

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Thursday – October 18, 2012 – 9:00 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 intended to be 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 9:03 a.m. (MT).

**Board Members Present:**

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

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

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

**Board Members Absent:**

Kreg Davis

◆ **Open Forum**

Low Voltage/Communication Exemption – Addressed at the July Board meeting, Brian Stutzman, President of Business Phone Specialists, Inc., reiterated his legislative proposal with regard to low voltage/communication exemptions. Mr. Stutzman also brought forth an idea based upon a non-specified state that has adopted the National Electrical Code (NEC); empowering its inspectors to enforce all aspects of the code. The state originally exempted all utilities, homeowners, and other entities from requiring permits, inspections, fees, etc.; however, later expanded the exemption to all.

Apprenticeship Program – Adam Miller, Idaho Forest Group representative, stated it has been extremely difficult staffing journeymen in its electrical department. Upon researching Washington schools, the Idaho Forest Group has determined Perry Technical Institute best meets its training requirements. The only issue, when hiring an employee from the institute, is it only offers a two-year program and the state of Idaho requires a four-year apprenticeship program to become a journeyman.

Jason Lidke, representative for Perry Technical Institute, explained the school's two-year apprenticeship program.

Mr. Miller suggested possibly changing the definition from four years to curriculum-based or hourly-based; ensuring the same practices are taught in Washington and Idaho.

It was recommended Perry Technical Institute submit its curriculum to the state of Idaho, Division of Building Safety (DBS) and Board of Education for approval and analysis whether it satisfies their requirements as a curriculum.

◆ **Approval of the October 18, 2012 Agenda**

**MOTION:** Denis Duman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jeff Wheeler seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the July 19, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

◆ **Administrative Appeals Hearing**

Sweetwater Drilling, Inc. – NOV ELE1206-0096 – Mark Pitts represented Sweetwater Drilling, Inc., Electrical Program Manager Rob Foster represented DBS, and Deputy Attorney General Patrick Grace was the facilitator. DBS Building Safety Inspector/Advisor Gary Sonnen was a witness. All parties provided testimony and argument on NOV ELE1206-0096, violation of IDAPA 07.01.11.011.06 “Performance Outside Scope of License”. The Board upheld the \$100.00 penalty fee and Mr. Pitts was advised of his rights should he choose to appeal the decision.

**MOTION:** Al Frieze made a motion to uphold the Notice of Violation (NOV) as written. Denis Duman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**ACTION:** Patrick Grace will create a Final Written Order for Chairman Scott’s signature and provide a signed copy to Mr. Pitts.

Alpha Electric – NOV ELE1207-0054 – Due to an unforeseen circumstance, John Crane with Alpha Electric requested, and the Board agreed, to reschedule the appeal to the first meeting in 2013.

**ACTION:** Alpha Electric’s appeal, NOV ELE1207-0054, will be addressed at the Board’s January 2013 meeting.

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

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) will hold the 2014 NEC Report on Comments meeting, November 28 – December 8, 2012, in Redondo Beach, California.

A draft of the 2014 NEC is available for viewing at NFPA’s website <http://www.nfpa.org>. The Division was asked to post the draft code on its website as well.

**ACTION:** A link to NFPA’s website, to view the draft 2014 NEC, will be placed on the Division’s website.

A collaborative committee was created to discuss the 2014 NEC; coming up with a consensus of proposed amendments before it goes to the legislature. The Division will provide a facilitator, legislator, and one or two engineers to be on the committee.

**MOTION:** Al Frieze made a motion for DBS staff to assemble a collaborative group to determine whether to adopt the 2014 NEC and for Chairman Scott to appoint up to four board members to serve on the collaborative. Denis Duman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The following individuals volunteered: Mark LaBolle and Allen Perman, board members; Jeff Fitzloff, Underwriters Laboratory (UL); Mike Stone, National Electrical Manufacturers Association; Doug Poedy, city of Boise inspector; Tom Brown B & B Electric; and Aaron White, IBEW Local 291.

Bob Scott will ask Kreg Davis to participate on the committee. The meetings are open to all interested parties. It was suggested, and the Division agreed, to hold one or two meetings prior to the January 2013 Board meeting.

**ACTION:** Prior to the 2013 Board meeting, the Division will coordinate meetings with the collaborative committee.

◆ **Selective Coordination – Code Requirement**

Al Hewitt, Cooper Bussman, presented a proposal with regard to engineering supervision when selective coordination is required. The proposal adds language to NEC 240.12 *Electrical System Coordination*; assisting electrical inspectors to verify that systems will selectively coordinate when required. It would also require qualified persons to be the ones to design the systems.

