Meeting Minutes
SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION
via Microsoft Teams and Conference Call
Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 1:00 p.m. CST

Members Present electronically: Dave Eide, John Henkel, Bob Jarding, Carl Odde, Jason Janssen, Stephen Burgess, and Paul Merriman

Others Present: Pamela Overweg, Program Director; Jodi Aumer, Director of Professional Licensing; Tammi Florentz, Senior Administrative Assistant; Brent Schoulte, Lead Inspector; Andrea Rosenburg, Attorney; Kim Swift, Ryan Arne, AE Tech; Nancy Kirstein, Todd Anawski, Daniel Buuck, Adam Kidwell, Teddi Mueller, Jeff Kirstein, Billy Schneider, Robby Wolfgang, Aaron Dosch

Jarding called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and asked all commission members to briefly introduce themselves. A quorum was present

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

Eide made a motion to approve the July 30 minutes as written. Odde seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Jarding asked for nominations for president of the commission. Eide made a motion to nominate Bob Jarding as President. Odde seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Jarding asked for nominations for secretary. Eide made a motion to nominate Carl Odde as Secretary. Merriman seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

President Jarding asked for public comment. The following public comment was received:

- Ryan Arne from AE Tech asked for a report of passed exam ratios for journeyman, contractors and inspectors. He also asked why they only receive emails for the last four years and not addresses.
- Aaron Dosch asked for an update on the mobile app and volunteered to help in any way he could and advised that there are contractors who are willing to test the mobile app when it is ready.
- Teddi Mueller from the homebuilder's association volunteered herself and the homebuilder's association to educate and be involved in rulemaking for the 2026 NEC code in relation to nuisance tripping.
- Billy Schneider asked for an update on when South Dakota would adopt a new fee structure similar to that of North Dakota.
- Adam Kidwell commented that approvals for continuing education need to happen now and provided a counter to the comments of Dan Buuck. Adam said he would discourage picking and choosing when it comes to the NEC and instead adopt it as a whole.
- Robby Wolfgang provided a comment on the electrical experience for advancement and asked the commission to clarify if that experience was tracked in hours or calendar years, and recommended that the commission consider clarifying the rules by applying one unit of measurement.
- Nancy Kirsten asked when the system will be up and running for continuing education.
- Ashley Flynn provided the commission with information on her undertaking fund request included in the packet.
- Dan Buuck from the National Home Builders Association commented on nuisance tripping with AFCI. He stated that they have been installed in the millions and the data doesn't show effectiveness.

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Director Overweg presented the commission with the rules and laws relating the electrical experience needed for advancement that were included in the meeting packet. The commission discussed the rules as written and how they were historically interpreted. The commission asked legal to verify rules for the next meeting.

Director Overweg advised the commission of the two machinery designation applications in the meeting packet. The commission discussed the packets and asked that the commission be provided with the engineer's license status in the future.

Henkel made a motion to approve the Schmitz application. Eide seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Eide made a motion to approve Big Stone Energy application. Merriman seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Director Overweg presented the commission with a request from the lead inspectors for future machinery designation applications to be reviewed by the lead inspectors before the commission. The commission discussed and agreed we should have the lead inspectors review to prevent bottlenecks.

Henkel made a motion to give the lead inspectors authority to make the initial decision on machinery designation applications. Odde seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Director Overweg directed the commission to the meeting packet for the information on the undertaking fund request. The commission discussed whether the fund had been used in the past and if there was any precedent for the process. The Flynn request is the first request to use the undertaking fund, which is funded solely for this purpose.

Eide made a motion to pay $10,000.00 from the undertaking fund to Ms. Flynn. Burgess seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Director Overweg advised the commission a Hutterite colony had legal counsel reach out to the commission regarding a denied homeowner permit. The commission discussed a previous commission meeting where they decided Hutterite colonies should follow the same process regarding permits as everyone else. There was no formal ruling from the commission at that previous meeting, and a committee was formed to investigate the impact of the rules and laws. The committee reviewed the impact of the rules and reached consensus to recommend no action. The commission agreed that the rules and laws are clear and the commission office has been interpreting them correctly.

Eide made a motion that the commission continue to interpret the rules and laws as they have. Merriman seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Lead Inspector Schoulte discussed the 2026 NEC code update first draft included in the meeting packet. The commission discussed the draft and asked for the anticipated timeline. Lead Inspector Schoulte advised the goal is to have the 2026 code take effect July 1, 2027.

Director Overweg has advised the commission members that she has accepted another position and her last day with the electrical commission will be Dec. 8, 2026. Commissioners Jarding and Henkel were agreeable to participate in interviews for candidates. Director Overweg provided an update on inLumon, noting the commission is getting very close to going live. The new online portal should be up and running before the end of the year. Director Overweg

reassured the commission that she will make every effort to get the new database up before her time with the commission ends.

Member Stephen Burgess left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Lead Inspector Schoulte advised the commission we are down an electrical inspector with the passing of Dan Schoenfelder, and the opening is posted. Dan had almost 28 years of service with the state. Things are otherwise going well with inspections, and they look forward to getting the code change rolling.

A future meeting date is tentatively set for Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2027.

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

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

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