

IDAHO HEATING, VENTILATION AND  
AIR CONDITIONING BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Wednesday – February 8, 2017 – 9:30 a.m. (MST)

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 FEBRUARY 8, 2017 MEETING

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

Chairman Dan Brizee called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. (MST)

**Board Members Present:**

Dan Brizee, Chairman  
Ted Sermon, Vice-Chairman  
Bill Carter  
John Smith  
Bill Vandegrift  
Tim LaMott  
Bruce Graham

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

Chris L. Jensen, Administrator  
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator  
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General  
John Nielsen, HVAC Program Manager  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Supervisor  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

Complaint – At the November 2016 meeting, homeowner Martin Fry brought forth a complaint of a mechanical contractor who inadequately installed a new HVAC unit on his property in Emmett. On February 8, 2017, Mr. Fry stated the issue had still not been resolved.

The Division has issued a Notice of Violation to the contractor; however, the contractor has not yet complied. Ultimately, if the contractor does not rectify the problem, the Board has the option to revoke his license.

Mr. Fry suggested, and Chairman Brizee agreed, for Administrator Chris L. Jensen to research his case and contact Mr. Fry with a possible solution.

**ACTION:** The Administrator will examine the case and provide Mr. Fry with an answer to his ongoing complaint.

◆ **Approval of the February 8, 2017 Agenda**

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the tentative agenda.

**MOTION:** Tim LaMott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Carter seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the November 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the draft minutes.

**MOTION:** Bill Carter made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Tim LaMott seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Title 54 Chapter 50, Idaho Code**

At the July 2016 meeting, the Board approved for the DBS to move forward with proposed statute changes discussed at several 2016 meetings.

With recent staff changes, and further review of the proposal, the Division discovered several issues, the main one being the licensing of the refrigeration industry. HVAC Program Manager John Nielsen contacted several individuals in the refrigeration business; however, none had heard of this potential change. Rather than amend the whole statute at once, the Division suggested identifying and modifying the important issues first.

Chairman Brizee suggested the Board have special meetings to discuss and rework the statute. The Chairman stated it is an injustice when out-of-state applicants with no HVAC schooling and only required to provide 8,000 hours of work experience are eligible to take the journeyman exam; however, in-state apprentices with the same requirements do not qualify. He also expressed the need for “lifelong” apprentices.

**MOTION:** Tim LaMott made a motion for the Board to authorize the Division to withdraw the proposed legislation from the 2017 legislature, review certain statute sections and resubmit a new package in July 2017 for the 2018 legislature. Bill Carter seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Board Member John Smith asked, pending the re-work of the statute, the Board to readdress the proposed new master mechanical technician license and five-year apprentice registration.

The HVAC Program Manager offered, and the Board agreed, to provide a rough draft of proposed changes to the Board prior to the May 10th Board meeting.

**ACTION:** The HVAC Program Manager will provide to the Board, prior to the May 10, 2017 HVAC Board meeting, a rough draft of proposed changes to the statute.

**ACTION:** The topic *Title 54 Chapter 50, Idaho Code* will be placed on the May Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

**Apprentices/Journeyman Exam** – Further discussion ensued with regard to the requirements for Idaho apprentices versus out-of-state apprentices to take the journeyman exam. Also

addressed was the “lifetime” apprentices; specifically, taking the journeyman exam, working without constant supervision, and multiple endorsements as part of the apprentice registration.

Chris Miller, HVAC Program Coordinator, College of Western Idaho, explained placement tests; stating anyone, in state or out-of-state apprentices, can take them.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Program – The compliance program continues to be going strong. Without the assistance of the regional supervisors and inspectors, Compliance Program Supervisor Terry Blessing could not do his job.

Public Works – This spring, the Compliance Program Supervisor will travel throughout the state of Idaho; meeting with the Division’s regional managers, regional supervisors and city/county officials to discuss public works laws.

Inspectors and Compliance – Board Member Graham voiced his concern about the shortage of inspectors, the great territories they handle, and lack of compliance. To make a point, Board Member Graham, a Carrier dealer, stated he has 38% of the market share on Carrier products and 85% of the permits issued by the DBS.

