

**Board of Boiler Rules Meeting Minutes**  
**February 22, 2023**  
**Department of Labor & Industries, Virtual Meeting**

**Board Members:**

Tim Barker, Chair  
Terry Chapin  
Lisa Hawkins  
Stephanie Gross  
Steve Pacheco  
Mike Carlson, Secretary

**Other Attendees:**

Jamie Brown, State of Washington  
Alicia Curry, State of Washington\*\*  
Matthew Erlich, State of Washington  
Doug Barkley, ParPacific  
Luke Lafley, Intl. Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
David Keen, Olympic College  
Ken Goodwin, Applied Control\*

- \* Attended Study Session only
- \*\* Attended Board Meeting only
- \*\*\* Attended Public Hearing only

The Board of Boiler Rules study session was held from 10:03 a.m. to 10:58 a.m. Discussion summaries are incorporated in the meeting minutes.

The Board of Boiler Rules meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 1.**

Terry motioned to approve agenda. Lisa seconded. All voted aye, motion carried. Agenda approved.

**Agenda Item 2.**

Stephanie motioned to approve minutes as written. Steve seconded. All voted aye, motion carried. Minutes approved.

**Agenda Item 3**

**WAC 296-104-260 – What are the required clearances for unfired pressure vessels?**

This was presented by Mike Carlson. The previous time(s) this revision was submitted, multiple board members were concerned about manufacturing clearances. The Board was considering putting additional objects like water heaters and expansion tanks in the wording. A few of the board members felt like that wording made those vessels “special” so they asked the department to reword this. There was a substantial amount of back and forth between Mike and the board members. There were concerns raised about whether this revision could potentially cause problems for the owner if the exception process doesn’t get followed properly. After much discussion and consideration, the agreed upon wording for the revision is as follows: “When

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unfired pressure vessels are installed in either existing or new buildings, clearances shall be provided to allow access for safe operation, inspection, maintenance, and/or repair. Passageways around all sides of pressure vessels shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 18 inches. Exception: Unfired pressure vessels may be installed with a side clearance of less than 18 inches if the lesser clearance does not violate the manufacturer's installation instructions or inhibit inspection, maintenance, and/or repair. Any exception shall be notated in object comments in the jurisdictional database. All unfired pressure vessels having a manhole shall have five foot clearance at the manhole opening to allow an individual to have safe access to the inside of the vessel to perform inspection and/or maintenance." Terry motioned to approve. Steve seconded. All voted aye, motion carries.

**Department Notes:**

Terry will continue to serve on the board as long as is necessary, until his position has been filled. Mike has a meeting with Ambar, a Governor's office representative, to discuss applications and process. Terry pointed out that guest attendee at the meeting, Luke Lafley, would be a potential replacement. Luke stated that he submitted an application already and is waiting to hear back. Mike will follow up with the Governor's office in his meeting.

Tim reapplied to renew his board status and it's been held up and approval has not been received yet. Lisa submitted her resignation letter for her term ending in August. We will be looking for a professional engineer. Steve's term is up in August and he will be retiring this year so he will not be renewing. Steve said they're interviewing someone for his position tomorrow and they might be interested.

In person meeting locations were discussed. Mike would like to move to Tumwater for in person portion of meetings. Virtual meetings will still be an option.

State exam needs to be updated. Jamie will divide up questions and send to board members for review. Tim suggested possibly tailoring the questions to the individual by code construction/requirements?

**Inspections completed November 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023, for 116 commissioned inspectors:**

227 Internal boiler inspections  
+ 1,629 External boiler inspections  
+ 10,107 Pressure vessel inspections  
= 11,927 Total inspections

**New objects:**

733 Boilers  
+ 4,674 Pressure Vessels

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= 5,407 New objects

Current total of objects is 116,908 & 28,354 locations.

Statewide overdue rate is 11.4%, with about 13,281 objects (60 days or more overdue) without a valid certificate.

**Violations:**

There were 340 violations opened, 106 violations closed.

274 boiler and 841 pressure vessels with open violations for a total of 1,115.

4 red tag violations opened.

Terry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded. All voted aye, motion carried and meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.