

FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION
SWIMMING POOL SAFETY PROJECT
CONCURRENT MEETING OF THE SWIMMING POOL TAC AND ELECTRICAL TAC
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

MEETING SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

On Monday, September 28, 2015 the Swimming Pool TAC and Electrical TAC met concurrently to discuss the project scope for developing recommendations regarding pool safety issues focused on the prevention of electrocution in swimming pools. The initial scope of the project was proposed and approved as focusing on development of a proposed code amendment requiring low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction (Phase I). The TACs agreed to focus on the low voltage lighting issue initially to ensure that any proposed code amendments regarding requiring low voltage lighting in residential swimming pools for new construction could be developed and proposed for inclusion in the 2017 Code Update Process (Florida Building Code, 6th Edition (2017) amendment cycle (1/2/16 submittal deadline). It was agreed that additional pool safety relevant topical issues including bonding, grounding, retrofitting of existing pools, and education would be considered as a second phase of the project (Phase II). Specific TAC actions included the Swimming Pool TAC and the Electrical TAC voting unanimously to approve the project scoping statement as follows: The initial Phase I scope of the project is to review and agree on whether to recommend a proposed code amendment that would require low voltage lighting in residential swimming pools for new construction. Once the Swimming Pool TAC and the Electrical TAC conclude their evaluation of low voltage lighting they will evaluate additional project relevant topics in Phase II of the project: specifically bonding, grounding, retrofitting of existing pools, and education. The Swimming Pool TAC and the Electrical TAC also voted unanimously to approve in concept a code amendment proposal requiring low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction, with the understanding that relevant safety data and other documentation would be evaluated prior to a final vote on any recommendation submitted to the Florida Building Commission. The TACs will make a recommendation regarding the Phase I project scope at the October 14, 2015 concurrent meeting of the Swimming Pool TAC and Electrical TAC.

Background and Supporting Documents

The agenda and relevant background and supporting documents are linked to each agenda item. The Agenda URLs for the September 28, 2015 TAC meetings are as follows:

http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/FBC_1015/Swimming_Pool_TAC/Swimming_Pool_TAC_Agenda.htm

http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/FBC_1015/Electrical_TAC/Electrical_Agenda.htm

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The 2015 Florida Legislature identified the need to evaluate the electrical aspects of swimming pool safety focusing on minimizing electrocution risks linked to swimming pools. In response, the Florida Building Commission approved a research project (technical enrichment) for a *Swimming Pool Electrocution Prevention Study*. In order to implement the project the Commission convened a process to develop recommendations for pool safety focused on the prevention of electrocution in swimming pools. The Commission determined that the project would be evaluated and recommendations developed by convening concurrent meetings of the Commission's Swimming Pool Technical Advisory Committee and Electrical Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The objective of the project is to evaluate key topical issues, and as appropriate develop code amendment proposals designed to minimize electrocution risks linked to swimming pools.

AGENDA ITEM OUTCOMES

OPENING AND MEETING ATTENDANCE

The meeting was opened at 9:00 AM once a quorum was established for the Swimming Pool and Electrical TACs respectively, and the following members participated:

Swimming Pool TAC: *James Batts (chair), Jordan Clarkson, Bill Dumbaugh, Kevin Flanagan, John O'Conner, Mark Pabst, Bob Vincent, John Wabler.* (8 of 11)

Absent Members:

Tom Allen, Gordon Shepardson, and Corky Williams.

Electrical TAC: *Kevin Flanagan (chair), Neal Burdick, Ken Castronovo, Shane Gerwig, Oriol Haage, David Rice, Joe Territo, Clarence Tibbs, and Dwight Wilkes (Alternate: Brian Holland).* (9 of 11)

Absent Members:

Leonard Devine, Jr., and Roy Van Wyk.

**Members participating by teleconference are italicized.*

DBPR STAFF PRESENT

Nick Duval, Jim Hammers, *April Hammonds*, Mo Madani, Jim Richmond, and Chip Sellers.

**Staff members participating by teleconference are italicized.*

Meeting Facilitation and Reporting

The TAC Chairs meeting was facilitated by Jeff Blair from the FCRC Consensus center at Florida State University. Information at: <http://consensus.fsu.edu/>



CONSENSUS CENTER

AGENDA REVIEW

The Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously, 8 - 0 in favor, to approve the agenda for the September 28, 2015 meeting as posted/presented.

The Electrical TAC voted unanimously, 9 - 0 in favor, to approve the agenda for the September 28, 2015 meeting as posted/presented.

Following are the key agenda items approved for consideration:

- To Discuss Research Topic: Electrocution Prevention Study
- To Review and Approve Proposed Project Scope

The complete Agenda is included as “*Attachment 1*” of this report.

(See Attachment 1—Agenda)

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 7, 2015 MINUTES

The Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously, 8 - 0 in favor, to approve the minutes for the August 7, 2015 meeting as posted/presented

APPROVAL OF JULY 31, 2015 MINUTES

The Electrical TAC voted unanimously, 9 - 0 in favor, to approve the minutes for the July 31, 2015 meeting as posted/presented.

