

LOG OF MEETING
OFFICE OF HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND REDUCTION

PRODUCT: Swimming Pools

SUBJECT: National Electrical Code (NEC), Task Group teleconference to review information pertaining to Article 680.26(B)(2) of the NEC regarding equipotential bonding of swimming pool perimeter surfaces.

LOCATION: Teleconference

DATE: October 4, 2022

ENTRY DATE: October 4, 2022

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Einstein Miller, EXHR

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Einstein Miller and Andrew Trotta

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Please contact the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for a complete list of attendees.

MEETING SUMMARY:

This was the first meeting of a task group convened by the NFPA Standards Council. Specifically, the direction and timeline of the task group is as follows:

“The Council directs a balanced Task Group to review the new and/or additional new data cited by the Appellant: namely, the 2021 U.S. Coast Guard Report referenced during the hearing, the results of the most recent EPRI report, the case studies brought forth in the recent (and related) Tentative Interim Agreement (TIA) No. 1661 and any other new and existing reports referenced on this topic. Council directs the Task Group to report the following by November 30, 2022 (in advance of the Council’s December 2022 meeting): (1) its findings based on this data; (2) its recommendations, if any, as to the minimum safety standard within the NEC for reducing voltage gradient in the perimeter of a pool; (3) if a change to Article 680 is recommended, whether TIA No. 1661 would address the Task Group’s findings; and (4) any other findings or actions that the Task Group deems necessary based on its analysis.”

The work of the task group centers around the approved method to achieve equipotential bonding to reduce voltage gradients around the perimeter of swimming pools. Code-making Panel 17 rejected a 2023 NEC First Draft proposal and Second Draft comments as well as a TIA to strengthen the requirements for equipotential perimeter bonding specified in 680.26(B)(2) on the basis that the requirements presently in the Code provided an adequate level of safety against electric shock and that more extensive methods to reduce voltage gradients are permitted. Following a straw poll to gauge everyone’s initial point of view, the chair split the task group into two sub-task groups of five members each. Each sub-task group is to meet at least two times prior to the next meeting of the full task group: October 28, 2022. CPSC staff was assigned to sub-task group 1 and the next meetings are scheduled via teleconference for October 6 and 14, 2022. CPSC staff will be unable to attend the October 6 meeting but will in attendance for the October 14th meeting. The third meeting of the full task group will be held on November 11, 2022.