

IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Thursday – October 20, 2016 – 9:30 a.m. (MDT)

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

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2016 MEETING

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. (MDT)

**Board Members Present:**

Bob Scott, Chairman  
Jeff Wheeler, Vice-Chairman  
Rick Stark  
Dale Pippitt  
Denis Duman  
Allan Perman  
Greg Eagy  
Mark LaBolle  
Joe Harbacheck

**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  
Warren Wing, Electrical Program Manager  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Shelly Farris, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Manager  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Support

◆ **Open Forum**

City and County Concerns – No items or concerns were brought forth.

Ratios – Kerry Frost, Helix Electric, is the project manager for a solar plant being built near Mountain Home. Having difficulty staffing, Mr. Frost asked the Board to make an exception, same as the Kuna solar plant project, and change the apprentice/journeyman ratio from two-to-one to six-to-one for specialty electrical trainees doing mass production.

This is the first the Board has heard of exceptions to the ratio. Electrical Program Manager Wing has been to the site and has no problem allowing the six-to-one ratio for this portion of the job.

◆ **Approval of the October 20, 2016 Agenda**

MOTION: Joe Harbacheck made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Allan Perman seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the July 21, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes**

An error was noted on page two under the topic *Negotiated Rulemaking*. It should read “submersible” rather than “submissive” pumps.

**MOTION:** Jeff Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Allan Perman seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Administrative Appeals Hearing**

Gietzen Electric, Inc. – NOV ELE1603-0096 – Donovan Christensen represented Gietzen Electric, Inc., Electrical Program Manager Warren Wing represented the DBS, and Deputy Attorney General Patrick Grace was the facilitator. Jared Fisher was a witness for Gietzen Electric, Inc., and Building Safety Inspector/Advisor Curt Bingham was a witness for the Division. All parties provided testimony and argument on NOV ELE1603-0096, violation of IDAPA 07.01.11.011.05 “Supervision”. The Board upheld the \$200.00 penalty fee and Mr. Christensen was advised of the rights of Gietzen Electric, Inc.

**MOTION:** Mark LaBolle made a motion to uphold the fine. Denis Duman seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

**ACTION:** The Deputy Attorney General will create a Final Order for the Chairman’s signature and provide a signed copy to Gietzen Electric, Inc.

◆ **Schedule 2017 Board Meetings**

The following dates, fourth Wednesday of the month, were chosen for the 2017 Idaho Electrical Board meetings: January 25th, April 26th, July 26th and October 25th.

**MOTION:** Bob Scott made a motion to approve the above-mentioned dates for the 2017 Idaho Electrical Board meetings. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

**ACTION:** The 2017 Electrical Board meeting dates will be placed on the Division’s board meeting calendar, and website.

◆ **Apprentice Ratio**

As stated at the July 2016 Board meeting, this topic will be addressed as an action item at all regularly scheduled board meetings until further notice. A notice of a temporary change in journeyman to apprentice ratio on residential jobs has been posted to the Division’s website and the Electrical Program’s Facebook page.

The Board asked, and Deputy Administrator-Operations Keys offered, to provide the number of apprentices registered with the DBS and enrolled in school at the January 2017 Board meeting.

**ACTION:** For the January 25, 2017 meeting, the number of apprentices registered with the DBS and enrolled in a statewide apprenticeship program will be provided to the Board.

◆ **Homeowner Permits**

At the July 2016 meeting, the Board authorized the Division to move forward with proposed statute changes to Title 54, Chapter 10, Idaho Code. Since that meeting, the Board and DBS have received numerous complaints; specifically, to § 54-1016(a) *Exemptions*, which expands upon the type of non-commercial electrical work property owners can perform on their primary or secondary residence. A link to the changes in the homeowner electrical permitting process has been added to the homeowner permit application. The Division has begun a soft implementation on the enforcement of the amendments and homeowners who took permits out prior to the new changes will receive inspections.

◆ **Submersible Well Pumps**

The Division was authorized by the Board to formulate a temporary rule based on the policy, *Permanent Installation of Directly Connected Submersible Well Pumps in Bodies of Water*, by the Submersible Well Pump Collaborative. The policy pertains to new installations and repair or replacement of existing installations of submersible well pumps in open bodies of water in Idaho. Article 682, National Electrical Code, is used as a standard throughout the policy; however, statute states Article 682, as it relates to specific use of the pumps, shall not apply. Therefore, there is no way to formulate a rule at this point in time.

