



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

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**Minutes of 07/30/2024**  
**Rexburg City Hall, Council Chambers**

**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 4:00 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:** Gary Goodnough of Elk Ridge Electric asked for a definition of Independent Study. 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.

Brett Stoddard, City of Rexburg, added that continuing education (CE) requirements are being reviewed by the Legislators and there is the potential that it could be eliminated. Mr. Stoddard feels strongly that CE requirements should continue, especially considering the electrical industry is constantly evolving. Robert Nichols of Sunlight Electric agreed with Mr. Stoddard and emphasized that with the addition of the Residential Electrician license, CE requirements will be essential.

- **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.

A public member commented that some apprentices do not complete the required 4,000 working hours in 2 years and asked what would take precedence in the Residential Electrician license – years or hours. They expressed concern about allowing someone with 2 years of experience to work in a residential environment and stated that knowledge required for residential environments can vary greatly, especially depending on the size and requirements of the home.

Wendell Gaston of Lucey Electric agreed and added that larger homes can require working with advanced electrical requirements such as computer lighting systems. They have assigned second year apprentices to work on advanced systems, but not without supervision. Mr. Gaston stated that 2 years does not provide enough experience to be a supervisor.

Brian Brown of Lucey Electric added that the residential electrician license devalues the Journeyman and Master Electrician licenses because it enables a person to do the same work after only 2 years. Mr. Nichols agreed that the residential electrician license devalues the time and effort Journeymen and Master Electricians have put into their careers. Mr. Nichols added that he would not allow a second-year apprentice to work on a large home with complex electrical requirements unsupervised. Finally, Mr. Nichols noted that the residential license would allow inexperienced electricians to work unsupervised potentially creating safety issues for themselves as well as homeowners.

Mr. Stoddard asked if the residential electrician license would be allowed to install Photovoltaic or Solar systems as well. 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.

Mr. Stoddard recommended adding several restrictions to the residential electrician license. Mr. Nichols suggested that square footage limits or amperage service size limits be considered for the residential electrician license. Mr. Goodnough recommended that “residential electrician” be removed from 200.03 Supervision altogether.

- **600 Idaho Electrical Code:** Reviewing the temporary rules, EO Lorenzo first explained that the National Electrical Code (NEC) 2023 edition was adopted and then the Idaho Electrical Code Amendments to the 2023 NEC are listed in the temporary rules. EO Lorenzo encouraged the attendees to review the 2023 NEC after the public hearing, and if they identify any additional areas of concern, to please email them.

600.01(b): Article 210.8(A) A public member asked if the reference to 250-volt receptacles applied to a specific area of the home. Electrical Program Manager (EPM) Steve Greene clarified that all 250-volt receptacles installed in the dwelling unit are exempt from Ground-Fault-Circuit-Interrupters (GFCI) requirement. EO Lorenzo added that the purpose behind this exception is due to the GFCI protection that is already built into many of those small appliances and thus the GFCI protection at the outlet level is no longer necessary. EPM Greene confirmed that this exception does not apply to those defined in Article 680.

Mr. Brown asked what the determining factors were behind this exception, adding was it to save money on the expense of building a home or that GFCI protection was not necessary. EO Lorenzo replied that the Idaho Electrical Board is using the input gathered from the electrical and building industries as well the guidance from the House Business Committee to return to the 2017 rules. One of the directives received from Representative Clow is that any exception that deviates from 2017 should be supported by data proving life-safety.

Mr. Brown added that being licensed in multiple states such as Idaho and Wyoming, managing the exceptions of the Idaho Code as well as the NEC code is confusing and time-consuming. EO Lorenzo asked if Wyoming has its own set of exceptions or if it enforces the NEC in its entirety. Mr. Brown replied that Wyoming enforces the NEC in its entirety. Mr. Brown commented that Idaho appears to only have the expenses in mind when creating the exceptions.

Senator Kevin Cook asked if there have been discussions with other states to determine if any of the 2023 NEC code requirements are not working for them and what would be the best way to solve those problems. He added that other states appear to be building homes to code without issues.

Mr. Nichols expressed concern that the safety requirements for Idaho are being reduced rather than enhanced. Mr. Brown expanded upon that noting that future code books will increase in complexity and that this process will continue to be complicated. Mr. Goodnough commented that it was taught that GFCI was for the protection of people and equipment and that he did not think that should be compromised.

Destry Orr of Velocity Mark Electric voiced support for the GFCI exceptions noting that the current requirements place GFCI outlets only where they are needed and that additional locations only create a nuisance. Senator Cook asked if he felt the same way about arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI). Leroy Edwards of GL Edwards Electric responded that he supported GFCI protection in practical places but not in areas such as a basement sump pump or a freezer in the garage. For those areas a GFCI breaker trip could cause flooding damage or a loss of food. Mr. Edwards was in support of AFCI, especially the latest versions, having seen where they have prevented a home from catching on fire.

