

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Thursday – April 24, 2014 – 9:30 a.m. (MT)**

**Division of Building Safety  
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian, Idaho  
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello, Idaho**

NOTE: The following report is not a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting;  
however, is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

Chairman Bob Scott called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MT).

**Board Members Present:**

Bob Scott, Chairman  
Jeff Wheeler, Vice-Chairman  
Kreg Davis  
Mark LaBolle  
Tim Phillips  
Al Frieze  
Allan Perman  
Denis Duman  
Dale Pippitt

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator  
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator-Operations  
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General  
Kathleen Watkins, Financial Manager  
Mick Williams, Electrical Program Manager  
Terry Blessing, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Aaron Reynolds, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

**DBS Staff Members Absent:**

Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator-Administration  
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer  
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3

◆ **Open Forum**

City and County Concerns – Bret Stoddard, IDABO Representative, did not have any items to discuss.

Meeting Times – Board Member LaBolle requested board meetings begin earlier than the current time. This topic was further discussed under *New Business*.

Traveling Meetings – Board Member Davis asked the Board to consider traveling meetings again. This topic was further discussed under *New Business*.

Water Heater Installations – Board Member Duman brought forth the issue of the HVAC and plumbing industries authorized to install water heaters.

Statute states HVAC contractors can install water heaters as part of an HVAC system; however, it does not give them the ability to install plumbing to such water heaters, or to install water heaters for the domestic water. The Plumbing Board decided water heaters are

not part of the HVAC system and should be installed by plumbing contractors only. Therefore, HVAC contractors who currently provide this service will need to obtain an appliance plumbing specialty license.

◆ **Approval of the April 24, 2014 Agenda**

**MOTION:** Dale Pippitt made a motion to approve the agenda. Denis Duman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the January 23, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Kreg Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Denis Duman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **CEU Requirements**

The current continuing education unit (CEU) requirements for journeymen and master electricians in every three year licensing period is 16 hours of code update covering changes in the latest edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC), and eight hours of industry-related training.

It has been expressed to DBS the 16 hours of code update training is excessive when there are very few changes made to the code.

The Division suggested, and the Board agreed, to bring to the July Board meeting a proposal to amend the requirements to eight hours of code update, eight hours of code-related, and eight hours of industry-related training.

**ACTION:** For the July 24, 2014 Electrical Board meeting, DBS will provide a draft proposal to amend the CEU requirements.

**ACTION:** The topic *CEU Requirements* will be placed on the July 2014 Board meeting agenda as an action item.

◆ **Outreach/Compliance Official**

Board Member Duman expressed a desire for DBS to provide one or more outreach/compliance officer(s) throughout the state of Idaho to enforce license requirements.

The Division's eastern Idaho regional manager explained how his region accommodates outreach and compliance. A verification permit has been created for inspectors to use on issues other than inspections and ongoing permits.

Board Member Wheeler requested, and DBS offered, to provide a report on the status of verification permits, license checks, permit checks, ratios, etc., at all future meetings beginning with the July 2014 Board meeting.

**ACTION:** For the July 2014 Board meeting, the Electrical Program Manager will provide a report on the Division's outreach/compliance practices.

**ACTION:** The topic *Outreach/Compliance* will be placed on the July 2014 Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

For future meetings, Chairman Scott asked the Electrical Program Manager to provide a list of Notice of Violations (NOV) issued to contractors.

**ACTION:** For the July 2014 Board meeting, the Electrical Program Manager will provide a list of NOVs issued to contractors.

**ACTION:** The topic *Notice of Violations (NOV) Report* will be addressed and a standard item under the *Program Manager Report* beginning with the July 2014 Board meeting.

◆ **Arc Fault**

Chairman Scott prefaced the discussion by explaining there have been two separate occasions within the last few years where the Electrical Board has gone on record as being in favor of full compliance with the current NEC arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) breakers. During the course of negotiated rulemaking in 2013, the Electrical Collaborative Group compromised with AFCI breakers utilized only in dwelling unit bedrooms.

The 2014 NEC AFCI protection has expanded to include kitchens and laundry room areas in addition to other areas specified in previous versions of the code for dwelling units. Additionally, the new code will now require AFCI protection for dormitory units.

Board Member Davis asked the Board to consider moving forward with the negotiated rulemaking process; incorporating the 2014 NEC AFCI requirements into IDAPA 07.01.06 *Rules Governing the Use of National Electrical Code*.

Representative Gayle Batt; Alan Lusk, Boise Basin Electric; Jake Centers, Tahoe Homes; Lars Hansen, Brighton Corporation; Dave Yorgason, Building Contractors Association of Southwestern Idaho (BCASWI); and Steve Kren, Stephen's Electric spoke in support of the Electrical Collaborative Group's decision in 2013 for AFCI breakers to be utilized in bedrooms only.

