



Phyllis Cooper Rides Off Into Retirement

After 37 years of dedicated service to the electrical program, Phyllis Cooper retired last month. Phyllis was the person everyone went to with questions about anything in the L&I electrical program. She led us from a world of paper forms and applications to one where most of our services are available online any time of the day or night. Phyllis was instrumental in shaping our online services for [purchasing permits](#), [requesting inspections](#), and renewing a [license](#) or [certificate](#). Recently, she led the development of our [virtual electrical inspection](#) and electronic [plan review](#) programs. If you had a problem with your [electronic permit account](#) and called us for help, Phyllis was probably the one who helped you. Not to worry though, you are now in the very capable hands of her successor, Teddi Carruth.

As Phyllis was saying goodbye, she had some great words for us all: “be patient”, “be kind”, “the customer should always be our focus”, and “do the right thing for the right reason”.

Best wishes Phyllis! Thank you for a job well done. We will miss you greatly!

Safety Tip of the Month

As you hurry to your next appointment, be alert for motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Give them a brake. One of them could be Phyllis!

Question of the Month – When will the requirements of the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) be enforced in Washington? *See correct answer on Page 2.*

WAC 296-46B Rulemaking Update

The process of revising the electrical rules is underway. Watch for updates in future editions of this newsletter and at the Rule Development section of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) webpage. For complete details about the process, see the [October 2019 Electrical Currents](#) Newsletter Special Edition.

You can also discuss proposals with the chief electrical inspector by attending a stakeholder meeting near you (see the article below). If you need additional information or have any questions about the rulemaking process, you may contact Alicia Curry at 360-902-6244 or Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov.

Legislative Update

If you are part of the electrical industry regulated by L&I, lawmakers have been considering bills that may affect you. Of those bills introduced this session that affect the electrical program, one is still under consideration. This bill is not sponsored by L&I. You can get information about this bill by clicking on the hyperlinked bill number below. Review the bill and comment if you desire. A comment button is located below the bill number on the legislative webpage. 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>.

[Senate Bill 6409](#) – Exempts manufacturers’ authorized engineers or factory-trained service technicians from electrical contractor licensing and worker certification requirements while working within the confines of industrial equipment.

Electrical Contractors – Schedule a Virtual Electrical Inspection Today

In a new service from L&I, you can now request a [Virtual Electrical Inspection](#) (VEI) on the same day at least 30 minutes in advance of when you need it.

VEI is a dependable inspection process, allowing contractors on the jobsite to interact with inspectors online on a mobile device using Skype. Here are some important points to keep in mind:

- To use VEI, you will need to download the [Skype Application](#) and create a profile.
- Use VEI for any electrical inspections that will take no longer than 15 minutes, *and* that do not involve service or final approvals
- On the jobsite, make sure you have at least a 4G, LTE, or Wi-Fi connection on your mobile device.

Benefits:

- Get quicker follow-up inspections on corrections
- Same day as requested inspections equals time and money saver

Use Google Chrome to [schedule](#) your inspection for the day and time you want. You can learn more about VEI by visiting www.lni.wa.gov and search “Virtual.”

Contact us: Call 360-902-5299 or **Email:** VirtualElectricalInspection@Lni.wa.gov

Invitation to a Stakeholder Meeting Near You

I am holding electrical stakeholder meetings across the state between January and May 2020. These meetings are an opportunity to talk in an informal setting. I want to hear how we can better serve you and help you stay informed of any regulations that might affect you and/or your business. Check the schedule and attend a meeting near you. Meetings are held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the locations listed below.

2020 Stakeholder Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.		
March 3 – Tukwila – L&I Building 12806 Gateway Dr. South, Rm C30	April 8 – Everett – Snohomish County PUD – 2320 California St, Commission Rm	April 9 – Mount Vernon – NW WA Research and Ext Center , 16650 SR 536
April 21 – Pateros – Howard’s on the River Event Center 233 Lakeshore Drive	April 22 – East Wenatchee – Douglas County PUD , 1151 Valley Mall Parkway	April 23 – Moses Lake – L&I Building 3001 West Broadway Avenue
May 11 – Kennewick – Benton PUD Auditorium – 2721 West 10th Avenue	May 12 – Spokane – Spokane Falls Community College , 3410 W. Fort George Wright Drive, Bldg. 17, Sub Lounges	May 13 – Colville – Spokane Community College , 985 S Elm St., Classroom 132
May 14 – Pullman – Parks & Recreation , 190 SE Crestview, Room 218	Late-May – Yakima – exact date and location yet to be determined	

Answer to Question of the Month: We have changed our policy regarding enforcement when new standards are adopted. The 2020 NEC becomes effective in Washington on July 1, 2020. Previously, all jobs where permits were purchased on or after the effective date were inspected in accordance with the requirements of the new code. In general, this is still true, but we have added two exceptions. For new one-, two-, or multi-family dwellings, the inspections will be based on the edition of the code in effect when the building permit is issued. For new installations where plan review is required by [WAC 296-46B-900](#), the date the plans are received and accepted for review will determine the edition of the code enforced. This policy is proposed as a change to WAC 296-46B-010 in the current rulemaking.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.*

Look closely at the picture. Which violation(s) pose the greatest hazard?

- 1) Exposed, un-protected, un-supported nonmetallic-sheathed cable
- 2) The rusty tool supporting the luminaire
- 3) Open, exposed wire nut splices
- 4) No evidence of equipment grounding of the metal pole and luminaire
- 5) Hazardous distraction for electricians doing a “double-take” while driving by



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<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/> - Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical

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