



**IEEE  
COMPUTER SOCIETY**

*Empowering the people who  
drive technology*

Friday 17th April 2020

Mr. Jeffrey Sargent  
Principle Electrical Specialist, NFPA  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, Massachusetts, 02169-7471 USA

Phone: +1 617 984-7442  
Email: [jsargent@nfpa.org](mailto:jsargent@nfpa.org)

Dear Mr. Sargent,

On Friday 3rd April 2020, the IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BoG) passed two resolutions  
<<https://standards.ieee.org/about/bog/resolutions.html>>:

- The BOG terminates the appointments of External Representatives to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), effective 30 June 2020.
- The BOG directs IEEE SA staff to provide assistance to any technical community in IEEE that would like to create a relationship between that technical community and the NFPA.

As a result, while IEEE as a whole will no longer have representation on NFPA committees and panels, IEEE Technical Communities can. NFPA has therefore received applications from individuals to serve as IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group organizational representatives to NFPA 70 CMPs as it has separate and distinct interests from other IEEE Technical Societies associated with the code.

This letter serves as an introduction to the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group. Please place this letter on the August 2020 NFPA Standards Council agenda for consideration alongside the applications for IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group organizational representatives.

The IEEE Computer Society is the largest of IEEE's 39 technical societies, with more than 50,000 global members. The IEEE CS strives to be the leading provider of technical information and community services to the world's computer science and technology communities, as well as to disseminate the contributions of computer science and engineering professionals who develop new technologies and applications to improve the lives of people everywhere. The IEEE Computer Society provides a portfolio of products and services to support its technical communities: 200+ conferences, a digital library with 800,000 articles, 30 peer-reviewed magazines and journals, online education and 250 active standards.

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**CALIFORNIA OFFICE**

10662 Los Vaqueros Circle  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-1314  
Phone: +1-714-821-8380  
Fax: +1-714-821-4010

**WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE**

2001 L Street N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036-4928  
Phone: +1-202-371-0101  
Fax: +1-202-728-9614





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The IEEE Computer Society accomplishes standards development through the leadership of its Standards Activities Board (SAB). SAB encourages members to participate in standardization activities, ensures the vitality and success of IEEE Computer Society standards committees, helps to establish new standards activities in response to advances in the computing profession, and develops useful products that leverage IEEE standards within the scope of the IEEE Computer Society.

The IEEE Computer Society sponsors 14 standards committees, including the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee. The IEEE Computer Society commends IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee's pioneering and longstanding development of networking standards that have enabled global connectivity and had a fundamental impact on everyday life around the world.

The IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group is a subgroup of the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee, and is responsible for the development of Ethernet standards including IEEE Std 802.3™ IEEE Standard for Ethernet and has widespread technical expertise in the topics addressed within the NFPA. This includes Power over Ethernet (PoE) and Power over Data Lines (PoDL) limited power systems, high-speed Copper and Backplane Ethernet grounding issues, high-speed Ethernet used extensively in data centres, and twisted-pair Ethernet that has application in emergency communications.

First published in 2003, the PoE standard specifies the delivery of power over the same cable as data, as well as associated power management. Since then the features and power delivery capabilities have been augmented with the publication of amendments in 2009, then 2018, specifying power levels up to 90 W. This technology has application in power delivery to devices as diverse as Wi-Fi® access points, industrial sensor and actuators, security cameras and doorbells.

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Another addition over recent years has been the Single Pair Ethernet (SPE). The SPE standards provide the user with the same Ethernet performance ranging from 10 Mb/s to 1 Gb/s (with speeds up to 10 Gb/s in development), over just two wires. The SPE standard also specifies power delivery up to 50 W along with the data. SPE was originally developed for the automotive market but is garnering a lot of attention from industrial, automation, and enterprise applications (both Information Technology and Operational Technology). It is expected to be adapted to IOT applications due to the minimum number of conductors.

The IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group has had communications with the NFPA in the past, including when the previous NFPA Coordinating Committee Chair appointed Mr. Chad Jones and Mr. George Zimmerman to serve as liaisons between the NFPA Coordinating Committee and the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group. These nominations seek to build on that previous relationship.

Sincerely,

Dr. Riccardo Mariani  
IEEE Computer Society  
First Vice President, Standards Activities

Mr. Paul Nikolich  
Chair, IEEE 802 LAN/MAN  
Standard Committee

CC: Ms. Dawn Bellis  
Director, Standards Administration and Standards Council Secretary, NFPA

Dr. Leila De Floriani  
President, IEEE Computer Society

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