21 August 2019*

To: Interested Parties

Subject:

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Dear Interested Parties:

At its meeting of August 5-7, 2019, the Standards Council considered an appeal on the above referenced matter. The Council’s Final decision is now available and is attached herewith.

Sincerely,

Dawn Michele Bellis
Secretary, NFPA Standards Council

cc: S. Everett, S. Gallagher, L. Fuller, R. Solomon, B. O’Connor
Members, TC Energy Storage Systems (ESS-AAA)
Members, NFPA Standards Council (AAD-AAA)
Individuals Providing Appeal Commentary

*NOTE: Participants in NFPA’s standards development process should know that limited review of this decision may be sought from the NFPA Board of Directors. For the rules describing the available review and the method for petitioning the Board for review, please consult section 1-7 of the Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards and the NFPA Regulations Governing Petitions to the Board of Directors from Decisions of the Standards Council. Notice of the intent to file such a petition must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Directors within 15 calendar days of the publication date of this Decision.
SUMMARY OF ACTION (for convenience only; not part of official decision): The Standards Council voted to deny the appeal to overturn the Committee Ballot results on CAM 855-1 and Accept Public Comment Nos. 912 and 454.

DECISION:
At its meeting of August 5-7, 2019, the Standards Council considered an appeal from James Houston of the Southern Company Services. The appeal requests that the Standards Council overturn the Committee Ballot results on CAM 855-1 and Accept Public Comment Nos. 912 and 454 for the 2020 Edition of NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems. Specifically, the appeal requests the addition of text to specify what is not covered within the scope of NFPA 855, allowing utilities to follow the ANSI C2, National Electric Safety Code in matters regarding energy storage safety.

As background, the Technical Committee rejected Public Comment Nos. 912 and 454. Sue Vogel of IEEE-SA and Timothy Croushore of Edison Electric Institute each filed a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion (NITMAM) which were certified by the Motions Committee, then presented on the floor at the NFPA Technical Meeting as CAM 855-1. CAM 855-1 passed the floor of the NFPA Technical Meeting. However, the amendment ballot failed to achieve the necessary 2/3 affirmative vote of the Technical Committee to recommend approval of the Association action.

The text subject to appeal did not gain sufficient support within the standards development process for inclusion in the 2020 edition of NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems. The appeal requests that the Council overturn the results yielded by the standards development process. On appeal, the Council accords great respect and deference to the NFPA standards development process. In conducting its review, the Council will overturn the results of that process only where a clear and substantial basis for doing so is demonstrated.

The Council has reviewed the entire record concerning this matter and has considered all the arguments put forth in this appeal. In the view of the Council, this appeal does not present any clear and substantial basis upon which to overturn the results yielded by the NFPA standards development process. Accordingly, the Council has voted to deny the appeal. The effect of this action is that NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems, will not include text defining the scope of the standard (as there is no previous edition text to which the standard can return).

The scope of NFPA 855 is found in Section 1.1, and as a result of the standards development process, the scope section will remain, but marked as “reserved” until such time that text gains consensus through the NFPA process. The Council encourages the Technical Committee’s continued work and attention to the subject, including the establishment of a Task Group to develop scope text to be submitted as a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) or Public Input for the next revision cycle.
Mr. Houston noted that Tesla is a member of the Technical Committee and raised concerns that a special expert on the Technical Committee also represented Tesla’s interests on certain matters. The Council directed NFPA staff to review the membership of the Technical Committee on Energy Storage Systems. Staff reported back to the Council prior to adjournment and the Council has taken action to ensure that there is no duplicative representation on the Technical Committee.

Council Members Kerry Bell and Gary Keith recused themselves from the deliberations and vote on this appeal.