Representative Crane recommended the Board save the time of the legislature and administration by not bringing the issue of arc faults to the 2015 legislative session. Also stated was: 1) In 2012, the legislature made it very clear they do not support arc fault breakers, 2) The position of the public has not changed; 3) The legislature has important issues to address; i.e., education, economy, creating jobs, and it doesn't need more burdensome regulations and additional taxes placed on the citizens of Idaho; and 4) On the Board's best day, it would have five votes in the House Business Committee.

Mr. Centers asked, and Board Member Davis agreed, to provide Mr. Yorgason with actual statistical numbers from the Fire Marshal on lives lost due to lack of AFCI breakers in residential units.

**ACTION:** Board Member Davis will provide to Dave Yorgason, BCASWI, statistical figures from the Fire Marshal with regard to lives lost due to lack of AFCI breakers in residential units.

**MOTION:** Kreg Davis made a motion to engage in the negotiated rulemaking process. Motion died for lack of a second.

**MOTION:** Kreg Davis made a motion to add the topic *Arc Faults* to the agenda for the July meeting for the Board's vote. Motion died for lack of a second.

◆ **Temporary Journeyman License**

The Electrical Program Manager provided information on the following issues addressed at the January 2014 Board meeting: 1) Out-of-state journeymen/master electricians registering and working in Idaho as apprentices, and 2) Create a temporary license for out-of-state journeymen/master electricians waiting to test for an Idaho journeyman license.

Language, modeled after the plumbing requirements in rule, was used to create a draft proposal. The proposal would require an applicant to state their actual level of competency from another jurisdiction on the application.

A temporary license would not be necessary since individuals can test Monday through Friday at any of the Division's three office locations. No additional discussion was required on this topic.

It was suggested the topic *Temporary Journeyman License* be placed as an action item on the July 24, 2014 Board meeting agenda. The only item to discuss would be out-of-state individuals registering and working outside their classification in Idaho as apprentices.

**MOTION:** Mark LaBolle made a motion that anyone who has been an out-of-state journeyman or master electrician not be allowed to register as an apprentice in the state of Idaho. Denis Duman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**ACTION:** The topic *Temporary Journeyman License* will be placed on the July 2014 Board meeting agenda as an action item.

◆ **Apprentice/Journeyman Exam**

This topic was addressed under the *Program Manager Report*.

Testing Update – Testing is now available on all electrical license types through DBS. To date, there have been 58 individuals who have taken some type of electrical exam. Based on beta testing in March, adjustments have been made to the master's exam; making it more complicated.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report – The Journeyman First Exam Attempts report, November 2013 through March 2014, was reviewed.

Apprentice/Journeyman Exam – A discussion with regard to registration, schooling, and mandatory code updates for apprentices ensued.

Permits – From January 2012 to March 2014, electronic permits purchased through DBS have risen from 62% to 72%.

◆ **Operational Report**

Compliance Officers – Two of the Division’s current regional managers formerly served in the role of compliance officer and are well versed on this issue.

Aaron Reynolds was introduced as the Division’s new Region One Supervisor. Mr. Reynolds was originally based out of Region Three as a DBS inspector; thus leads credence to spreading the approach (See topic *Outreach/Compliance Official*) on compliance throughout the state of Idaho within DBS.

NFPA 70E – NFPA 70E is the standard for electrical safety in the work place. DBS inspectors have been provided training to deal with the impact of 70E. At some level it has helped; however, it is not working. To continue to inspect service panels, additional staff and an internal permitting system would be required. Due to budget and personnel constraints, DBS cannot provide those services at this time.

The Board was asked to brainstorm on ways DBS can approach the 70E issue, short of requiring service panels be inspected prior to being energized, and bring ideas to the July 2014 meeting.

**ACTION:** For the July 2014 Board meeting, the Board will discuss ways DBS can approach the issue of NFPA 70E.

**ACTION:** The topic NFPA 70E will be placed on the July 2014 Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – The Electrical Board Fund, FY 2014 financial statement as of March 31, 2014, was reviewed.

Legislative Audit – An audit of the Division’s business practices has been completed.

Salaries and Wages – The Joint Finance Appropriations Committee approved a 1% raise and 1% meritorious bonus to all eligible state employees effective July 1st.

◆ **New Business**

Traveling Meetings – As in previous years, the Board was asked to consider traveling around the state. The Chairman requested the topic *Traveling Meetings* be added to the July 24, 2014 meeting agenda as an informational item.

**ACTION:** The topic *Traveling Meetings* will be placed on the July 2014 Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

Meeting Times – It was recommended future Board meetings begin a half hour earlier; starting at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time (PT) and 9:00 a.m. Mountain Time (MT).

**MOTION:** Mark LaBolle made a motion for future meetings to begin at 8:00 a.m. PT/9:00 a.m. MT rather than 8:30 a.m. PT/9:30 a.m. MT. Tim Phillips second. Eight ayes and one nay, motion carried.

**ACTION:** The commencement time for future meetings, beginning with the July 2014 Board meeting, will be 8:00 a.m. PT and 9:00 a.m. MT.

◆ **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Mark LaBolle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kreg Davis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m. (MT).

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BOB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD

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C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE

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