

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Thursday – April 23, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. (MT)

**Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d'Alene
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello
1118 F Street, Lewiston (DEQ)
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls (DEQ)**

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
Dale Pippitt
Denis Duman
Mark LaBolle
Al Frieze
Allan Perman
Rick Stark
Greg Eagy

DBS Staff Members Present:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator-Operations
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator-Administration
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer
Fred Sisneros, Financial Manager
Mick Williams, Electrical Program Manager
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Manager
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Kevin Gellings, Regional Supervisor, Region 2
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

◆ **Open Forum**

City and County Concerns – Raub Owens, City of Twin Falls Inspector, inquired about the new statute with regard to certification of electrical equipment. The Deputy Administrator-Operations addressed this issue under the *Operational Report*.

Arc Reduction Maintenance Switch – Jim Tanner, Representative for EWSOC, Inc., stated out-of-state manufacturers are requiring arc reduction maintenance switches to be installed on equipment with 1200 amp breakers or larger. The question was whether arc switches will be enforced/inspected in the future, and if not, is the added expense necessary for the end-user.

To be in line with NFPA 70E, the new code requires arc reduction equipment to be installed in certain instances. The Division is in the process of working with inspectors to become aware of the issue, as well as how to determine the best way to inspect/enforce the equipment since it is not something you can just look at and see if it does or doesn't work.

Open House – Marc Swinney, College of Western Idaho (CWI) Director of Business & Manufacturing Programs, invited everyone to an open house this evening from 5-7 p.m. at the CWI's Canyon County Center in Nampa.

Job Opening – The CWI is looking for a quality part-time electrical teacher who is a proponent of the trade. If interested, apply at cwidaho.cc.

Electrical License – Jeff Neel requested the Board override the Division’s decision and allow him to retake the electrical journeyman exam. After a brief discussion, the chairman deferred Mr. Neel’s issue for further discussion under the topic *Apprentice License Renewal*.

◆ **Approval of the April 23, 2015 Agenda**

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Allan Perman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the January 22, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Dale Pippitt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Frieze seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Election of Officers**

Idaho Code §54-1006(4) “Idaho Electrical Board” states in part, “The members of the board shall, at their first regular meeting following the effective date of this act and every two (2) years thereafter, elect by majority vote of the members of the board, a chairman ... and a vice-chairman ...”.

Chairman

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to reappoint Bob Scott as chairman. Allan Perman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Vice-Chairman

MOTION: Denis Duman made a motion to reappoint Jeff Wheeler as vice-chairman. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Apprentice License Renewal**

Electrical Journeyman License – Jeff Neel stated he was issued an Idaho electrical journeyman license in 1996 but moved to another state and let it expire. Recently, Mr. Neel applied to retake the electrical journeyman exam; however, his application was denied due to the lack of verifiable documentation.

Further information was provided by Mr. Neel at this meeting. To be approved to take the exam, the chairman advised the licensing supervisor verify Mr. Neel’s schooling hours and for Mr. Neel to get his work hours notarized by his previous employer(s).

Apprentice License Renewal – The issue in the board packet with regard to a “lifetime” apprentice was resolved prior to the meeting.

Idaho Code § 54-1003A(3) *Apprentice Electrician* states, “Any person who, for the purpose of learning the trade of journeyman electrician, engages in the installation of electric wiring, equipment, or apparatus while under the constant on-the-job supervision of a qualified journeyman electrician shall, for the purpose of this act, be known as an apprentice electrician.”

The Board upheld its original decision to require apprentices to provide proof of completing two years of consecutive schooling to renew, one time only, their five-year apprentice registration.

MOTION: Denis Duman made a motion for the apprentice rules to remain status quo. Al Frieze seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Specialty Electrical License**

Dale Farnworth, owner of CS Techs, Inc., has worked in the refrigeration industry for 40 years. His employees, including himself, have HVAC licenses. In accordance to statute, specifically refrigeration, a specialty electrical license is required. Mr. Farnworth is eligible to take the specialty electrical journeyman license exam; however, does not qualify for the specialty electrical contractor license.

After a brief discussion, the Deputy Administrator-Operations offered to reexamine Mr. Farnworth's experience in the refrigeration trade; verifying he has the appropriate documentation to take the exam and receive an electrical specialty contractor license.

