



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

BRAD LITTLE
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**10/17/2024 MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING**

Division Staff: Amy Lorenzo, Executive Officer
Steve Greene, Electrical Program Manager
Jill Randolph, Legal Counsel
Erin Einarsson, Board Support Specialist
Amanda Lee, Board Support Specialist

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Amy Lorenzo at 3:00 PM MT.

This was a public hearing to provide the opportunity to comment on IDAPA 24.39.10 Proposed Rules of the Idaho Electrical Board. The following topics were discussed:

Ken Burgess, Idaho Home Builders Association, commended the efforts DOPL made to provide multiple opportunities for interested parties to provide their feedback and the openness with which the comments were received. From the Idaho Home Builders Association perspective, Mr. Burgess declared that they are satisfied with the proposed rules and especially appreciate the updates made with regards to kitchen islands. Mr. Burgess committed to communicating their support for the rules and to working with the Idaho legislature. With regards to the current requirements for kitchen island outlets, Mr. Burgess expressed concern that some municipalities are enforcing the 2023 code.

EO Lorenzo expressed appreciation for the support and thanked the many subject matter experts who have provided insight and feedback during the rulemaking process. EO Lorenzo added that if anyone encounters state inspectors who are prematurely enforcing the code, to please notify DOPL. With regards to training and outreach, DOPL has created six NEC 2023 Code Updates continuing education courses for electrical contractors, master electricians and apprentices. Information about these classes can be found on the DOPL Idaho Electrical Board page under "[Program Information](#)".

Jeff Fitzloff, Independent Electrical Contractors of Idaho, signified there was confusion and frustration in the industry with regards to the numerous rule changes in Idaho. Mr. Fitzloff added that the industry is experiencing the repercussions from the Master Electrician changes, specifically that experienced Master Electricians are losing bids, but are later brought back to fix issues created by the less qualified electrician.

Ginger Bidegaray, Idaho Association of Building Officials (IDABO), expressed their support for the Idaho Electrical Board Rules. Ms. Bidegaray shared that IDABO is offering an NEC Code Update course during the 2025 Education Institute on January 14, 2025 and will send that information to EO Lorenzo. Hailie Johnson-Waskow of IDABO added that they have drafted a letter of support for the proposed rules and will be sending it to EO Lorenzo. Ms. Johnson-Waskow echoed Mr. Burgess' comments that they will also work with the Idaho Legislators to show how rigorous the rulemaking process has been and the diverse level of participants who contributed.

Mr. Fitzloff added a comment about the benefits of continuing education, noting that the percentage of job site violations are lower for electricians than for professions that do not require continuing education. EO Lorenzo appreciated the information noting that any supporting documents that can demonstrate an increase to life-safety can be shared with the legislators.

Senator Kevin Cook joined the meeting and EO Lorenzo asked if anyone wanted to add anything that would be informative for the Senator. Mr. Burgess shared his previous statement and announced that it was their intention to help pass these rules through the legislature and to finalize a rules omnibus package this year. Ms. Johnson-Waskow agreed with Mr. Burgess and reiterated IDABO's support for the rules as well.

EO Lorenzo announced that the 21-day public comment period on the proposed rules would end on October 23, 2024 and that there was still time to submit written comments. Public comments will be brought before the Idaho Electrical Board at their meeting on November 7, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 PM.