◆ **Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Listings – Update**

The city of Moscow has been in contact with the manufacturer of the sign in question and is currently working to get it listed.

Jeff Fitzloff, UL, stated the sign will have to be field evaluated or taken down and returned to the manufacturer to be listed. Article 600 *Electric Signs and Outline Lighting* of the NEC requires the sign to be listed regardless of the rules in Idaho for electrical installation.

◆ **Contractor Licensing for “Big Box” Vendors**

As requested at the July 2012 Board meeting, Deputy Attorney General Patrick Grace addressed his legal opinion as to whether retail stores in Idaho need to obtain an electrical contractor’s license under Idaho law based upon the performance of certain electrical activities.

◆ **Electrical Program Manager Report**

Continuing Education Course Approval – Currently, DBS reviews continuing education courses for electrical. This is a time consuming and expensive process. DBS recommended, and the Board supported, courses be approved in the continuing education provider’s home state before the Division will even consider them.

◆ **Operational Report**

Staff Limitations – DBS is experiencing complications associated with growth; i.e., increase in demand, and limited staff/resources; however, is working to address those issues.

NFPA Meeting – In July, Steve Keys attended the NFPA meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. NFPA now offers free training to inspectors on code changes and code books are furnished to attendees.

Labeling and Listing Proposal – A great deal of machinery is being installed in the state of Idaho. Large corporations with credible safety programs would like to adopt North Carolina's provision to exempt industrial equipment from the field evaluation approval process. Smaller companies would like professional electrical engineers credentialed in the state of Idaho, to perform field evaluations on electrical equipment. NFPA 791 is the standard for industrial equipment.

NFPA is looking for an indication from the Electrical Board that it would view favorably along the lines of the authority having jurisdiction to approve unlisted equipment if field evaluations are performed and signed off by DBS staff; thus, not bringing in a third party. The Division would like to exercise that predicated upon situations where DBS staff is not comfortable, registered professional electrical engineers would sign off on the equipment. Ultimately, DBS would like to formalize a rule.

Jeff Wheeler asked, and Steve Keys agreed, to bring to the January 2013 meeting proposed legislation to provide standard criteria for the approval of electrical equipment and apparatus installed in Idaho.

**ACTION:** The Division will bring to the January 2013 meeting proposed legislation to clarify who has the authority to approve unlisted equipment installed in Idaho.

**ACTION:** The topic *Labeling and Listing Proposal* will be placed as an informational item on the January 2013 Board meeting agenda.

Cross-Referencing Permits – Effective November 12, 2012, DBS will only process cross-referenced permits under the following conditions: 1) Multi-family projects where there is a parent permit for the project and individual units cross-referenced to allow finals on those units, or 2) Death of a licensed plumbing or HVAC contractor.

Refunding Permits – Effective November 12, 2012, the Division will only issue a refund if: 1) Overpayment, 2) Duplicate permit, or 3) Job not in the state's jurisdiction.

◆ **DBS Investigation**

Chris Jensen provided a brief synopsis of an investigation conducted by DBS involving several electrocutions in eastern Idaho.

◆ **Schedule 2013 Meeting Dates**

The 2013 Electrical Board meeting dates are as follows: January 24th, April 25th, July 11th, and October 22nd. The meetings will commence at 9:30 a.m. (MT)/8:30 a.m. (PT).

**MOTION:** Al Frieze made a motion to approve the 2013 Idaho Electrical Board meeting dates. Dale Pippitt seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – Kathleen Watkins reviewed the Electrical Board Fund FY 2012 financial statement as of June 30, 2012, and FY 2013 financial statement as of August 31, 2012.

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

Statutory Mandate--State Buildings – As mandated by statute, July 2011, the Division began the plan review, permitting, and inspection processes of state building construction throughout the state of Idaho.

Creative Revenue Enhancement FY 2012 – Kelly Pearce gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *Creative Revenue Enhancement FY 2012*. The presentation consisted of: Energy training, HVAC; energy efficiency compliance database, Governor’s Office of Energy Resources; energy efficiency study, Penn State University; building and plan review fees/inspections, cities of Ketchum and Hailey; electrical and mechanical inspections, city of Meridian; electrical inspections, as needed, city of Twin Falls; inspections, Coeur d’Alene, Nez Perce, Shoban, and Kootenai Tribes; and permit/inspection revenue, state buildings.

◆ **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Dale Pippitt made a motion to adjourn. Mark LaBolle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 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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DATE

12/19/2012