



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Idaho Electrical Board

BRAD LITTLE
Governor
RUSSELL BARRON
Administrator

11341 W Chinden Blvd.
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0063
(208) 334-3233
dopl.idaho.gov

Minutes of 11/07/2024

Board Members Present:	Rick Stark, Chair Josh Madsen Casey Wilson Jim Marchetti Alex Owens Jeff Bradley Jim Swier	Division Staff:	Amy Lorenzo, Executive Officer Russ Spencer, Legal Counsel Steve Greene, Electrical Program Mgr. Jessica Spoja, Licensing Program Mgr. Erin Einarsson, Board Support Spc. Amanda Lee, Board Support Spc. Christopher Gilliam, H.R. Specialist, Sr.
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Board Members

Absent: Chad Fields

The Board meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM MT by Chairman Rick Stark.

APPROVAL OF 08/22/2024 AND 08/29/2024 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 08/22/2024 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the minutes from the meeting on 8/29/2024, Chairman Stark noted that under 600.IDAHO ELECTRICAL CODE, 600.01 (C) Article 210.8(A)(7) should be changed to read "Delete." A motion was made and seconded to approve the 08/29/2024 meeting minutes with the discussed changes. The motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Respectful Workplace Training: Senior Human Resources Specialist Christopher Gilliam presented the Respectful Workplace Training.

Oasis Update: Phase II of the OASIS Licensing System launched on November 4, 2024. Executive Officer (EO) Amy Lorenzo presented the Electrical Board Licensing Report which detailed the total number of licenses, applications received (initial and reciprocity) and licenses issued since the Phase II OASIS launch. Through OASIS, DOPL staff can generate these detailed reports and EO Lorenzo will continue to review them with the Board at future meetings. There are 20,972 current electrical licensees and DOPL has sent those licensees emails and/or written notifications with instructions on how to register their account and associate their profile. Within electrical there are approximately 6,000 individuals who have multiple license types, either within electrical or other trades, and had multiple profiles within the previous licensing system. DOPL staff is working diligently to merge those profiles within OASIS. Chairman Stark asked if the report included renewals and EO Lorenzo replied that she will confirm with the licensing team. Board Member Jim Swier asked if the report included permits and

EO Lorenzo confirmed that the report covered licenses only. EO Lorenzo added that with the launch of OASIS, permits are continuing to be issued and that as of yesterday inspectors had completed just under 700 inspections across all trades. Jeff Fitzloff, IEC, commented that he was not able to access the public license search. EO Lorenzo replied that Jessica Spoja, Licensing Program Manager (LPM), will be joining the meeting later and that she can address any questions the Board or members of the public may have about OASIS. Electrical Program Manager (EPM) Steve Greene presented the Authorization to Energize letter to the Board for their review.

NASCLA Testing Update: Since the previous report, the pass rates for the NASCLA exam have increased incrementally from 28% to 29.5%. There has been a total of 296 unique testers and EO Lorenzo is waiting for a detailed report from NASCLA which will breakdown the data based on testing locations, the number of exams taken before passing as well as data comparisons from other NASCLA states. EO Lorenzo is also waiting for reports from NASCLA and PSI to determine if there are specific questions that have a high fail rate.

Jeremy Redman, IBEW 291, asked if there are PSI testing locations outside of Idaho available. EO Lorenzo replied that the Idaho locations as well as Spokane, WA, are the only contracted locations. Mr. Redman then asked if other locations could be made available for those living outside of Idaho but are planning to work in Idaho. EO Lorenzo replied that DOPL has not received any requests for that, but she would ask PSI about that option. Currently PSI is offering the residential, journeyman and master license exams. EO Lorenzo added that specialty and limited license exams are still administered through DOPL. Miles Whittington, Southwestern Idaho Electrical JATC, commented that he has received calls from JATC graduates from outside of Idaho asking if their NASCLA exam scores will be valid in Idaho and if not, do they need to take the retest in Idaho. EO Lorenzo will prepare a list of questions for NASCLA and invite NASCLA to the next Board meeting

Trades Licenses – Cards Issuance: With the transition to OASIS and issues with the previous plastic card vendor, DOPL is temporarily halting the issuance of plastic licensing cards and will issue paper instead. The initial paper card will be sent to the licensee and the cards can be accessed online. Paper cards can be printed online or at DOPL. EO Lorenzo is researching different card vendors and will update the Board at the next meeting.

Presentation on Federal Telecom Apprenticeship: Jeremiah Clever, Communication Workers of America, presented the CWA Federal Telecom Apprenticeship Program to the Board as a potential avenue for an electrical license.

BOARD BUSINESS

2025 Meeting Dates: The Board selected the following meeting dates for 2025: January 29, April 30, July 30 and October 29.

Public Comment: Mr. Fitzloff expressed concern about several large commercial projects expected to commence in Idaho shortly and the lack of sufficiently trained journeymen. Mr. Fitzloff suggested the industry focus on recruitment and training in anticipation of these upcoming projects.

National JATC Program Approval: While the Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Center (JATC) education programs in Idaho have been approved by the Board, the national JATC program is not. LPM

Spoja explained that while the JATC curriculum is standardized nationally, because the Board has only approved the programs in Idaho, all out of state JATC graduates are required to have their transcripts evaluated to confirm equivalency. Mr. Whittington explained that the JATC curriculum, lessons, books, materials and labs are created based on the Department of Labor national standards and are then distributed to the JATC programs nationwide. Apprentices must complete 612 core credits, 108 advanced credit hours, complete 8,000 documented hours and have their transcripts approved by the Electrical Training Alliance to receive their completion certificate. Mr. Whittington added that approving the national JATC program would remove a barrier to licensure and streamline the approval process in Idaho.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all out of state JATC electrical education program providers as equivalent to the Board approved in-state JATC electrical education program providers. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fitzloff requested that the IEC program be considered for approval at the next board meeting.

Negotiated Rulemaking: IDAPA 24.39.10: The proposed rules were published in the October 2, 2024 Idaho Administrative Bulletin. During the 21-day comment period, the only comment received was with regards to an administrative correction. At the public hearing held on October 17, 2024, no additional comments were presented. The representatives from IDABO and the Home Builders Association expressed their intent to support the rules during the legislative session. EO Lorenzo and Chairman Stark reviewed administrative corrections and the clarification language added to the rules.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the rules with the discussed changes as pending. The motion carried unanimously.

EO Lorenzo added that DOPL has scheduled statewide training for the 2023 NEC implementation. The enforcement of the 2023 temporary rules will begin January 1, 2025.

Fee Schedule: During the transition to the new licensing system, it was discovered that the fee table had not been modified to reflect what is listed in IDAPA 54-1014. Several subcategories are consolidated under “other” rather than having the specific title listed. EO Lorenzo noted that the consolidation occurred prior to her arrival at DOPL and asked if the Board could provide the historical context behind that decision. Chairman Stark did not recall the Board approving that change and thought it may have been a result of a past rewrite. Robert Nichols, Sunlight Electric, asked if the list presented was a complete list and where solar, specifically residential solar, would fall under these guidelines. EO Lorenzo replied that it would also fall under “other”. Mr. Fitzloff stated that the Electrical fee table was last reviewed by the legislature in 2008. EO Lorenzo added that the fee types can be specified on the application and that she will work with the Board next year to set the foundations in rule as well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.