

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Electrical Commission meeting held on October 2, 2008 in Conference Room #3, Kneip Building, Pierre, South Dakota.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

Members present were Larry Simonson, Harlan Nielsen, Steve Nielsen, Cam Becker, and Linda Eidem.

Others present were Todd Kolden – Dept of Labor, Lloyd Schipper – Interim Administrator, Katie Duenwald – Dept. of Labor Legal Council, Pam Fuhrer – IEC Dakotas, and Diana Peterson – Office Secretary.

Motion by Eidem, seconded by H. Nielsen to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Motion by Becker, second by S. Nielsen to approve the minutes of July 17, 2008 with the correction that Darwin Jones was not in attendance as an inspector. Motion approved.

The next meeting will be January 15, 2009 in Chamberlain starting at 9:00 A.M.

President Simonson reported on several changes happening and stated it should be better by next meeting. Changes include a new administrator and other field staff changes.

Interim Administrator Schipper reported on the following:

1. Meade County was added to District 7.
2. Each temporary Inspector was assigned to a full-time Inspector.
3. Inspector Schoenfelder will be doing Thermobond inspections and we will be receiving the proper fees for them.
4. Mike Livingston was hired for District 1 starting October 24th.

President Simonson asked if Schipper had any suggestions for areas needing attention. The following is Schipper's response:

1. We need to have regular meetings with Inspectors.
2. Inspectors should reside in the district they serve.
3. We need to get more individuals with Inspector's licenses so when positions open up they already have the license and we don't have to wait for them to pass the exam.
4. Temporaries should be converted to full-time Inspectors over time.
5. We need to establish a procedure for establishing 3rd party inspections.
6. Issue updated Wiring Bulletin.
7. Review rules and statutes for proposed changes.

Commissioner H. Nielsen stated that the wiring bulletin needs to be updated and some rules need to be changed. Commissioner H. Nielsen and the Administrator are to work on the needed changes to the wiring bulletin.

On behalf of the Public Relations Committee Simonson requested that the Commission put more articles in publications explaining the need for permits and safe wiring.

A discussion was held on the two vacancies on the Commission and process for getting replacements. The Commissioners will work to get qualified individuals to nominate to serve on the Commission.

Mr. Kolden discussed the status of issues with the legislative GOAC committee. According to Commission rules meter change outs need to be inspected and the fees paid. Madison and Brookings are doing them and paying for them. He is working with Montrose and Vermillion to inspect theirs and pay the fees.

Mr. Kolden handed out a memo from the department's legal council on the licensing of Hutterites. The memo stated several options for the Commission to take. The Commission will discuss this further at their next meeting.

Miss Peterson gave an update on exam locations. The site in Sioux Falls has added more times for the individuals to take the exam. A contract has been signed for a site in Huron, Cornerstone Learning Center – software will be installed at the site shortly. The Rapid City site is waiting for signed contract. The Commission requested that Doug Hatch, ICC, be at the next meeting either in person or by phone to explain the testing procedures.

Motion by Becker, seconded by H. Nielsen to approve the Bills, Treasurer's Reports, and Budget Statistics for July and August. Motion approved.

Motion by S. Nielsen, seconded by Eidem to approve the Inspection Reports, Inspection Time-Usage, Exam Applications, Exam Results, and New Licenses Issued for July and August. Motion approved.

Motion by H. Nielsen, seconded by Becker to go into executive session at 10:45 A.M. Motion approved.

Motion by Eidem, seconded by Becker to go out of executive session at 11:30 A.M. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Cam Becker, Commission Secretary