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ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - MARCH 2024

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Editorial from Peter Berry



Kia ora koutou and wishing you all a happy easter break!

In this month's newsletter we have newly updated guides on supervision and low-voltage bonding plus some SM-EI updates available, a reminder of our upcoming events and the launch of our annual Awards programme. Plus you will find an update to our strategic plan for the year ahead.

An interesting start to the month as political and industry leaders gathered for Downstream 2024. Perspectives were wide and clearly the remainder of the year is going to be busy for us all as the new government rings in the changes. Ministers Brown and Jones set a clear course around encouraging more energy investment, reform of the resource management

resilience, and electricity regulatory reform left me confident that there will be no shortage of challenges for our engineering community ...but also concerned about how are we going to find the capability and capacity needed to deliver this important reform!

At this month's Executive Committee meeting we agreed the new EEA strategic plan and business activity for the year ahead. With the strategic plan we undertook an exercise to simplify how we express the value of the EEA and the work we do. We work as *navigators, connectors and capability builders as we deliver on our purpose: to be a leader for Aotearoa New Zealand's energy industry, providing expert electrical system engineering, technical and safety advice that is pan industry, innovative, inclusive and trusted.*

Our engagement with stakeholders and delivery focuses on three core areas – Health and Safety; Engineering and Technical, and Systems Planning and Design.

In health and safety we are supporting the effective management of critical risks, health and wellbeing, and the minimisation of harm for people who are in, on, or near to, our sector assets.

In engineering and technical we are supporting the effective management and performance of assets and technology for optimum outcomes now and as we transition into a decarbonised future.

In systems planning and design we are future focused looking at emerging technologies and systems and what's needed to transition and deliver a net-zero carbon economy. This includes people, systems and safe operation at all levels.

Alongside this work we continue to deliver value to the industry through our focus on advocacy with Government, growing industry knowledge and future capability, helping address challenges collectively by enabling standardisation, and profiling the great work our membership is doing to deliver safe, secure, reliable electricity to our communities.

You can take a look at the plan and our business activities for the year ahead, [here](#).

Finally, my sincere thanks to everyone who has emailed, phoned, sent me a LinkedIn message or stopped to chat over the last month since I announced I was stepping down. Having not left a job in 31 years, I did not really know what to expect and it has been a very humbling experience to hear from so many of you.

Nga mihi nui,
Peter Berry
Chief Executive

LATEST NEWS



EECA Lists approved EV smart chargers

EECA has published an approved list of smart EV chargers recommended for residential and commercial use. [The list is available on their website.](#)

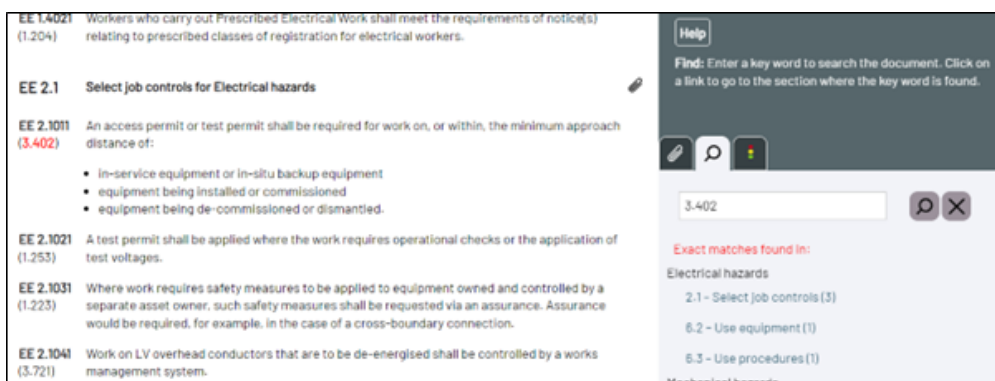
The approved list has been developed to help people identify and purchase, smart and efficient EV chargers. The new, internationally proven technology benefits both the user and the national electricity grid. To be included on the approved list, chargers need to be efficient and capable of two-way communication (smart), based on EECA's technical specification.

They have also published an Insights piece into [Residential smart EV charging and demand flexibility which you can read here](#). In the article, they explain how the widespread use of smart chargers could save billions on grid infrastructure.

