



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

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Minutes of 07/29/2024
Pocatello Department of Labor, Scout Mountain Room

Division Staff: Amy Lorenzo, Executive Officer
Steve Greene, Electrical Program Manager
Krissy Veseth, Administration Bureau Chief
Megan Taylor, Management Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Amy Lorenzo at 3:30 PM MT.

Negotiated Rulemaking 24.39.10

This is a public meeting to receive comments on IDAPA 24.39.10 Temporary Rules of the Idaho Electrical Board. Executive Officer (EO) Amy Lorenzo reviewed the negotiated rulemaking process with the attendees and stated that comments received during the scheduled public hearings, as well as submitted written comments, will be gathered and presented to the Idaho Electrical Board. EO Lorenzo added that the hearing is not limited to the Temporary Rules and that questions and comments about topics not included in the Temporary Rules can be brought forward as well.

The following topics were discussed:

- **100.05 Continuing Education:** EO Lorenzo noted that per [Executive Order 2020-01 Zero Based Regulation](#), State Boards are looking for ways to reduce barriers to business including considering whether Continuing Education (CE) should be a licensing requirement monitored by the state or if it should be monitored by the employer. Ralph Horsley of Intermountain Electric expressed that Electrical Contractors should not be solely responsible and that the State should monitor CE credits. Alex Bybee of ABC Squared Electric added that Contractors may not include all CE credits and that requiring the State to maintain those records would be in the best interest of electricians. Stewart Greene of Northwind Electric Inc. suggested that the 16-hour CE Credit requirement align with the 2 year license renewal process so that the cycles are in sync as compared to the current 3 year CE cycle. EO Lorenzo defined “Independent Study” as training that still pertains to electrical but may not be offered through an approved provider. Any coursework submitted under “Independent Study” would be reviewed by DOPL to ensure it fits within the framework approved by the Idaho Electrical Board.
- **House Bill 604:** Cameron Evans of Evans Electric asked if the changes to Contractor License requirements are included in the temporary rules. EO Lorenzo replied that those changes are not a part of the temporary rules and were created in [House Bill 604](#). Jay

Roche of Roche Electric Inc. added that (per House Bill 604), an individual owner of an electrical contracting business can be an electrical journeyman with over 2,000 documented working hours. Mr. Horsley commented that the 2,000-hour requirement is not enough time to gain the experience and knowledge needed and suggested returning to the previously required 2 years (4,000 hours). Mr. Evans added that the increased Apprentice ratios in residential settings may boost opportunities to open and grow a business, but that the protection of the consumer must be considered as well. EO Lorenzo appreciated the feedback and noted that while these items are outside of the scope of the temporary rules, DOPL would still capture information relevant to the industry.

- **200.03 Supervision:** EO Lorenzo acknowledged that the definition of a Residential Electrician was included in statute, but not in the rules and clarified that a Residential Electrician is limited to residential installations of one- and two-family dwelling units up to 3 stories high. Mr. Roche expressed concern that 2-year education program and 4,000 hours of working hours required for a Residential Electrician license is insufficient. Additionally, many in attendance voiced apprehension in allowing Residential Electricians to supervise based on the licensure requirements. EO Lorenzo clarified that the Residential Electrician License education program has not been standardized. Post Secondary Institutions are required to first develop and coordinate their Residential Electrician License programs and then present the programs to the Idaho Electrical Board and to the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education for approval. The public is invited to attend these meetings and provide their feedback. No licenses will be issued until the educational program is approved. A question was asked about reciprocity of residential electricians and EO Lorenzo replied that DOPL is not currently offering reciprocity because the framework to measure against has not been created and approved.
- **600 Idaho Electrical Code:** Reviewing the temporary rules, EO Lorenzo first explained that the National Electrical Code (NEC) 2023 edition was adopted and that the Idaho Electrical Code Amendments to the 2023 NEC are listed beneath. EO Lorenzo encouraged the attendees to review the 2023 NEC after the public hearing, and if they identify any areas of concern, to please email them.
 - 600.01(c)(d): Article 210.8(A)(8) EO Lorenzo clarified that the measuring distance has changed from the outside edge to the inside edge.
 - 600.01(h): Article 210.8(D)(1) EO Lorenzo noted that the initial feedback from the legislature was to exempt everything unless it has proximity to water. However, there are areas where an automotive vacuum machine could be exposed to water, such as water heaters and snow, that may have been accidentally exempted. The intention of the Idaho Electrical Board is to review the temporary rules and ensure that all exemptions are correct.
 - 600.01(k); Article 210.12(B) Kenny Hill, Building Contractors Association (BCA), commented that he understood the position of BCA is to back legislators who support removing all Arc-Fault-Circuit-Interrupter (AFCI) protection requirements. A question was posed to Mr. Hill why the BCA does not support the use of AFCI noting that they are required in the 2023 NEC as a safety measure. Mr. Hill elaborated that the focus is conserving cost to the consumer by using Ground-Fault-Circuit-Interrupters (GFCI) or regular breakers instead.

- 600.01(n) Wesley Morris of Big Dog Solar commented that deleting Article 230.85 in its entirety creates confusion as it will also delete subsets (1), (2) and (3) where the disconnects are defined, specifically (2) Meter Disconnects.
- 600.01(u) It was asked why the Battery Emergency Disconnect was deleted noting that if a meter is shut off, but a home has a battery backup system, the home is still hot.
- **Additional Comments:**
 - Mr. Hill noted that the BCA is in favor of not adopting the 2023 NEC Section 210.52 (C)(3) kitchen island code requirements and requests that the rules return to what was allowable in 2017.
 - EO Lorenzo explained that the recommendations gathered at the public hearings will be taken to the Electrical Board and then to the Legislators. The Legislators have requested that any exemptions that are not included in the rules be supported by quantifiable life safety evidence.
 - Steve Greene, DOPL Electrical Program Manager, added that DOPL inspectors have been trained on the Code Updates.
 - A comment was made that the inspectors have too large of an area to cover and thus appear overworked and in a hurry to complete their inspections. It was also added that some inspectors appear more knowledgeable than others and that additional training is needed and that compensation for inspectors should be increased. EO Lorenzo requested that if anyone having a negative experience with an inspector, to please call and report it so that issues can be addressed and fixed. EO Lorenzo added that all DOPL inspectors are at least Journeymen, if not Master Electricians, and that DOPL is currently reviewing a national inspector license program.

Comments and suggestions made by the public will be provided to the Electrical Board.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.