ACTION: The DBS will review Mr. Farnworth's experience in the refrigeration trade to determine if he qualifies for an electrical specialty contractor license.

◆ **Idaho Statute 54-1009 Revocations or Suspension of Licenses--Hearings--Taking Testimony**

This topic has been addressed at the last couple of meetings. The proposal, included in the packet, moves the responsibility for disciplinary action to individuals/companies from the Administrator to the Board.

The Deputy Administrator-Operations offered, and the Board agreed, for the draft proposal to be brought back to the July meeting for further action.

ACTION: The topic *Idaho Statute 54-1009 Revocations or Suspension of Licenses--Hearings--Taking Testimony* will be placed on the July 23, 2015 agenda as an action item.

◆ **Minimum Height Standards for Electrical Panels**

The Electrical Program Manager received documentation from a DBS electrical inspector addressing his concern that electrical panels are being installed in unreasonable areas and have the potential of property damage or loss of life.

The minimum height standard is in the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 70 of the National Electrical Code (NEC). The inspector will submit his concern to the NEC; however, requested the Board consider a state rule to create a minimum of 24" to the bottom of the enclosure in every outdoor installation.

It was agreed this issue should be addressed at the national level rather than the state level.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Meetings – Approximately three times a year the Division provides a statewide inspector meeting via teleconference. The intent of the meetings is code interpretation issues. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29th.

Training – In June or July the Division will provide training on code interpretation to contractors statewide.

Committee – The Electrical Program Manager has been chosen to serve on an examination committee with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Authorities. The committee will create a national journeyman exam.

Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report – The Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report, January 2015 through March 2015, was reviewed.

For future meetings, the Chairman suggested the Division provide statistics from the previous 12 months rather than the current calendar year.

ACTION: At the July 2015 Board meeting, the Division will provide the previous 12 month statistics on the Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report.

Notice of Violations (NOV) Report – The NOV Report, January 1, 2015 through April 1, 2015, was reviewed.

Verification Permit Report – The Verification Permit Report, January 1, 2015 through April 1, 2015, was reviewed.

◆ **Operational Report**

Legislation – The following proposed bills were presented to the 2015 legislature:

- **Elevator Mechanics License** – The elevator industry once again brought back a bill to the 2015 legislative session for licensure of elevator mechanics in the state of Idaho. This could potentially impact the electrical industry, as part of the elevator industry’s statute would stipulate an elevator mechanic is the only person who can work on electrical equipment on the other side of the elevator control. Currently, the electrical statute states a journeyman and/or master electrician can do any electrical work in the state of Idaho. The bill did not pass and from all indications will be presented at the 2016 session.
- **Dig Line** – The dig line bill did not pass this legislative session; however, will most likely be presented at the 2016 legislative session.
- **Electrical Equipment (H0238)** – This bill amends the existing law to provide an exemption for industrial equipment. It passed the House and Senate and will become effective July 1, 2015.

In the bill, the term “equipment” is used to describe industrial equipment when the proper term should be “machinery”; correlating with everything in the code. This has been discussed with the sponsor of the bill, and everyone involved agree it means the same thing.

◆ **Supervision**

The Division has made changes with regard to its regional supervisors. Rather than one supervisor in each region to oversee electrical, HVAC and plumbing inspectors, there are two; one electrical and one HVAC/plumbing supervisor.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – The Electrical Board Fund, FY 2015 financial statement as of March 31, 2015, was reviewed.

Dedicated Funds – The Industrial Commission, much like DBS, is managed by dedicated funds. The 2015 legislature appropriated in excess of \$3,000,000 from the Industrial Commission to operate a Workforce Development program through the Department of Labor. The Governor vetoed the appropriation.

Compliance – DBS employee Terry Blessing has accepted the position of program manager with the Division’s new statewide compliance program.

City of Ketchum – The Deputy Administrator-Administration provided an update on construction in the city of Ketchum; specifically two major hotel projects.

Dashboard & Electronic Registration – The Division’s IT staff is working with its programmer, CRW, to provide electronic registration on e-TRAKiT. It is estimated it will take nine months to write the program.

National Construction Authority – For two weeks in March/April, the DBS hosted delegates with the National Construction Authority (NCA) from Kenya. The mission of the NCA is to regulate and coordinate the construction industry for sustainable social and economic development.

◆ **Adjournment**

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Wheeler seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. (MT).

BOB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

06/03/2015rb