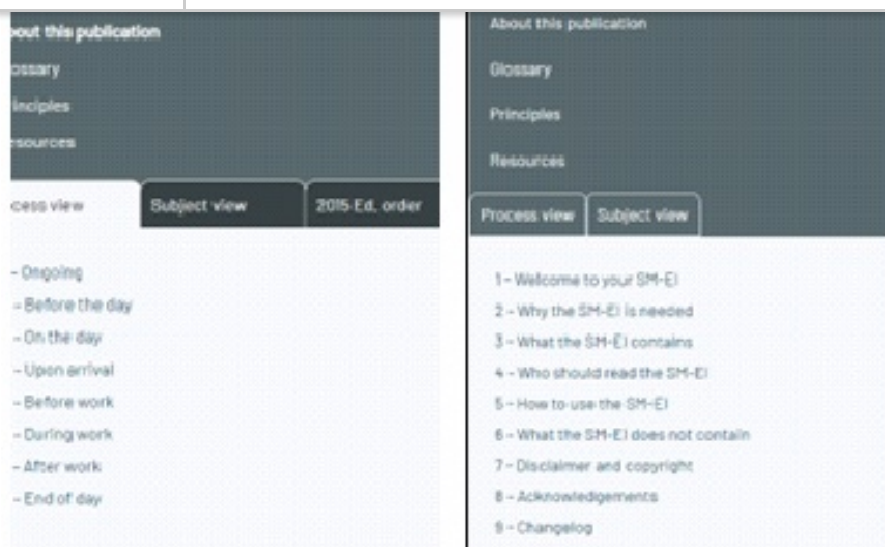
Updated: SM-EI

The SSPG have been working on improvements to the online SM-EI, which include:

- Removal of the third view tab, the legacy tab, left in place to assist with transitioning to the online version. Users will still be able to search on the 2015 rule numbers, which will still be visible in brackets below the new rule numbers. To find the new rules that cover the old ones, click on the magnifying glass and type in the old rule number. All of the rules that relate to that number will be shown in the right-hand panel.



- The section headings have been expanded to include the process view followed by the subject view.



- Some of the headings have been reworded to make grammatical sense.
- The rules that reference other documents have been moved back into the main section and links to the references are listed in the right-hand panel under the paperclip tab.
- There is now a change log available for the SM-EI that details all the changes made with a date of change. This can be found at the bottom of the 'About this publication' tab on the left-hand panel.

Updated Guides: Low Voltage Bonding

The SSPG recently reviewed and updated the EEA guides and rules associated with Low Voltage bonding. The work will be uploaded to the [Knowledge Network](#) and the EEA website in the coming days.

The four guides that have been reviewed are:

- Guide for Safe Work with Cables
- Guide to Low Voltage Work Management for Distribution
- Technical Guide for Portable Equipment
- Work on De-energised Distribution Overhead Lines

These guides have been digitised and are available both for purchase in hard copy and online in the Knowledge Network. However, updating both the digital and print versions led to some delays in publication and we apologise for the delay.

The SSPG is also planning to hold a masterclass this year to go over the changes made.

A huge thanks to everyone who gave feedback and was involved in this piece of work!

Updated Guide: Supervision for Health and Safety

This newly updated EEA Guide is now available from [EEA Publications](#) and at the [Knowledge Network](#). It was last updated in 2018.

It provides guidance on:

- the requirements for supervision for the health and safety of workers undertaking work within the electricity supply industry (ESI), and
- the obligations of anyone who makes decisions that directly or indirectly affect the supervision for health and safety of workers.

This guide is an 'industry procedure' as defined in the SM-EI and provides recommended ways of achieving SM-EI requirements for supervision.

EEA Awards to highlight the best of our industry



The annual EEA Awards programme is back from 2024 but with a few changes in our timeline. We encourage entries from across our industry for people who deserve to be recognised for the work they are doing, and for projects that are advancing best practice.

All the information you need is on [the website](#).

Health and Safety: This year, we will be presenting the winners of the Health and Safety Awards at the Health and Safety Workshop in July – which means you need to get your entries in by Friday May 17! We hope to include presentations from some of our entrants in the agenda for the workshop. This is your opportunity to share best practice in health and safety with your peers.

