

Meeting Minutes
SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION
via Microsoft Teams and Conference Call
Thursday, July 30, 2026, 1:00 p.m. CDT

Director Overweg called the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present in person: Bob Jarding, Carl Odde, Tor Sorlien, and Paul Merriman

Members Present electronically: Dave Eide and John Henkel

Others Present: Pamela Overweg, Program Director; Jodi Aumer, Director of Professional Licensing; Tammi Florentz, Senior Administrative Assistant; Brent Schoulte, Lead Inspector; Andrea Rosenberg, Attorney; Kim Swift, Ryan, AE Tech; Blake Woodward, Jeff Kirstein, Billy Schneider

Sorlien called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Director Overweg called the roll. A quorum was present.

Odde made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jarding seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Eide made a motion to approve the April 22 minutes as written. Odde seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Sorlien asked for any public comment, and none was received.

Director Overweg updated the Commission on revisiting and reviewing the benefits of First Aid, OSHA and safety courses for continuing education (CE). Ryan from AE Tech was allowed by President Sorlien to ask about when new CE courses would be reviewed and approved. Director Overweg explained that, at this point, anyone who has a class has been approved to use the pre-existing class, and we are extending classes. Ryan asked about attendance and whether he needed to send it in. Director Overweg said he did not need to send in the attendance sheets right now, and when we get the new portal updated, we will send out a notice to all providers.

Director Overweg presented the Commission with two out-of-state travel requests for NASCLA and NERA and the annual membership fee for NASCLA. The Commission discussed the proposals. Jarding made the motion to approve travel for both conferences; Merriman seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Commission discussed the four machinery designation applications that were part of the packet. Jarding made a motion to approve all machinery designation applications in the packet. Merriman seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Attorney Rosenberg discussed Disciplinary Hearing Case 2025-04 and explained the case had been settled with a consent agreement. The agreement was shared with the Commission and had already been signed by the licensee. Jarding made a motion to approve the Consent Agreement as written. Odde seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Commission conducted an annual review of the open meetings laws through a presentation by Attorney Rosenberg and review of the Attorney General's materials.

President Sorlien expressed his concern regarding the renewals and looking toward a better way in the future. Director Overweg shared with the Commission that the Commission would be moving to a new online portal that should solve many, if not all, of the problems occurring during renewals. President Sorlien requested that we bring a bill again to discontinue the issuance of new Class B electrician licenses. President Sorlien asked that Director Overweg look into the NSF process for returned checks and add it to the October agenda.

Director Overweg included the most recent available funds report in the packet and continues to monitor the cash balance with the fee increase and one-time funds from the billing reconciliation and collections process. Director Overweg advised the Commission she would be working with the lead inspectors on possibly hiring another full-time inspector. Director Overweg discussed the hurdles the Electrical Commission office staff have faced with the paper renewals this year and the high volume of calls and emails. The Electrical Commission is receiving help from other boards and agencies to get caught up again. Director Overweg shared with the Commission she has been working diligently with inLumon, the Commission's new vendor, on an online portal. This portal will move the licensing and permitting processes online and save the Commission time and money moving forward.

Lead Inspector Schoulte talked about the rules packet for the NEC 2026 adoption. He visited the Home Builders Association and is waiting on bids from contractors for the housing cost impact statement.

Future meeting date is set for Thursday, October 29, 2026.

Merriman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jarding seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.