

Lighting Controls FlashTAG

April 17, 2013

Goals

- Rate four emerging lighting controls technologies on E3TNW with five criteria:
 - energy savings
 - non-energy benefits
 - technology readiness
 - ease of adoption
 - value
- Gain a common understanding of advanced lighting controls and set boundaries around what we mean by advanced lighting controls for the purposes of this discussion for BPA programs.

Discussion

Cindy: If an astronomical time clock doesn't have photocells, how can adequate illumination be provided on dark, rainy days?

Doug: There will still be plenty of light to see.

Cindy: What lighting controls save 20% energy with a 20% reduction in lighting level?

Doug: For most technologies it's not linear. We perceive different light levels for different types of lighting quality.

Cindy: Is hacking a problem on wireless systems?

Jim?: Connecting lighting controls to the outside world can add some risk.

Alan: Jim suggested that go with tried and true manufacturers. How do we promote innovative technologies that are not from a large, established manufacturer?

Doug: It's possible to find high quality products not made from the biggest firms. In fact a few years ago great products came from smaller, newer manufacturers. So use established testing standards such as LM 70 and LM 90 and look at reputable test results. But if a firm's only been around for two years and offers a ten-year warranty, can you trust that?

Levin: How exactly should be BPA recommend—or not—specific companies? SMUD provides three pages of requirements for lighting controls and 11 companies that meet those. Some are large and old, some small and new. BPA could do that. Should they?

Ed: He agrees that listing companies can be problematic; a list of requirements is better than list of good manufacturers. The City of San Jose had to return 20,000 lights from Toshiba because they filled with water after rain. So even big companies can have bad products.

Doug: When they started with LEDs, before qualified products lists, they used specifications. That could be useful. Maybe not five pages; maybe six bullets.

Jon Linn: That's interesting—a qualified features checklist for performance and performance reliability.

Ed: The Municipal Solid-state Street Lighting Consortium would like to have a checklist on their website. Is there such a document available that could be used?

Jon: He was hoping the Consortium would have it.

Cindy: What's the point of the questions posted about savings per unit; per unit of what?

Levin: For purposes of savings, the unit is the system.

Jack Z: Maybe per square feet. Per individual installation, not region-wide.

Levin: Some systems are easier to install because the controls folks don't need to coordinate with the IT folks.

Kelly: With mesh networks, encryption, and the history of lighting control systems that start failing soon after installation, couldn't we have requirements for customer installations that receive BPA funding?

John: He doesn't feel the need of a lot of requirements at this time. BPA is not opening up to massive risk, knowing some bad products may come through. Take a balanced approach.

Craig: They probably won't get too many systems for a while, but maybe get more restrictive later.

Jack: The working group is a subgroup that has been meeting and will meet a couple more times to discuss recommendations the next two Fridays. The homework for everyone is to rate the four lighting control technologies on E3TNW. Alan will send out information about this and provide a Survey Monkey. Please complete by April 26. The final meeting is May 2 at 9:30.

Alan: E3TNW and TAG Portal have information, registrations, and links to additional information.