the De-Energised OH lines guide.

Next on the list of visits are Scanpower, NETcon and Wellington Electricity. If you would like to schedule a visit to your company, please email hayley@eea.co.nz.

Live work definition

When redrafting the online version of the live work definition in, key information was left out from the definition of what isn't live work, this has now been rectified and the live work definition updated, in addition and additional item was included to cover off the application of low voltage bonds.

Check out this and other definitions in the [SM-EI glossary](#).

Industry Consultation

Coming soon! Lock Out/Tag Out Guide

The draft Lock Out/Tag Out (LOTO) guide is about to be released to industry for consultation. Keep an eye out a masterclass being scheduled in conjunction with this consultation to explain the background behind the guide.

Fatigue Guide

recommendations and practical examples.

These guides will be sent out to our members with feedback forms as well as being made available in the Consultation forum in the Knowledge Network.



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.

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| 12 June | Asset Management Forum - Wellington |
| 13 June | Asset Information Managers Forum - Wellington |
| 18 June | EEA2024 Early Bird registration closes Energy Excellence Awards Finalists announced |
| 24-26 June | Probabilistic Methods Applied to Power Systems |
| 24 June | Masterclass - Low voltage work management |
| 26 June | Masterclass - Guide to assurances |
| 1 July | Accepting entries for EEA Engineering Excellence; Public Safety; Workplace Safety; Excellence in Health & Safety Leadership; Professional Development Awards |
| 9 July | EEA AGM |
| 17-18 July | EEA Health & Safety Workshop |
| 5-6 August | ICAM Training - Christchurch |
| 8-9 August | ICAM Training - Wellington |
| 9 August | Full papers due - EEA Conference and Technology Exhibition 2024 |
| 16 August | Entries close for EEA Engineering Excellence; Public Safety; Workplace Safety; Excellence in Health & Safety Leadership; Professional Development Awards |
| 28 August | Energy Excellence Awards Gala Event |
| 10-12 Sept | EEA Annual Conference, Technology Expo and Awards |

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