It was suggested the collaborative meet with Senator Robert Nonini, sponsor of the original bill, to see if the Senator would like to: 1) Preserve the interpretation of his legislation that all of Article 682 would go away relative to pumps, or 2) Modify the bill to give the collaborative and Board the ability to put their resolution into action.

**MOTION:** Dale Pippitt made a motion to direct the DBS to reassemble the collaborative and attempt to negotiate with Senator Nonini on how the Division should proceed on this issue. Joe Harbacheck seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Training Apprentices in Idaho**

Item nine, *Training Apprentices in Idaho*, was moved ahead of item eight, *Idaho Code -- Title 54, chapter 10*, to accommodate the presenters schedule.

John Russ, Manager, Department of Labor (DOL) and Wendi Secrist, Director, Business Outreach and Idaho SkillStack, Idaho Career and Technical Education (ICTE), are working together to educate high school students on career opportunities in the trades, health care, etc. They recently submitted for a \$1.9 million federal grant to help advance the apprenticeship opportunities throughout the state of Idaho.

They have also partnered with Irene Westrick, Principal, Boise School District, to develop a School-to-Register Apprenticeship program. The Program is the very foundational levels of the electrical, plumbing and HVAC trades. Students between the ages of 16 and 18 are introduced into those areas to potentially help them make a choice on whether to go into an apprenticeship program at the secondary level immediately out of high school.

◆ **Idaho Code -- Title 54 Chapter 10**

As requested at the July meeting, the Deputy Administrator-Operations provided the final draft language, with changes and corrections, for the Board's approval.

**MOTION:** Allan Perman made a motion for the DBS to move forward with the proposed legislation. Greg Eagy seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Training – The Electrical Program Manager participated in a 90-hour (50 online and 40 classroom) solar/photovoltaic (PV) training course.

Solar Projects – The Division receives between five to ten plans daily and has completed over 1,000 inspections this year.

Journeyman 1st Exam Attempts Report – The Chairman thanked the Division for generating the report exactly how he had requested it; showing the results of the previous 12 months only.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Acknowledgement – The DBS supervisors and inspectors were acknowledged for assisting with complaints.

“Verification” Inspections by Inspector Report – It was noted the number of inspectors completing the “verification” form is low. One suggestion was to make the form simpler by providing boxes for inspectors to check rather than typing in the information.

Deputy Administrator-Administration Whitney stated the regional supervisors will emphasize to the inspectors the need to complete the form when performing compliance checks.

◆ **Operational Report**

With multiple issues already addressed, the Deputy Administrator-Operations deferred his report.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Global Positioning System (GPS) Tracking Units – GPS units have been placed on all of the DBS vehicles. This is a safety mechanism for inspectors providing inspections in desolate areas, as well as a tool for fleet management.

Automated Continuing Education Unit (CEU) System – Building Safety Program Supervisor Carr demonstrated the Division's automated CEU system. An outside carrier will keep track of licensee's CEUs at no cost, and the identity of each individual will be by license number only.

Access Idaho – In the past, the DBS has paid banking fees for credit/debit cards used to pay permit/license fees. Effective immediately, the consumer will incur those charges. When making an electronic payment through the Division's e-TRAKiT system, three payment options are available: 1) Credit cards – 3%, 2) Electronic checks – \$1.50, or 3) eGov-Express

– repeat customers. When using eGov-Express, processing fees will be charged according to the payment option chosen. These non-refundable fees are paid to Access Idaho.

A Tale of Two Cities – A comparison of the FY 2008 and FY 2018 budgets was provided. The approved budget in FY 2008, and the requested budget for FY 2018, was/is a little over \$14 million dollars. Compared to 2008, the Division is doing more with less employees.

Financial Report – The Electrical Board Fund, FY 2017 financial statement as of September 30, 2016, was reviewed.

PV/Solar Plants – There is an 80 mega-watt (mw) plant in Kuna, an 80 mw plant being built by Grandview and a 40 mw plant going up in American Falls.

◆ **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Dale Pippitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick Stark seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. (MDT)

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BOB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD

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CHRIS JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE

01/10/2017rb

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DATE