

Subject **MIACCA February 2020 Newsletter**  
From MIACCA <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
Reply-To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
Date 2020-02-07 07:00 AM



*Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession*  
**NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2020**



### **Edition Highlights**

- **[MIACCA Calendar of Events](#)**
- **[MIACCA Meets with New Energy Ombudsman, Robert Jackson](#)**
- **[MIACCA Attends STRA Proposed Rules Change Meeting](#)**
- **[Federated HR/Risk Manager Webinar](#)**
- **[ACCA 2020 Conferece](#)**
- **[Financing Programs for your Customers](#)**

---

## **Michigan Legislative & Regulatory Update**



**MDSC issues order agreeing with MIACCA regarding**

## **MPSC issues order agreeing with MIACCA regarding Code of Conduct VAPS information sharing.**

On January 23, 2020, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) issued its [order](#) in MPSC Case No. [U-18361](#); basically adopting MIACCA's position on utility offered Value Added Products and Services (VAPS) competitors (VAPS-C) having access to the same utility customer lists that the utility shared with its VAPS, such as appliance service plans (ASP). This means that those mechanical contractors who compete against utility offered appliance service plans or ASP, can now request the same customer lists that the utilities share with their ASP programs without having to sign a utility generated non-disclosure agreement (NDA), without having sophisticated encryption software, and may self-certify as a competitor. According to the MPSC January 30, 2020 [Notice](#), contractors can now start requesting the current utility customer list to do target marketing in their areas. To find out who to contact at the utility to request the customer list, contractors can go to the [MPSC VAPS website](#).

Additionally the MPSC has asked for additional comments on three issues: (1) free encryption products or services that would allow the safe transfer of customer specific data at no cost to the VAPS-C; (2) the proposed revision to the data privacy tariffs of all affected utilities; and (3) commenters are invited to file simple NDAs for the Commission's consideration. Proposed NDAs should avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on VAPS-Cs (including restrictions on using the shared information in regulatory proceedings), and should keep the focus on reasonable protection of the shared information. Any person may submit written comments regarding the three issues identified in this order. The comments should reference Case No. U-18361, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 21, 2020. Address mailed comments to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to [mpscdockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscdockets@michigan.gov). MIACCA will be submitting comments but welcomes your input by February 18, 2020.

## **Consumers Energy and SEMCO starting to provide utility customer lists**

Both Consumers Energy Co. and SEMCO gas utility have started providing customer lists to those who have requested them using the information provided on the [MPSC VAPS Website](#). While DTE has not been as forthcoming, they are working through its issues. If you do make a VAPS Information Sharing request, please share your experience with MIACCA as we want to know if the process is working well for you.

## **MIACCA Meets with the New Energy Ombudsman Robert Jackson**

On February 3rd, MIACCA met with Robert Jackson, our new Energy Ombudsman. As you know, MIACCA worked hard on getting this position to be timely filled.

We discussed our concerns with utility offered VAPS under MCL 460.10ee and the Code of Conduct. A few of the items he is going to address immediately are: 1) To re-engage himself with attending Code of Conduct Meetings. 2) Working to get the Code of Conduct Information Sharing Program to be a consistent process. 3) For Mr. Jackson to participate in the Michigan Public Service Commission new order. 4) That he will participate in the Utility Public Participation Board. 5.) Investigate onbill financing.

The meeting was very productive and Mr. Jackson is eager to work with our HVACR contractors and help to find solutions to our concerns when we bring them to him. You may contact him at: [JacksonR20@michigan.gov](mailto:JacksonR20@michigan.gov)

## **MIACCA Attends Construction Code Commission Meeting**

On January 29th, Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith attended the Construction Code Commission (CCC) meeting. A lot of the meeting dealt with housekeeping, meeting times, and voting on appeals. The will continue to hold Public Comment at the end of the agenda. It was wondered by BCC Director, Keith Lambert, if they wanted to be involved in the training registrants, as in the past. They formed a subcommittee to review and investigate making sure that the CCC is in compliance with the law.

The CCC was very grateful for the re-introduction of the Code Connection newsletter from LARA. It is a really good resource. MIACCA takes pride in the fact that because of our request to have this resource made available in our meeting last year with LARA Director Orlene Hawks, that it will be made quarterly.

Another topic of discussion was having a recorded transcript of the meeting. They would like at least like to record appeals and other pertinent aspects of the meetings in transcript so they have something other than the minutes to refer back to. They will have BCC Director Keith Lambert look into the cost of recording and who would be responsible for paying for them. Their next meeting is April 15, 2020.

## **MIACCA Represents its members at Skilled Trades Regulatory Act Proposed Rule Changes Meeting held by the Bureau of Construction Codes**

On January 31st, Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith attended the public meeting held by the BCC and [submitted these comments](#) to the proposed rule changes to the [Skilled Trades Regulatory Act](#). The BCC is still in the process of putting together the final proposed STRA Rules, but were very open to our comments. MIACCA will stay involved and keep you posted of any updates as we receive them.

[Click here for more subscription information](#)

## **Statewide Mechanical Permit Update**

MIACCA spoke with the Construction Code Commission Chair, Ken Misiewicz in regards to putting the Statewide Mechanical Permit proposal back on the agenda. In our discussion, he indicated that because of Executive Order 2017-3 eliminating their authority to mandate the permit and needing to understand other legal factors to determine where the authority lies to put the permit in place, that more work needs to be done. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.

## **Utility actions calls in to question utilities being exempt from permits when doing gas piping.**

The MPSC, in [Case No. U-20569](#), approved a settlement agreement in which Consumers Energy Co. will pay \$545,000 over violations of the MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act. MPSC's Gas Operations Section Staff found that the company did not mark underground utility lines in a timely manner in more than 20,000 instances where MISS DIG 811 was notified of plans to excavate in April and May of 2019. Staff also found that the utility only partially responded to many other requests for utility marking.