◆ **HVAC Inspector Certification**

Idaho Code § 54-5021(2) states in part, “... All inspectors shall be certified by rule of the HVAC board as a commercial mechanical inspector or a residential mechanical inspector, depending upon the duties assigned.”

The HVAC Program Manager offered, and the Board agreed, to create a rule that specifies inspectors can go through the International Code Council, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials or any other nationally/internationally recognized HVAC certification.

**ACTION:** The topic *HVAC Inspector Certification* will be placed on the May 10, 2017 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Permit Fees**

Through the years, there have been many fee schedules created/revised. This has caused confusion within the Division on the calculation of fees and items.

For consistency, and in accordance with IDAPA 07.07.01.050 *HVAC Permits*, the HVAC Program Manager presented a revised *Contractor HVAC Permit Worksheet*. The cost of a permit for new residential construction is based on the square footage of the living space, an existing residence is sixty-five dollars (\$65) plus ten dollars (\$10) per piece of additional HVAC equipment and a commercial job is based on the total cost of the HVAC system; i.e., job value amount.

The Board agreed for the HVAC Program Manager to proceed with the proposed changes.

◆ **IDAPA Rule 07.07.01.006.01(k) System Design**

The HVAC Program Manager stated IDAPA 07.07.01.006.01(k) *Section M1507.3.1 System Design* is not congruent with Chapter 15 of the International Code Book. It was suggested, and the Board agreed, IDAPA 07.07.01.006.01(k) *Section M1507.3.1 System Design* should be removed from the HVAC rules; only using the International Residential Code.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Adoption of UMC – The code currently used is the International Mechanical Code (IMC). Every code cycle new code books must be purchased at a hefty price. The HVAC Program Manager asked for the Board’s approval to create a subcommittee to discuss the possibility of changing from the IMC to the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC). The UMC is one book, self-contained, and more cost-effective, where the IMC references several code books. The Board agreed for the HVAC Program Manager to proceed with the creation of a subcommittee.

Energy Codes – Currently, the energy codes are under the purview of the Idaho Building Code Board. The HVAC/plumbing inspectors only inspect a system in accordance to the mechanical codes and building officials inspect the unit per the energy codes. The HVAC Program Manager described a situation where an HVAC/plumbing inspector inspects, signs off, and leaves a commercial job only to have a building official come in and inform the HVAC contractor their equipment does not meet the energy codes.

It was suggested the Board consider adopting sections of the energy code associated with mechanical; having the HVAC/plumbing inspectors inspect the entire mechanical job.

The topic, *Energy Code*, was to be addressed at the February 21, 2017 Idaho Building Code Board meeting. Upon receiving unfavorable comments, the HVAC Program Manager will have the topic removed from the Idaho Building Code Board’s February agenda.

Legislation – The dockets, with regard to conveyor pizza ovens, 16,000 hours of work experience for out-of-state plumbers, and refunding/transferring of permits, passed the Senate and House committees.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – The Idaho HVAC Board Fund, FY 2017 financial statement as of December 31, 2016, was reviewed.

Organizational Changes – Administrator C. Kelly Pearce and Public Information Officer Bill Hatch retired at the end of December 2016. DBS Regional Manager, Region 3, Chris L. Jensen was appointed to the position of Administrator.

Plan Reviews – Construction slowed down during the winter months; however, plan reviews were steady. If this is any indication, construction will be booming in Idaho come spring.

Nuclear Fuel Facility – Construction of a new \$1.6 billion facility, to process and store spent nuclear fuel from the nation’s nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers, will begin in 2019. The structure will be located on the northeast side of the existing Naval Reactors Facility east of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

School Bonds – In March, a number of school bonds, across the state, will be up for election. The Boise School District has a \$172.5 million dollar bond that would facilitate improvements for all 48 schools, plus major building projects for 22 schools.

Solar Projects – Construction on several solar farms are just finishing, while others are beginning. With the adverse winter, there have been issues with electrical equipment under water.

◆ **Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. (MST).

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DAN BRIZEE, CHAIRMAN  
HEATING, VENTILATION AND  
AIR CONDITIONING BOARD

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CHRIS L. JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE

04/19/2017rb

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DATE