

## SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Electrical Commission meeting held on January 20, 2011 via conference call.

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Cam Becker.

The following members were present: Cam Becker, Harlan Nielsen, Steve Nielsen, Tim McIntyre and Robert Cronin. Absent: Larry Simonson and Jesse Smith. A quorum was present.

Others present were: John Bolger - US Dept. of Labor, Todd Kolden – SD Dept. of Labor, JJ Linn – Executive Director and Diana Peterson – Office Secretary.

Secretary Becker asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda. None noted.

Motion by H. Nielsen; Seconded by S. Nielsen to approve the minutes of October 21, 2010. Motion approved.

Inspectors report:

- Director Linn reviewed the current Inspector map with the Commission.
- Director Linn is currently conducting interviews to fill the western SD Inspector opening.
- No Inspector minutes were presented as there has not been an Inspector meeting since the October 21, 2010 Commission meeting.

Old Business:

- Director Linn reported on the status of the new database. A spreadsheet was presented and reviewed noting the current expenses to date.
- Director Linn presented and reviewed the reciprocal agreement status report. Director Linn reported Minnesota has approved the reciprocal agreement with South Dakota. President Smith and Director Linn plan to meet within the next week to execute the agreement. Director Linn noted the 6 contiguous states have approved or have in place reciprocal agreements and Director Linn will continue to contact other NERA states as time permits.
- Director Linn reported on the Commission audit conducted by Ketel Thorstenson. Director Linn stated he misspoke at the previous meeting as the Commission did receive one finding regarding separation of duties during the cash receipt process. A new policy has been put into effect which should alleviate the finding.
- Director Linn updated the Commission in regards to the Commission senate bill. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Commerce Committee. Director Linn noted he will be working on the Administrative Rule changes during the next couple of months.

#### New Business:

- A discussion was held on the Executive Order by the North Dakota Board in regard to AFCI's. Director Linn noted the Commission receives approximately one complaint per month on AFCI's. Most of the issues are determined to be caused by poor workmanship or appliances which will not work in conjunction with AFCI's. Director Linn stated the Commission is available to assist Contractors with determining the cause of nuisance tripping. Director Linn also recommended reaching out to the Contractors and discussing the need for Contractors to educate their customers prior to the installation process as to the possibility of nuisance tripping. S. Nielsen said there were problems with the GFCI's in the beginning also. The Commission Staff will continue to monitor any concerns or complaints.
- Director Linn reported on the status of Iowa not accepting some of the CEU hours which were gained by the instruction of non-certified Iowa instructors. Iowa is having multiple issues and the Iowa Legislature currently has proposed a bill to abolish the Electrical Board.
- Director Linn reported on letters he received from students at Western Dakota Tech and Western Dakota Tech Administration. The Commission noted the Administrative Rules document the required courses to be taught. The Administrative Rules do not address instructor qualification or class sizes. Director Linn will monitor and continue to review the syllabus to assure the Administrative Rules are being adhered to.
- NTA, Inc. is requesting to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Inspector for South Dakota. Director Linn noted NTA is an approved 3rd Party Inspector in North Dakota and Minnesota. At this time PFS Corporation is the only South Dakota approved 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Inspector. Director Linn discussed the Industrialized Building Commission (IBC) website and noted NTA is an approved Inspector by IBC. Motion by S. Nielsen; Seconded by Becker to approve NTA, Inc. as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Inspector. Motion approved.
- John Bolger with the US Dept. of Labor joined the meeting to discuss the US Dept of Labor's Apprenticeship program. The program develops Apprentices into Journeyman. Mr. Bolger addressed the benefits of the program and the changes required to be made if the program was adopted by the state of South Dakota. Mr. Bolger was excused from the meeting. The Commission and attendees discussed the pros and cons of the program. The Commission requested Director Linn to collect additional information in regards to the program. The discussion will continue at a future date.

The reports were reviewed by the Commission. Motion by Cronin; Seconded by H. Nielsen to approve the reports. Motion approved.

Code Committee: No report.

President report: No report.

#### Director report:

- Hiring a new Inspector.
- Tim McIntyre recommended discussing the fine for failing to document job start date on permits. Commission will discuss at future meeting.

Upcoming Commission meeting dates:

March 4, 2011 Inspector Meeting – Sioux Falls – Ramkota

March 5, 2011 IAEEI Code Class – Sioux Falls – Ramkota

April 21, 2011 – Pierre (Proposed public hearing date)

Motion by S. Nielsen; Seconded by H. Nielsen to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

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Cam Becker, Commission Secretary