October. That means we need to find our winner early in the year to enable them to plan ahead. Entries for both of these awards need to be in by Friday May 17! Winners will be notified by the end of June.

Conference Awards and Engineering Excellence: These awards will be announced at the EEA Conference and Technology Exhibition in September so you have a little more time for these. Entries close August 16.

EEA2024 Conference: Submit your Abstract



There is still time for you to submit an abstract for our annual Conference. Abstract submissions close on 17 April. What makes the EEA Annual Conference unique is that the content presented is by industry, for industry.

We hope to see some fantastic new thinking and innovation at Conference this year to help build our collective knowledge but we need all our experts, futurists, problem solvers and curious minds to submit a paper abstract for consideration. All you need to know is on the [conference website](#).

Are you on the list to receive our Conference specific newsletter? It contains all the details you need to be part of EEA2024. If you want to be on the database for this newsletter – please email admin@eea.co.nz.

**Fostering diversity, equity and inclusion
across our industry**



Earlier this month we attended a Waihangā Ara Rau workshop on Inclusion in Leadership to learn from others about how we can better support and include underserved communities in our industry.

It was a great opportunity to make connections and get a sense of how others are progressing. It will also support our team coming together to help form a terms of reference and work programme for a diversity, equity and inclusion reference group.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have stepped forward! Once the terms of reference are approved by the EEA Executive Committee, we will seek people to join the group and deliver on the work programme.

Update from RACE to 2030

This year, the EEA joined Australia's Reliable, Affordable Clean Energy for 2030 - [RACE for 2030](#) - a collaborative research centre for energy and carbon transition. As partners, we can join in on projects and gain access to the expert knowledge that is being developed through the research programme.

Their website holds a fantastic number of resources and project updates. Take a look at some of what is taking place. [A range of research reports are available on their website.](#)

One example is the new research project in collaboration with partners to develop an efficient way of modelling the high usage of grid-forming inverters (GFI) and associated controls to provide an effective way to identify their impact on the network and improve hosting capacity.

Grid-forming inverters are an emerging technology. They allow solar and other inverter-

[Read more about the project here.](#)

Observations from EN2024 - Adelaide

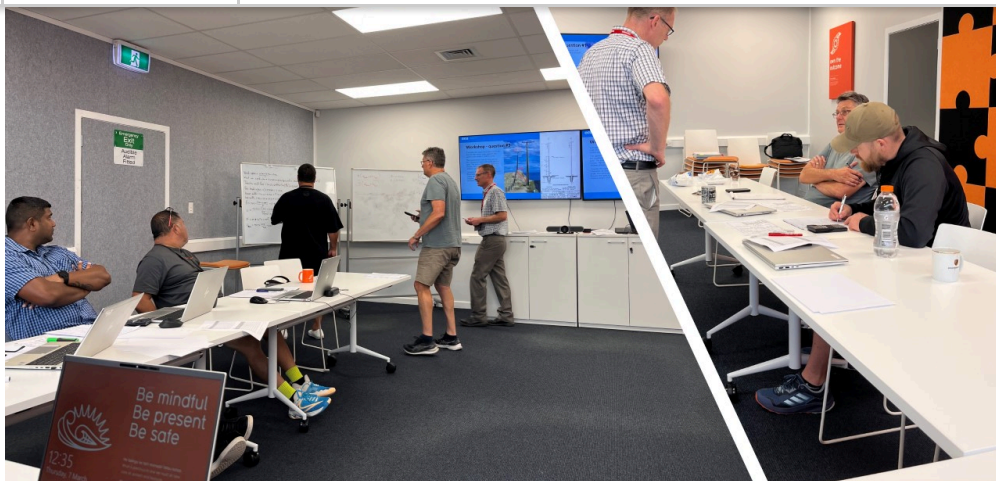
In mid-March, Energy Networks Australia held their biennial conference EN2024 in Adelaide, where over 1200 delegates gathered to discuss and share insights on the challenges and opportunities facing the industry as it transitions from carbon intensive energy generation to renewables.

EEA's Stuart Johnston – Lead Advisor, Engineering and Technical, EEA attended and has shared his insights on [LinkedIn](#).

