

# Electricity (Network Safety) Regulations 2015 – Preparing for the Future

## Speaker:

Don Saunders BAsc BEc, Director Policy and Electrical Engineering, EnergySafety, WA



ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

## Hosted by:

Joint Electrical and Electronic Papers (JEEP)



## DATE

Wednesday 12 August 2015

## TIME

5.30pm for a 5.45pm start

*Light refreshments will be served  
after the presentation*

## VENUE

Auditorium  
Engineers Australia  
712 Murray Street  
West Perth

## TICKETS (incl. GST)

Complimentary for EA, IET, IICA  
Members & Students  
Non-members: \$30.00

**REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL**  
**COB Tuesday 11 August 2015**

**REGISTER ONLINE**



**This event is eligible for  
1.5 CPD hours**

The new Electricity (Network Safety) Regulations 2015 deal with technical and safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of electricity transmission and distribution networks in WA. They form part of wider legislative changes under development by the Government of Western Australia and are expected to be promulgated soon. The Regulations are made under the Electricity Act 1945 which is now badly out of date. It will be replaced by a new Energy Safety Act 2015 which will cover both electricity and gas safety. The new Act will consolidate presently diverse pieces of legislation affecting energy safety.

The new Regulations will apply to network operators such as: Western Power, Horizon Power, Rio Tinto and BHP. They stem from an Intergovernmental Agreement made by Australia's energy Ministers aimed at achieving national uniformity in electricity network safety design, construction and operational standards. A new Australian Standard AS 5577 is a central element of the Regulations.

Mr Saunders will discuss:

- A brief history of the current network operator regulations and their scope
- How they fit into the State's legislative picture, codes and standards within the electrical discipline
- How these new Regulations have been modified to achieve more "harmonisation" across the State at a National level
- The key changes proposed within the new Regulations and their rationale
- Compliance responsibilities and EnergySafety's role

He will conclude by outlining briefly the expected next steps in the development of energy safety legislation and the matters needing consideration.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Don hails from Vancouver, Canada but he's been with us since 1961. He graduated in electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia that year and promptly came to Australia for a 'one year working holiday', which has extended for over half a century.

He is still working full time as the Director of Policy and Electrical Engineering at EnergySafety, where he has been since 2006. Don retired as the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards in 2002, ran a charity for 2.5 years and worked for a major engineering consultancy for a year before joining EnergySafety. His net retirement duration has been 'about three months'.

Previously Don ran the Department of Cabinet, was the first Director of what became the Office of Energy and was responsible for running both the electricity and gas networks when they were part of SECWA. Among his several charity involvements he was President of the Heart Foundation in WA for six years and a long-time board member.