Mr. Edwards stated that when installing 50-amp and 30-amp Recreational Vehicle (RV) enclosures, inspectors have required GFCI outlets, but they remove them afterwards because they are not necessary. EPM Greene clarified that the 250-volt RV would not require the GFCI protection, but the 30-amp would. Mr. Edwards responded that he did not agree with that requirement considering that RVs are equipped with GFCI protection.

600.01(s): Article 422.5(A)(1) EO Lorenzo recognized that there is confusion as to where the edge to measure from is located. It was also noted that the unit's proximity to water is the concern and not the location of the receptacle. EO Lorenzo will be reviewing this language with the Board.

600.01(x)(i): Article 690.12 Mr. Nichols shared that permits are now required for any detached structures they build for photovoltaic (PV) systems, regardless of what is listed in Electrical rules. Mr. Stoddard highlighted that in Residential Code permits are required for anything larger than

200 square feet and in Building Code permits are required for anything larger than 120 square feet. Mr. Stoddard confirmed that this rule conflicts with building code. Mr. Nichols added that because PV systems continue to generate power and because of a general lack of familiarity with how PV systems operate, rapid shutdown equipment and signage is necessary.

- **Additional Comments:**

Article 210.8(A)(5): Nathan Banner of Preferred Electric asked for clarification on the GFCI requirements for finished and unfinished basements. EPM Greene confirmed that GFCI outlets are required in all finished and unfinished basements. Mr. Stoddard explained that an exception to Article 210.8(A)(5) adding “unfinished” in front of basements was included in the Idaho Electrical Board rules but was not accepted by the Legislature.

DOPL Inspection Policy: Considering the potential confusion created with the temporary rules, EPM Greene presented the current DOPL inspection policy. Any inspection taken out before April 19, 2024 will be on the 2017 code cycle. Anything taken out after April 19, 2024 will be on the 2023 code cycle. For those after April 19, 2024, there will be a soft enforcement of the code where reminders to change infractions will be sent. Full enforcement of the 2023 code will begin on January 1, 2025. As of January 1, 2025, any infractions will be written up. EO Lorenzo acknowledged that the failure to approve rules and the implementation of temporary rules has created confusion and frustration for the electrical industry and that she will discuss this issue with the legislative committees.

Article 210.52(C): Mr. Goodnough stated that the 2023 NEC requirement to eliminate receptacles on the side of kitchen islands and instead replace them with pop-up receptacles on the top is problematic. The pop-up receptacles are costly, cutting holes through solid marble is difficult and if there are appliances included in island, placing a pop-up receptacle on top is not feasible. Additionally, the provision for an outlet inside of the island presents an opportunity for an unqualified person to return after the inspection and cut a hole in the side of the island. Mr. Brown suggested returning to the 2017 code and allowing homeowners to make the decision as to where the outlet is placed. Mr. Stoddard agreed that allowing homeowners to make the choice may be the better solution and added that the pop-up outlets are expensive and difficult to find. With the 2023 NEC code requirements the demand for these outlets may increase greatly, driving the cost up even further. EO Lorenzo identified this complaint as something she has received an overwhelming amount of feedback on and that it is at the top of the list to review with the Idaho Electrical Board.

Senator Cook shared that in a meeting he attended with legislators from the States of Washington, Oregon and Montana as well as port provinces of Canada, the increasing cost of housing was discussed, and government-built housing was suggested as a possible solution. Senator Cook instead supported creating infrastructure so that private industries can build homes at an affordable price. Senator Cook emphasized that finding the point where costs are lowered, and risk is managed is imperative.

Alex Owens, Idaho Electrical Board Member, reiterated that the two main items that were rejected by the Legislators were GFCI and AFCI protections and that to have their rules approved and be able to move forward, some compromise on those items will be required.

Mr. Brown advocated adopting the 2023 NEC code in entirety.

Joe Maloney of Idaho AFI-CIO supported an annual renewal cycle for electrical apprentices where documentation of education and working hours is required for renewal.

Mr. Nichols introduced a topic for the Electrical Board with regards to Solar Permitting Costs. Mr. Nichols suggested that permits should not be based upon valuation and should be the equivalent of an electrical permit upgrade.

Mr. Stoddard suggested expanding outreach to the electrical community to encourage attendance and improve participation in the Electrical Board meetings. The topic of awarding CE credit for attending board meetings was discussed. EO Lorenzo noted that there is an Electrical Board Stakeholder email list and encouraged those attending the public hearing to sign up. Mr. Stoddard proposed sending emails to all licensees and EO Lorenzo responded that she would follow up with the Administrator on that idea.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.