

Good Practice: If the power has to be left on (e.g. in order to power a pump or security shack) it is good practice for the owner to take out an annual permit with Ontario Electrical Safety Authority, as they use persons expert in electrical safety to conduct annual inspections.

MAJOR ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY CHANGES IN 2007 AFFECTING ONTARIO MINES AND MINING PLANTS

Significant Changes Underway

A number of significant changes to the Electrical Industry have occurred over 2006 that affect Mines and Mining Plants in Ontario; January 2007 will see additional changes to the industry that will directly impact the mining community. Owners should be aware of changes from:

- 1) Memorandum of Agreement between the MOL and the ESA
- 2) Ontario Regulation 213, Construction Projects
- 3) NFPA 70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace
- 4) Electrical Contractor Licensing in Ontario

Memorandum of Agreement

The first of the major changes is the Memorandum of Agreement between the MOL and the Electrical Safety Authority. Signed in February 2006, the memorandum defines each authority's responsibility for enforcing compliance with respect to construction projects on mining property based on the statutory authority delegated them.

In basic terms, electrically, it requires that mines and mining plants file an electrical permit for all new construction work on the surface of any mine property. It also defines how each body will interact on mine property and where joint inspections are required.

Ontario Regulation 213, Construction Projects

Secondly are the major changes to the Ontario Construction Regulation 213 effective April 1, 2006. As you are aware, during the proc-

ess of construction on a mine property, the work is measured to Regulation 213 and not 854 for Mines and Mining Plants. Significant changes to this regulation are affecting traditional work practices such as: the mandatory requirement for the use of rubber gloves, burn protection, expanded requirements for written procedures, etc...

NFPA 70E

Third on the list is the NFPA 70E, an American document titled Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace.

The standard has been specifically referenced in the 2006 edition of the Canadian Electrical Code and will be adopted in the 2007 version of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code.

In short, it assists us in selecting and providing the proper level of PPE when we are working on energized electrical systems, including testing and trouble shooting

Electrical Contractor Licensing

Fourth is the new electrical contractor licensing requirements that came into effect January 1, 2007 under Ontario Regulation 570/05.

The Regulation requires:

- all electrical contractors in the province to be licensed, and,
- at least one electrician within the contractor's firm to be licensed as a Master Electrician.

Electrical Contractors engaged in a surface construction project at a mine or mining plant will have to meet this criteria.

UP-AND-COMING in 2007

CODE LITE FOR THE ONTARIO ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODE

The ESA is currently preparing the changes for the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. The amendments entitled Code Lite will adopt some of the changes set forth in the 2006 edition of the Canadian Electrical Code and incorporate requirements unique to the province.

How To Get More Information

In order to assist mine owners in meeting their responsibilities with respect to these changes, the ESA Electrical Safety Mining Services Group has developed a number of presentations that can serve as high-level overviews outlining the major changes, including:

- Electrical Industry Changes—2006
 - high-level overview of the four major changes discussed above, or, an overview including detailed review of the changes to Ontario Regulation 213, Construction Projects
- NFPA 70E, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace
 - 2-hour high-level overview of the standard for management

The ESA also has a comprehensive suite of full-day technical training seminars for engineering, supervisory and front-line staff:

- NFPA 70E, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace
 - Detailed review of the standard
- **New for 2007**
 - **Good Electrical Practices.**
 - Based on the OHS Reg 854
 - MOL Guidelines
 - OESC & M421