OVERVIEW

Mo Madani, DBPR, provided the TACs with an overview of project relevant issues including proposed legislation considered, but not adopted, during the 2015 Legislative Session. Mo indicated that HB 915 contemplated creating a Swimming Pool Electrical-Safety Task Force established within the Florida Building Commission to evaluate issues designed to minimize the risks of electrocutions linked to swimming pools. Mr. Chris Sloan, during public comment, also indicated that there would also be legislation proposed on the issue for the 2016 Legislative Session. It should be noted, that the Commission has expressed the view that in general it is their preference to develop technical code amendments using the Commission’s established code amendment process, and the Commission is committed to being responsive to legislative matters impacting the Code.

Mo provided an overview of the project relevant documentation linked to the agenda including a matrix identifying the Commission’s approval of funding for an Electrocution Prevention Study as an approved research project, NFPA 70 NEC 2011 (low voltage lighting for swimming pools), Miami-Dade County’s Ordinance 1494 requiring low voltage lighting in residential swimming pools, HB 915 which if passed would have created a task force charged with evaluating matters regarding electrical aspects for safety of pools focusing on minimizing electrocution risks linked to swimming pools, FBC requirements for public pools (FBC Section 454.1.4.2.3 Underwater Lighting); and FBC requirements for residential pools (FBC Chapter 42, residential swimming pool electrical provisions).

PROJECT SCOPE

Mo Madani indicated that the Commission does not have authority to consider requirements regarding the retrofitting of existing pools, unless an existing pool undergoes an alteration or repair triggering the requirement to comply with the Florida Building Code. Mo also reported that information provided by Miami-Dade County (corroborated by swimming pool contractors) indicated that the additional cost for requiring low voltage lighting would be approximately \$85 for the transformer, and that there is no real cost difference between low and high voltage fixtures. Mo explained that it makes sense to focus on low voltage lighting for residential pools in new construction so that any proposed code amendments for requiring low voltage lighting in residential swimming pools for new construction could be developed and proposed for inclusion in the 2017 Code Update Process (Florida Building Code, 6th Edition (2017) amendment cycle (1/2/16 submittal deadline).

PROJECT SCOPE DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

The TAC members and the public were invited to provide their perspectives regarding project scoping. In general participants agreed that addressing the issue of low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction would not solve all of the issues related to minimizing electrocution risks linked to swimming pools, but it is a good first step. The group identified additional topical issues they agreed should be evaluated for the project. Specifically, the TACs should discuss and evaluate the following pool safety topics related to the prevention of electrocution: bonding, grounding, retrofitting of existing pools, and the education of contractors and consumers.

Participants received information that the increased cost of the requirement would only be approximately \$85. It was discussed that the issue of cost although a consideration should not be a determinant when it comes to life safety issues. TAC members from Broward County and Miami-Dade County indicated that their respective counties had undergone a thorough evaluation and public vetting of the low voltage lighting issue and concluded that low voltage lighting should be required for residential pools, and as a result they adopted local technical amendment requiring low voltage lighting.

There was discussion and support for the rationale that it makes sense to harmonize the lighting requirements for residential pools with the low voltage lighting provisions already required for commercial swimming pools.

There were a few concerns expressed that requiring low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction might be solving a problem that does not exist. There was a request for any documentation and safety data regarding whether low lighting in swimming pools increases safety. A couple of participants expressed that if the NEC is comfortable with the existing residential provisions then why is a low voltage requirement for residential pools needed.

The need for contractor and consumer education regarding the proper installation and maintenance of the electrical components of residential swimming pools was deemed important. This includes awareness regarding the requirement to hire licensed electrical and pool installation professionals.

Following the opportunity provided for questions and answers, public comment and discussion, the TACs took the following actions:

TAC ACTIONS

MOTION—The Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously, 8 - 0 in favor, to approve the project scoping statement as follows: The initial Phase I scope of the project is to review and agree on whether to recommend a proposed code amendment that would require low voltage lighting in residential swimming pools for new construction. Once the Swimming Pool TAC and Electrical TAC conclude their evaluation of low voltage lighting they will evaluate additional project relevant topics in Phase II of the project: specifically bonding, grounding, retrofitting of existing pools, and education.

MOTION—The Electrical Pool TAC voted unanimously, 9 - 0 in favor, to approve the project scoping statement as follows: The initial Phase I scope of the project is to review and agree on whether to recommend a proposed code amendment that would require low voltage lighting in residential swimming pools for new construction. Once the Swimming Pool TAC and Electrical TAC conclude their evaluation of low voltage lighting they will evaluate additional project relevant topics in Phase II of the project: specifically bonding, grounding, retrofitting of existing pools, and education.

EVALUATION OF NEED TO REQUIRE LOW VOLTAGE LIGHTING FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

Members of the TACs and the public were provided with an additional opportunity to comment on the Phase I aspects of the project (evaluation of a possible requirement for low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction). The discussion and key points are captured in the previous section of this Report (Project Scope Discussion and Public Comment Summary). It was noted that the specific technical requirements for low voltage lighting would be discussed at the October 14, 2015 meeting.