“Overwhelmingly, the need to deliver a ‘just’ transition was a theme of discussion and the need to bring consumers on the journey with us, rather than just thinking of them as end users. The traditional one-way flow of energy is no longer the status quo, so we must bring customers on our transition journey. No matter what the session, be it technical or community-focused, this theme was resoundingly clear,” he said.



Line Design Principles at Northpower



We recently joined the Northpower team in their office in Whangarei to run the OLD-010 Line Design Principles module as two in-person workshops for 14 staff. The full-day workshops, run by Carl Rathbone of Line Smarts, were a very effective way of working through the theoretical and mathematical elements of overhead line design.

Staff had already completed the self-directed online learning, and in the workshops practiced their math and put Carl through his paces.

This is one example of how EEA can tailor a standard learning opportunity to suit your business. We have a range of opportunities available to people working in the sector, [outlined here](#). If you want to talk about a tailored solution please contact admin@eea.co.nz.

More professional development courses scheduled

We have recently published a new schedule of courses and micro-credentials scheduled for delivery in the coming months.

[Visit our Professional Development section](#) for a list of what is available with the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design programme, the Overhead Line Design micro-credential, the Introduction to Overhead Line Design mathematics and the Safety in Design course.

Please note that although the course dates are published on the website, this is just a place holder. The date will be set once we have confirmed numbers of participants for each course.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date! Asset Management Forums: June 12-13

Following on from last year's successful Asset Management Forums, we are shaping up our programme for this year's event, being held at the Rydges Wellington Airport in June.

The Asset Management Forum will be held on Wednesday 12, while the Asset Information Manager's Forum will happen on Thursday 13.

Mark your calendar's now and stay tuned for more information.

Health & Safety Workshop: July 17-18

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: September 10-12

September 2024 is not to be missed whether as an exhibitor, presenter or delegate! Our 2023 conference attracted over 1,200 delegates and visitors and more than 60 technical presentations. This is your chance to be part of it.

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.

Do you have an idea for a paper to present? EEA 2024 is a fantastic opportunity for you to profile and share new knowledge, practices or technology. It's also a platform for a company or individual to get recognition as an engineering leader. We are looking for papers on the challenges and opportunities as we transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. Plus – you could win a Best Paper or People's Choice award.

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



Resilience Guide: Survey

The Asset Management Group is currently reviewing the EEA Resilience Guide. Much has changed since the guide was published in 2019 and this update is an opportunity to include learnings from recent events and look at international trends and policies in electricity infrastructure resilience management and emergency response that may be relevant to New Zealand.

A survey has been issued seeking feedback into what changes the industry considers most helpful in delivering better resilience outcomes for businesses and communities. Some of you will have received the survey and we encourage you to give it some careful thought. Responses will be aggregated to provide a report on immediate and longer-term changes to the EEA Resilience Guide.

Any questions can be directed to stuart@eea.co.nz.

Standard: AS/NZS 60076.25:2024**Power transformers, Part 25: Neutral grounding resistors**

This standard adopts and modifies IEC 60076 25:2023, which applies to dry type, natural air-cooled resistors, for neutral grounding of transformers and generators, in order to limit the earth fault current in power systems by means of metallic resistive elements.

[More information is on Standards website](#)

**We would love to join your safety days!**

The SSPG is hitting the road this year, keen to visit you and your organisation. They have been involved in the development of many industry resources and want to see as many of you as possible, using them.

The team would love the opportunity to visit your organisation and demonstrate how to make the most of what's available through the EEA and the Knowledge Network. Your next safety day would be the perfect opportunity for a visit.

If you are keen to know more, please contact hayley@eea.co.nz or give her a call on 027 7024746.

OUT & ABOUT



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.

1 April	Accepting entries for EEA Health and Safety Awards, Young Engineer of the Year and the Professional Development Awards
17 April	Abstract submissions close - EEA Conference and Technology Exhibition 2024
18 April	EEA ESI Trainers Forum
17 May	Entries close for EEA Health and Safety Awards, Young Engineer of the Year and the Professional Development Awards
5-6 June	High Voltage & Arc Flash Conference – Auckland
12 June	Asset Management Forum
13 June	Asset Information Managers Forum
1 July	Accepting entries for EEA Engineering Excellence Award
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 Award
10-12 Sept	EEA Annual Conference, Technology Expo and Awards

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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