The money Consumers agreed to pay will not be recoverable from ratepayers, under the settlement's terms. Nor will Consumers be able to recover from customers the approximately \$1.7 million in costs the company incurred to eliminate the staking backlog the utility experienced in April and May 2019, or any additional costs related to facility damage incurred by the company due to staking noncompliance.

The MISS DIG system is a public safety program that helps prevent accidental strikes of underground pipelines and other utility lines while digging. Failure to properly locate and mark utility lines can lead to property damage, injury and loss of life.

Given this utility violation of public trust regarding the safety of persons and property, MIACCA has asked the Bureau of Construction Codes to rescind Michigan Administrative Rule R 408.30505(c)(xi) of the Michigan Residential Code, Sec. 105(c)(xi) that exempts utilities from a getting a mechanical permit: "When changing or relocating a gas meter or regulator, a permit is not required when installing gas piping which shall be limited to 10 feet in length and not more than 6 fittings." Gas piping done when changing or relocating a gas meter or regulator should be inspected and approved by the authority having jurisdiction in order to help insure that the intent of the Michigan Residential Code is met as enumerated in Sec. R101.3.

---

**SERVICE NATION 101**  
— WEBINAR SERIES —

*"IAQ or Bust: How to Get Your Technicians Talking About IAQ with Homeowners"*

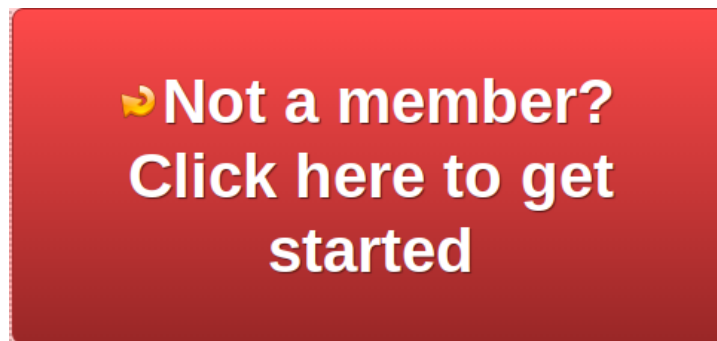
Thursday, February 13th 1:00 PM CDT



To increase your bottom line, your employees need to get comfortable with selling. Unfortunately, that's usually the last thing your technicians want to do. So what can you do move in that direction?

On February 13th, Jon MacNutt of Dynamic Air Quality Solutions speaks on how to get your technicians comfortable with selling IAQ products to homeowners (and improve your sales!).

[Register Here](#)



## Message from President *Phil Forner*

As MIACCA begins another year, I am excited to take on the role of President. We have several legislative and regulatory issues, as you know, that we have been working hard on to improve our industry, such as the VAPS program, the Code of Conduct and the Skilled Trades Regulatory Act proposed rules. Your membership helps us to champion these important industry issues on your behalf. Remember, there is strength in numbers. So if you're already a member, thank you, or if you are not currently giving back to your industry; join MIACCA today to contribute to the protection, education and promotion of this great industry.

We hope to expand our training opportunities for contractors. If there is a specific topic your organization is looking to have a class on, please contact us.

*As always stay safe and keep up the great work!*

---

## ACCA 2020 Conference



**March 16-18**  
**St. Louis, MO**

ACCA 2020 focuses on helping HVAC contractors to optimize for business growth and success by learning from the industry's most successful owners, entrepreneurs, top consultants, and innovative and creative up-and-comers.

The Conference program is filled with HVAC training opportunities and powerhouse speakers covering the most critical and timely topics affecting HVAC contractors today. Sessions cover a wide range of topics that will help contractors be better business people and grow their profit margins year over year.

The Expo space showcases the top products and services available in the industry.

Networking opportunities are uniquely targeted, giving you ample time to make the connections you need to grow your business.

For More info and to Register [CLICK HERE](#)



## Financing Programs

As a Michigan Saves contractor, you have exclusive rights to offer Michigan Saves financing. Our programs were created to help customers take control of their energy costs and help you expand your business. Our financing products were tailor-made to serve the residential and commercial markets; they are among the best in the country because of our low interest rates and fast credit decisions. Whether you're just joining our contractor network or you've been using the programs for years, there's never been a better time to offer Michigan Saves financing to your customers

[Learn More](#)



## Webinar: The Role of HR / Risk Managers

This webinar will focus on how busy HR professionals and risk managers can take advantage of tools they already have to avoid mistakes and navigate generational changes.

What you will learn:

- Overview of employee handbook, corrective action forms and training
- How to sharpen those tools to include other elements such as, gender neutrality, dress code and more
- How to handle bullying in the workplace
- DOL's proposed rule for fixed salaries
- And more!

Who should attend:

who should attend:

- HR Professionals
- Risk Managers
- Managers & Supervisors

[Register Here](#)

---



## 7 Winter Tips For Ladder Safety

- Weather. Never ascend a ladder during snowy, rainy or windy conditions.
- Ladder Placement. Always secure your ladder on a firm surface.
- Avoid Top Rungs.
- Keep Ladders Away From Doors.
- Three Point of Contact Rule.
- Weight Restrictions.
- Never Skip Steps.

## Supported by our Corporate Partner Members



Office: (866) 269-8486, Email: [info@miacca.org](mailto:info@miacca.org), Address: 602 W. Ionia, Ste 209 Lansing, MI 48933

[Unsubscribe](#)