Following the opportunity provided for questions and answers, public comment and discussion, the TACs took the following actions:

TAC ACTIONS

MOTION—The Electrical TAC voted, 6 – 3* in favor, to recommend in concept developing a code amendment to require low voltage lighting in residential swimming pools for new construction.

** The motion failed as a result of not achieving the required threshold of 75% or more in favor for approval. The motion achieved a 67% in favor vote.*

MOTION—The Electrical TAC voted unanimously, 9 - 0 in favor, to reconsider the previous action.

MOTION—The Electrical TAC voted unanimously, 9 - 0 in favor, to approve in concept a code amendment proposal requiring low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction, with the understanding that relevant safety data and other documentation would be evaluated prior to a final vote on any recommendation submitted to the Florida Building Commission.

MOTION—The Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously, 8 - 0 in favor, to approve in concept a code amendment proposal requiring low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction,

with the understanding that relevant safety data and other documentation would be evaluated prior to a final vote on any recommendation submitted to the Florida Building Commission.

NEXT STEPS

Following are the next steps for the Project:

- TAC members and participants should send project relevant documentation including any safety studies and data regarding low voltage lighting to Mo Madani at: Mo.Madani@myfloridalicense.com by close of business on Friday, October 2, 2015 to ensure it can be provided to TAC members as soon as possible, and linked to the October 14, 2015 agenda in time to meet noticing requirements.
- TAC members should be prepared to discuss the specific technical requirements for any proposed code amendment regarding low voltage lighting for residential pools in new construction.
- TAC members should be prepared to provide a recommendation to the Commission on the Phase I scope of the project.
- TAC members should be prepared to discuss and evaluate the Phase II topical issues.

ADJOURN

After a determination that a quorum was still present the Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously, 8 – 0 in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 AM on Monday, October 5, 2015.

After a determination that a quorum was still present the Electrical Pool TAC voted unanimously, 9 – 0 in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 AM on Monday, October 5, 2015.

**ATTACHMENT 1
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 MEETING AGENDAS**

**FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION
SWIMMING POOL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
CONCURRENTLY WITH THE ELECTRICAL TECHNICAL ADISORY
COMMITTEE**
Monday, September 28, 2015
9:00 A.M.
 WEB URL <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/569554501>
AUDIO: DIAL-IN NUMBER 1 866 899 4679
CONFERENCE CODE: 569-554-501

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- To discuss research topic Electrocutation Prevention Study
- To review and approve Proposed Project Scope

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

James Batts (chair), Jordan Clarkson, Bill Dumbaugh, John O’Conner, Mark Pabst, Gordon Shephardson, Bob Vincent, John J. Wahler, Kevin Flanagan and Corky Williams

MEETING AGENDA— Monday, September 28, 2015

All Agenda Times—Including Adjournment—Are Approximate and Subject to Change

9:00	A.)	Welcome and Opening
	B.)	Agenda Review and Approval
	C.)	Approve minutes from August 07, 2015 meeting.
	D.)	To evaluate the need to require low voltage lighting for private swimming pools. (Research Funding) (NFPA 70) (Ordinance 1495) (FHR 553) (Public Pools) (Residential)
	E.)	General Public Comment
	F.)	Members Comment
	G.)	<i>Adjourn</i>

Staff Contacts:
 Chip Sellers, Government Operations Consultant, chip.sellers@myfloridalicense.com, (850) 717-1827
 Mo Madani, Manager, Mo.Madani@myfloridalicense.com, (850) 717-1825

**FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION
ELECTRICAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONCURRENTLY WITH THE SWIMMING POOL TAC
MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015
9:00 A.M.**

TELECONFERENCE MEETING FROM TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Please join my meeting. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/569554501>
To call in using your telephone in the United States (toll-free): 1 866 899 4679
Access Code: 569-554-501 Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting
Meeting ID: 569-554-501

TAC/POC MEMBERS AND OBJECTIVES

ELECTRICAL TAC MEMBERS: Kevin Flanagan - Chair, Joseph Territo, Roy Van Wyk, David Rice, Clarence Tibbs, Oriol Haage, Dwight Wilkes, Ken Castronovo, Leonard Devine, Neal Burdick, Shane Gerwig

Ø Objectives: **This meeting will be held concurrently with the Swimming Pool TAC**
Discuss research topic Electrocutation Prevention Study
Review and approve Proposed Project Scope

MEETING AGENDA

OBJECTIVE	REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: Description of issue, discussion by TAC, public comment, TAC action
1)	9:00 AM - Welcome and Opening, Roll Call <i>Review and Approval of September 28, 2015 Meeting Agenda</i> <i>Review and Approval of July 31, 2015 Meeting Minutes</i>
2)	To evaluate the need to require low voltage lighting for private swimming pools. (Research Funding) (NFPA 70) (Ordinance 1495) (FHR 553) (Public Pools) (Residential)
3)	TAC and Public Comment
4)	<i>Adjourn</i>

STAFF CONTACTS: Joe Bigelow – Planning Analyst joe.bigelow@myfloridalicense.com
(850) 717-1828 or Mo Madani, Manager mo.madani@myfloridalicense.com