

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Electrical Commission meeting held on September 17, 2009 via conference call.

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 8:30 A.M.

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

Others present were: JJ Linn – Executive Director and Diana Peterson – Office Secretary.

Motion by Simonson; Seconded by H. Nielsen to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Motion by Simonson; Seconded by Becker to approve the minutes of July 16, 2009. Motion approved.

The Inspectors' report was presented by Director Linn:

1. Inspectors are helping in other districts.
2. The Inspectors requested a representative at the Commission meetings. Director Linn stated he was their representative, yet the Inspectors may attend a meeting pending approval or on their own time.
3. The Inspectors also suggested the Commission meetings be moved around the State. The Commission stated this had been attempted in the past with little success. Attendance did not justify the additional expense to the Commission. The Commission will decide on locations of meetings on a meeting to meeting basis taking into account items on future agendas.

Director Linn updated the Commission on the 5 locations for taking the exam (Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Huron, and Watertown). We have had few complaints on the exams. Diana has developed an exam application process packet which documents the exam process for all parties involved.

Rich Ivey of OSE recently delivered a project manual and project design to the Commission office regarding the Capitol Lake Plaza wind turbines. Casey Kebach, District 10 Inspector and Director Linn will review and develop a process for approving the wind turbines.

Director Linn reported on the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (formerly known as the Multi State Reciprocal Association). He was very disappointed at first, yet, was impressed by the end of the meeting. The Association is working to develop a new set of by-laws separating out the reciprocal agreement. Director Linn stated the Alliance will be a very useful networking tool for our Commission.

A discussion was held on purchasing new laptop computers for the Inspectors. Staff proposes ordering the new computers now and updating the database in the near future. Motion by H. Nielsen, Seconded by Simonson to approve the purchase of laptop computers in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. Motion approved.

A discussion was held on the Sanford Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory at Homestake (Sanford Lab). Staff and Sanford Lab have proposed an exemption for projects of distribution or 600 volts or greater. The Commission reviewed the agreement with Sanford Lab. Motion by H. Nielsen, Seconded by Cronin to approve the agreement with Sanford Lab. Motion approved.

Brian Baker, QPS Evaluation Services requested the Commission to allow QPS to gain acceptance for the use of the QPS Mark in South Dakota prior to being approved by OSHA as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). Director Linn notified the Commission of a recent email from QPS stating QPS has received verbal approval of QPS' NRTL status from OSHA. Motion by Becker, Seconded by Simonson to table this request. Motion approved. H. Nielsen abstained.

The Commission reviewed a request from L. Marquardt Electric Inc. in regards to inspection fees assessed on communication sites. Inspector Chuck Thompson was contacted via phone for clarification on the site in question. Motion by Cronin, Seconded by H. Nielsen confirming the fees were calculated correctly as the metering group in question was considered the service point. Motion approved.

Director Linn presented the monthly reports to the Commission. Director Linn noted the new proposed database should have a more detailed breakdown of contacts per permit. Commission requested more detail on exams results from ICC. The Director will follow-up with ICC regarding the request. Motion by Simonson, Seconded by McIntyre to approve the reports for July and August. Motion approved.

The Code Committee had no report. N. Nielsen and S. Nielsen will be attending the Western Section IAEI meeting in Minnesota next week.

The President thanked Larry Simonson for his service as President of the Commission. He also thanked everyone for their support electing him President.

Director Linn reported on the following:

1. Vacant staff position in the office
2. Thank you from the Youth Engineering Adventure
3. Database update
4. Statute and Rules compliance regarding fees
5. Open meeting laws

Upcoming Commission meeting dates:

January 21, 2010 – Chamberlain - 8:00 AM Central
April 15, 2010 – Conference Call

Motion by H. Nielsen, Seconded by Becker to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Cam Becker, Commission Secretary