

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Thursday – July 11, 2013 – 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 9:32 a.m. (MT).

**Board Members Present:**

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

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator  
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator-Operations  
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator-Administration  
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General  
Kathleen Watkins, Financial Manager  
Rob Foster, Electrical Program Manager  
Rod Freligh, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Terry Blessing, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

**Board Members Absent:**

Kreg Davis  
Allan Perman

◆ **Open Forum**

Journeyman to Apprentice Ratio – Randy Lake, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, brought forth a concern that an out-of-state company is using employees from an Idaho-based electrical company and is not in compliance with the law as it pertains to journeyman-to-apprentice ratio.

A similar situation was brought before the Board a couple of years ago. It was determined even though the individuals are technically employed by another company, they are essentially considered employees of the out-of-state company and that company is responsible for their supervision, integration into the ratios, etc.

It was expressed this is a Board issue and the place to discuss it is at a later meeting should the Board so choose.

◆ **Approval of the July 11, 2013 Agenda**

The topic *Current Amendments to the 2008 Code* was added to the agenda, item three under “Informational Agenda/Public Hearing”, after the publication of the packet.

**MOTION:** Denis Duman made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Tim Phillips seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the April 25, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mark LaBolle made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Al Frieze seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Current Amendments to the 2008 Code**

If the 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC) is accepted at the 2014 legislative session, the code would be approved; however, the current amendments would remain the same. This includes the arc fault circuit interrupter amendment in the Idaho Code.

The only modification to Idaho rule 07.01.06.011 *Adoption and Incorporation by Reference of the National Electrical Code, 2008 Edition* would be to change the edition to 2014.

The public information officer read IDAPA 07.01.06.011.01(e) i and ii *Compliance with Article 210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protector*.

◆ **Labeling and Listing Proposal**

A handout with revisions to the language in IDAPA 07.01.10.011 *Certification and Approval of Electrical Products and Materials*, relative to what was contained in the packet, was distributed. The proposed changes and the definition of industrial machinery, as contained in the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 79, were read. The original intent is to preclude someone from bringing forward an initiative to exempt industrial machinery from the labeling and listing requirement.

Chuck Mello, Underwriters Laboratory (UL) Field Evaluation Program Manager, stated the proposal presented has a blanket approval by the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) for listing of products; however, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not recognize all NRTL products. It was suggested incorporating into the proposal the contingencies OSHA has in its regulation, as well as recognizing NRTL products and standards.

To avoid possible conflicts of interest, it was suggested the language in the packet with regard to professional engineers be incorporated into the proposal distributed at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Mark LaBolle made a motion for the Board to approve the draft rule change once the language, “a professional engineer currently licensed to practice electrical engineering by the state of Idaho who is not involved in the design of the equipment being evaluated or the facility in which the equipment is to be installed.” has been added to the proposal. Denis Duman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Negotiated Rulemaking – Amendment and Adoption of the 2014 NEC**

Should the legislature approve the 2014 NEC, the current amendments including the AFCI amendment in the Idaho Code would remain the same until the Board decides to change them.

A collaborative committee comprised of industry, manufacturers, and code officials was created to review changes in the 2014 NEC. Following are suggested changes to the code:

- A. NEC 680.26 -- Pools – The language in the 2011 and 2014 NEC has been rectified. Recommendation: Remove IDAPA 07.01.06.011.01f *Compliance with Article 680.26 Bonding* in its entirety; reverting to the 2014 NEC.
- B. NEC 210.8(A)(7) -- GFCI, Sinks – The new code requires appliances below or in kitchen cabinets be ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected. Adding extra GFCI's to receptacles within six feet of a kitchen sink does not increase safety beyond the requirements currently in place. Recommendation: Add “other than kitchens” to the language.
- C. NEC 210.8(A)(10) -- GFCI, Laundry Areas – The new code requires all outlets in the laundry area be GFCI protected. Adding extra GFCI's to the laundry area would not increase the safety beyond the requirement of protection within six feet of sink. Recommendation: Remove in its entirety.
- D. NEC 210.8(D) -- GFCI, Kitchen Dishwasher Branch Circuit – The new code requires dishwashers be GFCI protected. This change was introduced by the manufacturers. The collaborative did not see a need for this change. Recommendation: Remove in its entirety.
- E. NEC 210.5(E)(3) -- Outdoor Outlets – For clarification to the size of balconies, decks and porches, the collaborative suggested adding back in the 20 square foot requirement. Recommendation: Add “having an overall area of 20 square feet or more” to the language.

