



ISEE Western Canada



Chapter International Society of Explosive Engineers

Blaster's Forum Discussion

**Annual General Meeting – Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, AB
October 28, 2007**

Meeting Chaired by Dave Hudak, Chapter President

Chapter Communications

Gary Anderson expressed the need to invite Chris Watson from the Explosives Regulatory Division to attend our Annual General Meeting. **Bill McAulley** expressed the need to give Chris lots of notice if we expect him to attend.

Transport of Detonators to the Job Site

The issue with the use of alternate crush proof packaging for detonators was brought up again at this Blaster's Forum. Many of the blasting companies have adopted crush proof and weather proof containers for transportation and on site storage of detonators. This is in contravention of current Transport Canada regulations that stipulate that detonators be transported in the original shipping boxes. The problem with this is the boxes are not weather proof and fall apart in the rain. It was decided that we need to make a written request to Transport Canada to allow use of alternate packaging for transport of detonators from the magazine to the job site. **Action – Corry Goumans & Andy Wells**

Potential Loss of “Grandfathering” for Q/D on Explosives Storage

The potential loss of “Grandfathering” for quantity distance determination for explosives storage in urban areas was determined to be a significant concern for many of our member companies. If there is to be any change in the status quo for explosives storage in urban areas, we need to have lots of notice and will need the direct involvement of the Explosives Regulatory Division in negotiations for approval of alternate storage sites. As municipalities generally do not want to have explosives storage within their boundaries, we will need permission to store explosives on Crown land. This will involve negotiations with Provincial or Federal jurisdictions. **Reminder for – Rod Boulay, Bill McAulley**

Use of HazOP Studies for Quantity/Distance Determination for Storage of Small Quantities of Explosives

It was determined that there is a need for carrying out HazOp studies for the determination of Q/D for the storage of small quantities of explosives in an urban environment. This should be similar to the Q/D work carried out for storage of avalanche blasting explosives on ski hills, or the work carried out for reloading facilities for oil well perforating. The current Q/D table for the storage of explosives needs to be expanded to allow for the storage of small quantities of explosives in an urban setting. The current table restricts storage of explosives to 270 meters from homes for all quantities less than 2000 kg. We need to obtain assistance with recommendations on how this can be accomplished.

Formation of a Chapter Government Regulatory Affairs Committee

It was felt that there is a definite need for a Chapter Government Regulatory Affairs Committee to gather information on proposed changes to regulations and address response to issues on behalf of our membership. The following members have agreed to serve on this committee:

Gary Anderson, Ron Elliott, Pat McLaughlin, and Michael Savage

Blaster Training

Stan Holtby recommended that our Chapter proceed with carrying out Blaster Training using the ISEE Certificate Training Program. We have a copy of the program from the ISEE complete with Canadian regulations, and will look into holding the program initially at BCIT in a night school format and a possible Saturday class. If this program is successful, we could take the show on the road.

It would help considerably if the WCB would require that blasters show evidence of technical upgrade training before being able to renew their Blaster Certification. This would encourage blasters to attend the training offered by the ISEE Western Canada Chapter.

Action – Chapter Education Committee (Terry Matts, Lori Lovlin, Steve Rothman, and Ron Elliott)

Gary Anderson – Metro Blasting

Corry Goumans – Pacific Blasting & Demolition Ltd.

Andy Wells – Western Grater Contracting Ltd.

Stan Holtby – Orica Canada Inc.

Bill McAulley – NR Canada – Explosives Regulatory Division

Rod Boulay – NR Canada – Explosives Regulatory Division

Ron Elliott – Pacific Blasting & Demolition Ltd.

Pat McLaughlin – The Rock Mechanics

Michael Savage – International Hydro Cut Technology Corp.

Lori Lovlin – Highland Valley Copper

Steve Rothman – BC Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources