



MEETING MINUTES

2022 Meeting Schedule

February 17th

May 19th

August 18th

November 17th

Power Generation VPP Call

Date / time 5/19/2022 1:30 PM | *Meeting facilitated by* Alexander Miller

1. Roll call via chat function

2. Welcome by Alex

3. Safety Moment – Ray Delfing, Safety Training Manager, WIN Waste Innovations

a. Suffered Cardiac Arrest Event at Dog Show

b. AED on site, there had been push back to acquiring the AED

c. Individuals will encounter push back when implementing safety proactively (others may not see value in the improvements if an incident has not occurred in the past), you will need to persistently push through this resistance to improving safety.

4. VPP Updates – New Applications, New Approvals, Re-Approvals, etc.

a. John O'Rourke, Plant Manager, Kleen Energy – Application sent week of Oct. 24th, tentative evaluation set.

b. Luminant Sayerville had recertification on May 2nd, VPP Star recertification recommended.

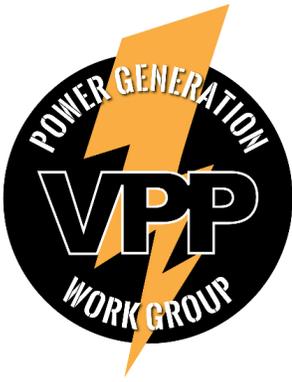
c. Michael Joyce, - will have recertification this year.

d. Scott Christensen, Tenaska-Westmoreland – Submitted VPP application in March.



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- e. Oma Akers, Operations, SMUD Hydro – Follow up evaluation in February with Star Status.
 - f. Luminant Blackstone and Bellingham Plants - May 23 – May 26 – Onsite visit
5. VPP Element – Alex Miller & Kelli Heflin
- a. Benchmarking
 - a. What is Benchmarking?
 - a. Part of the continuous improvement process.
 - b. Benchmarking is a process to measure the quality and performance of your organization’s products, services, or processes.
 - c. A multi-step process where an organization:
 - i. Gathers and shares data with a group
 - ii. Determines what “good” looks like (the benchmark)
 - iii. Ensure that regulatory requirements are met
 - iv. Compare your organizational practices to the benchmark
 - v. Develop actions plans for continuous improvement
 - b. Objectives of Benchmarking
 - a. Determine how and where other organizations are achieving high levels of performance.
 - b. Comparing industry peer’s processes and strategies against your own.



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c. Use the information gathered from your analyses and comparisons to implement changes that will improve your company's performance, products, and services.

c. Why Are We Pursuing Benchmarking

a. As part of our member engagement process, we asked what were some of the issues you would like to see covered – Benchmarking was identified.

b. We had an initial meeting with a few of our members (not well attended, but hopefully with this presentation, there will be more engagement) to discuss primary benchmarking. - Picked several topics:

i. Qualified Electrical Worker

ii. Contractor Management

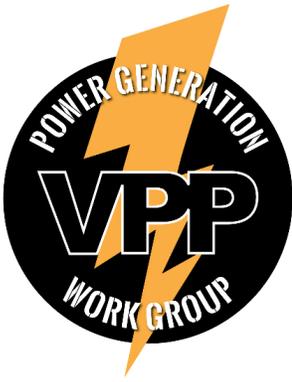
iii. Auditing Practices

iv. Fall Protection

Landed on QEW as our first project

d. Survey Monkey created and will be sent to group. Please fill out survey the data collected will be anonymous.

6. Group Discussion - VPP Initial or Recertification Preparation - What are some best practices for preparing your site or workforce for the VPP onsite team?



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- a. Chris Magnuson, Northwestern Energy – Best Practice, perform internal mock audit before recertification that mimics the OSHA onsite process. This is conducted one year before OSHA site visit to give time to close any gaps.
- b. Luminant completes “mini mock visits” 3-6 months in advance of OSHA visit.
- c. Rich Brown, OSHA Region II - Use Appendix C of VPP manual that has all of the interview questions that could be asked during onsite.
- d. Todd Wulf, Talen Montana – Brings people from outside the plant to conduct mock audits.
- e. Scott Christenson – SGEs from their star sites are used during internal audits
- f. Michael Joyce – If you are going to mentor bring a variety of groups to site from operations, maintenance, management, etc.
- g. Daniel Duff , Luminant– Hourly employees and safety committee completes the task “soup to nuts” for lunch safety presentations and documentation prep.
- h. Brian Sullivan , Region 1 OSHA – for initial evaluation the sites that request a pre-visit meeting have good success, include SGEs, and VPPPA mentor, pre-visit includes a high-level overview and Q&A.

7. Committee Updates

- a. Newsletter Committee – Does it provide value; how can participation be increased?
 - i. Chris Magnuson – Likes the employee focus, sub-element topics and will help, sees the value of the newsletter



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- ii. Todd Wulf – way to improve participation, send out email asking for specific sub-element “How do you ...” questions.

8. Open Discussion

a. How to increase participation and engagement

- i. Volunteering
- ii. Ask company or organization to develop majority of content and/or lead the call to increase visibility and participation.

b. Heat Standard

- i. Richard Brown – Public meeting about development of new standard occurred, there will be more in the future.
- ii. Richard Brown sent these notes from the stakeholder meeting to be included in the notes after the quarterly meeting concluded.

Here is some reference information from OSHA’s webpage regarding a written Heat Illness Prevention Plan. If a VPP site does not already have a written plan, the site can draft a written plan to document the engineering controls, administrative controls, and employee safety training the site is performing to prevent heat stress illnesses. This could be continuous improvement project.

Creation of a Heat Illness Prevention Plan

Employers should create a written plan to prevent heat-related illness. Use the tools on this web site to help. Important elements to consider when creating the heat plan are:

- Who will provide oversight on a daily basis?
- How will new workers gradually develop heat tolerance?
- Temporary workers may be more susceptible to heat and require closer supervision.



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- Workers returning from extended leave (typically defined as more than two weeks) may also be at increased risk.
- How will the employer ensure that first aid is adequate and the protocol for summoning medical assistance in situations beyond first-aid is effective?
- What engineering controls and work practices will be used to reduce heat stress?
- How will heat stress be measured?
- How to respond when the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory or heat warning?
- How will we determine if the total heat stress is hazardous?
- What training will be provided to workers and supervisors?

Reference link: <https://www.osha.gov/heat-exposure/planning>

- iii. Don Watson – Attended public meeting and learned a lot from the stakeholder meeting on the Heat Stress standard.

9. Upcoming event

- a. 2022 VPPA conference Schedule



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**
VPPA CONFERENCES
NATIONAL - AUGUST 23-25, 2022 WASHINGTON, D.C.
REGION I - JUNE 21-23, 2022 KILLINGTON, VT
REGION II - TBD
REGION III - MAY 8-13, 2022 HERSHEY PA
REGION IV - JUNE 7-9, 2022 BIRMINGHAM, AL
REGION V - JUNE 13-16, 2022 SANDUSKY, OH
REGION VI - MAY 23-26, 2022 SAN ANTONIO, TX
REGION VII - OCTOBER 17-19, 2022 DES MOINES, IA
REGION VIII - MAY 2-5, 2022 IN CHEYENNE, WY
REGION IX - APRIL 26-28, 2022 HENDERSON NV
REGION X - MAY 10-12, 2022 BOISE, ID

- b. National OSHA Alliance opportunity between OSHA and PGVPP

- i. Initial stages in progress

10. Next Meeting — August 18th

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