Mike Stone, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), stated NEMA supports the direction of the Board to move forward with the adoption of the 2014 NEC; however, opposes any amendments that exclude safety requirements. NEMA also objects to the background statements in the packet on items B through E that adding extra GFCI protection would not increase safety beyond the requirements currently in place and believes the additional costs are justified.

Tim McClintock, NFPA, urged the Board to move forward with the adoption of the 2014 NEC. NFPA's position is that the codes and standards produced, as a result of the American National Standards Institute's accredited code development process, should be adopted without amending the technical requirements.

Allen Lusk, Boise Basin Electric, expressed concern about the requirement for additional arc faults in homes and the increase in cost to build them. Mr. Lusk suggested the Board stay with the 2008 NEC; limiting arc faults to bedrooms only.

**MOTION:** Dale Pippitt made a motion to recommend to the legislature the Board approves the 2014 NEC with additions to the Idaho Code amendments as listed in items A through E (pools; GFCI's for sinks, laundry areas, and kitchen dishwasher branch circuit; and outdoor outlets). Tim Phillips seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The chairman agreed AFCIs and GFCIs are reliable and cost-effective technologies that save lives; however, does not believe there is a way to prove they save lives.

In 2011, the Board went on record as being in favor of all NEC requirements for AFCI. As of today, the Board continues to uphold its decision.

F. NEC 394 -- Concealed Knob and Tube Wiring – This proposal has been brought before the Board several times. Rod Burk, Utility/Special Projects Coordinator for the Idaho Technical Advisory Committee/Weatherization Assistance Program, stated the intent of the amendment is to allow older dwellings with existing knob and tube wiring to have insulation installed over and around the wiring for energy efficiency.

The collaborative reviewed the draft on knob and tube wiring; however, did not take a position on it.

It was suggested the topic be addressed with NFPA for possible change in the NEC.

The Board desired to take no action on the proposed amendment.

Board Member LaBolle would like to see a study on how essential heat dissipation is to knob and tube wiring. Jeff Fitloff, UL, offered to provide a presentation on aged wiring with instances on testing of knob and tube and breakdown of insulation over time. The Board requested the PowerPoint be provided in electronic format.

**ACTION:** Jeff Fitzloff will seek authorization to release a PowerPoint presentation on aged wiring electronically to the Board for review.

◆ **Scheduling Online Inspections**

A handout was provided with instructions on how to schedule inspections through the Division's online and voice-activated systems. Both allow an individual to choose a date; beginning with the next business day, up to seven business days.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Electrical Issues – A responsibility of the electrical program manager is to manage calls/e-mails on Division policies/procedures and Idaho statutes/rules. An example was provided of a recent email inquiring about the apprenticeship program and placement exams.

Improper Installations – A PowerPoint on improper installations was presented.

◆ **Operational Report**

Meetings – In August, Rob Foster will attend the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Steve Keys has been invited by NFPA to attend its code adoption process meeting. The meeting will be held the end of August 2013 in Boston, Massachusetts.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – The Electrical Board Fund, FY 2013 financial statement as of May 31, 2013, was reviewed.

Vehicles – New vehicles have been purchased; replacing one-third of the Division’s fleet.

Meridian Program – Statistical information, first six months of 2013, was provided on electrical inspections and permit fees for the city of Meridian.

Statewide Projects – Administrator Pearce addressed 26 projects in 16 locations throughout the state of Idaho in which the Division is involved.

Artwork – Artist renderings of major projects currently being built in Idaho will be displayed in the Meridian office.

Changes in the Workforce – The Administrator presented a PowerPoint titled *Changes in the Workforce*. The presentation consisted of charts comparing the average number of individuals working in residential/commercial construction, as registered with the Idaho Department of Labor (2007-2012); DBS budget-personnel reduction (2007-2012); and expenditures to appropriations (2005-2012).

JFAC – For FY 2014, the Division’s appropriations have been reduced by \$500,000 and manpower decreased by ten (10) FTE for a total authorized strength of 121.

Testing – The database for licensing exams has been completed; however, questions are still being reviewed by outside parties. It is estimated the program will be available by the end of this year, 2013, or the first of next year, 2014.

◆ **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 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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