

Question of the Month – Electrical trainees are required to work under the direct supervision of a properly certified electrician working on the same jobsite. What is a jobsite and what is supervision? *See correct answer on Page 2.*

Automatic Notification of Inspection Results – Why Permit Email Addresses Matter

Just a few years ago, inspectors used hand written notices to post inspection results on the jobsite. More recently, we gave customers the ability to look up results online. Now, in addition to online lookup and important approval stickers affixed on jobsites, email notification of inspection results will be sent if the permit applicant has provided a valid email address on their permit application.

Recently, we have been testing updates to the computer system we use to record and store inspection results. We are ready to launch near real-time inspection results. Updates to our system make it easier for inspectors to upload inspection results online through a wireless connection if they have signal. When the system receives results, it sends them out to the customer. Results include what was approved or disapproved, and corrections that were completed or written that day are listed if any.

Now, a pilot team of inspectors is using the new system, so you may get email results from some inspections, but not others. By the end of April, all inspectors will be using the new system. Thank you to the legislature, Electrical Board and our customers for supporting funding to improve our technology.

Legislative Update

As discussed in the February 2017 newsletter, the legislature has been considering several bills that may affect the electrical program. Three bills have passed the first cutoff date and will continue on for further consideration.

1. [Senate Bill 5211](#) – Removes the ability of the Electrical Board to hear appeals of decisions by the Office of Administrative Hearings. Decisions made by an administrative law judge would be a final order.
2. [House Bill 1855](#) – Requires business name and electrical contractor license number to be marked on vehicles while used in the electrical construction trade.
3. [House Bill 1952](#) – Allows cities that have electrical inspection jurisdictions to enforce licensing and certification provisions of RCW 19.28.

Review the bills and comment if you desire. A comment button is located to the right of the bill number on each webpage hyperlinked below. You may also contact your legislator to share your opinion about any legislation by visiting the legislative website at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx>.

Attend a Stakeholder Meeting Near You

As announced in the [January 2017](#) newsletter, I am holding 18 electrical stakeholder meetings in various locations across the state between January 24 and April 5, 2017. These meetings are an opportunity to talk in an informal setting. I want to hear how we can better serve you, our customers and help you stay informed of any changes that might affect you and/or your business. A link to meeting dates and locations is on our [Electrical Calendar](#) webpage and will be distributed on the program email list. If you are not on the email list, you may join at our [Electrical Email List](#) webpage.

WAC 296-46B Electrical Rule Revisions – Public Comment Period and Hearing

The department is considering amendments to [WAC 296-46B](#) in two separate rulemaking activities. The adoption of the 2017 National Electrical Code (NEC®) is underway. The process was detailed in the [August 2016 Special Edition](#) newsletter. The first draft of the revised rules was presented to the Electrical Board at their [January 26, 2017](#) meeting. The board

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<http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov>

Safety Tip of the Month

During stormy conditions, be on the lookout for downed power lines and treat them as energized. Do not approach them. One of our inspectors recently photographed this energized, smoking, power line while on the way to an inspection.



voted unanimously to advise the department to move forward with proposals contained in the first draft. A second draft was compiled which includes the Board's recommendations and some minor revisions. The proposed rule was filed on February 28, 2017, and along with the second draft is posted on the [Rule Development](#) page of our website. If you would like to comment on the proposed rule you may respond formally by submitting written comment or by attending and commenting at the public hearing. Written comments may be sent to Alicia Curry: PO Box 44400, Olympia, WA 98504-4400; Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov; or by fax to (360) 902-5292, by 5 p.m. on April 6, 2017. A public hearing will be held on April 6, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the [Tumwater L&I building](#), 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501. You may learn more about the proposed rule and provide informal feedback at one of the stakeholder meetings discussed above.

Another rulemaking activity involves permanent adoption of rules regarding provisions for temporary electricians and allowing a path for Canadian Red Seal Endorsed electricians to qualify for the 01 general certificate of competency exam. This was the subject of emergency rulemaking which became effective November 21, 2016 and will remain in effect until March 21, 2017 if not extended. More information about this rulemaking can be found on the Rule Development page.

WAC 296-46B-250(8) and NEC® 250.94 Intersystem Bonding Termination Device

The department is proposing to adopt NEC® 250.94 beginning July 1, 2017. In 2008, NEC® 250.94 was changed to require an intersystem bonding termination device to be installed at services for connection of bonding conductors for other systems such as telephone, internet, and cable TV systems. At that time, suitable devices were not available, and Washington did not adopt this requirement. Since that time, [WAC 296-46B-250\(8\)](#) has stated that NEC® 250.94 is not adopted. One of the proposals in the current WAC 296-46B revisions is to adopt NEC® 250.94. This will require an intersystem bonding termination device (see picture) to be installed external to enclosures at the service equipment or metering equipment enclosure and at the disconnecting means for any additional buildings or structures. These devices are fairly inexpensive (about \$10) and are simple to install.



Electrical Board Openings

In July, there will be five seats on the Electrical Board that will be up for appointment by the Governor. Some of the seats are held by incumbents who are eligible for reappointment. The Board meets four times per year and serves a vital role in advising L&I on all matters pertaining to Washington's electrical laws, rules, and policies. The role and membership of the Board is described in [RCW 19.28.311](#). Seats that will be open for appointment or reappointment in July are: one representative of an electrical contractor association, one licensed professional electrical engineer who is also a registered communications distribution designer, one telecommunications worker, one outside line worker, and one certified electrician. You can submit an application or recommend an applicant using the forms on the Governor's [Boards & Commissions](#) website. Application must be made using the Governor's form. You may attach your resume and any additional information you would like considered at the bottom of the application before submitting. If you have any questions about completing the application, please contact Gov. Inslee's Office by [email](#) or call 360-902-4111.

Ugly Picture: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* You may need to zoom in on this to see it, but look closely at the bolts that "secure" the 480-volt lugs to the transformer primary terminal bars. This transformer had been energized and it was supplying power to 4 mobile office trailers with computers, lights, and heat running. The inspector asked to see inside the transformer and found this. A question that comes to mind is, how did the set screws on the primary lugs get tightened? This may be a good time to bring up a new requirement in 2017 NEC® 110.14(D) which requires a calibrated torque tool to achieve the indicated torque value for electrical fasteners.



Answer to Question of the Month: "Job site" means a specific worksite having a single address or specific physical location (e.g., a single family residence, a building, a structure, a marina, and individual apartment building with a specific address, etc.). "Supervision" for the purpose of supervising electrical trainees, means that the appropriately certified supervising electrician is on the same job site as the trainee being supervised. For complete definitions of these terms, see [WAC 296-46B-100](#). Lack of proper supervision not only creates potentially hazardous conditions, it is illegal and could result in civil penalties being assessed to the contractor, administrator, and trainee.

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<http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.ElectricalProgram.Lni.wa.gov/>

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