

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

STATE OF WASHINGTON

ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

January 27, 2022

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Taken Before:

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(phonetic) - name spelled phonetically, spelling not verified

(as read) - not an exact quotation of document, paraphrased or not verified with source document

(audio disruption) - digital platform audio feed break

(extraneous noise) - background noise interrupting audio feed

1 BE IT REMEMBERED that an Electrical Board meeting was
2 held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, via Microsoft
3 Teams, at 9:01 a.m., before CHAIRPERSON JASON JENKINS,
4 BOARD MEMBERS, ALICE PHILLIPS, IVAN ISAACSON, MIKE
5 NORD, DYLAN CUNNINGHAM, DON BAKER, DOMINIC BURKE, JACK
6 KNOTTINGHAM, RYAN LAMAR, and JAMES TUMELSON; TECHNICAL
7 SPECIALIST LATHROP; and SECRETARY MOLESWORTH. Also
8 present was ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL BENJAMIN
9 BLOHOWIAK, representing the Board, and BETHANY RIVERA,
10 Board assistant;

11 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had, to
12 wit:

13 * * * * *

14
15 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: So I guess we'll go on
16 record. It is January 27th at approximately
17 9:01 a.m. I'd like to call the Washington State
18 Electrical Board meeting to order.

19 Thank you, everyone, for attending.

20 And as a reminder and for everyone using this
21 platform for the first time, please mute your mics
22 unless you're speaking. If you're on the phone, it is
23 *6.

24 Be aware that the chat feature, if enabled, is not
25 an official form of communication during the meeting.

1 And then, lastly, please speak your name and
2 position before speaking so the court reporter can make
3 a good record.

4 And at this point, if the board members would
5 please unmute your mic so we can do a roll call.

6 First of all, Vice-Chair Alice Phillips.

7 BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: Here.

8 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Board member Ryan LaMar.

9 BOARD MEMBER LaMAR: Here.

10 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Board Member Ivan
11 Isaacson.

12 BOARD MEMBER ISAACSON: Here.

13 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Board Member James
14 Tumelson.

15 BOARD MEMBER TUMELSON: Good morning. Here.
16 Present.

17 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Good morning.

18 Board Member Kerry Cox has been excused.

19 Board Member Mike Nord.

20 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Here.

21 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Board Member Dylan
22 Cunningham.

23 BOARD MEMBER CUNNINGHAM: Here.

24 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Board Member Bobbie Gray
25 has been excused.

1 Board Member Don Baker.

2 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Here.

3 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Board Member Dominic
4 Burke?

5 BOARD MEMBER BURKE: Here.

6 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: And Board Member Jack
7 Knottingham?

8 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Here.

9 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: We also have Ben
10 Blohowiak, our AAG, on the line it looks.

11 And also our secretary of the board Wayne
12 Molesworth is also online.

13 And, for the record, we do have a quorum.

14 So moving on to our agenda items, we have
15 Item No. 1 as safety message. And I've kind of pulled
16 Wayne on this again to give a safety message for the
17 meeting.

18 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: I do.

19 So I'm going to hit on this a little bit. And I
20 know this is kind of a sensitive subject. But I just
21 got done flying down to Texas to visit a brand-new
22 granddaughter. And during that travel, you know, we
23 were required to wear the masks on the airplane. It
24 was a bit uncomfortable.

25 I want to make sure that people have gotten that

1 communication that bandanas on airplanes are not
2 acceptable. You have to have a cloth mask or a
3 surgical mask in order to fly.

4 You probably are safer in an airplane, from what I
5 saw, than a lot of different modes of transportation
6 just because of the circulation of the air. They
7 actually had signs up talking about that and -- you
8 know, and why you should feel safe on an airplane.

9 And always my -- my suggestion is -- for safety is
10 that do a home COVID test, if you can get them, before
11 travel. Do one when you arrive at your destination.
12 And to ensure that you didn't pick one up -- we're
13 waiting until tonight because I'm here at home. But
14 we'll take one tonight to make sure that we didn't have
15 any hidden symptoms.

16 And that way, the safety part of this is you're
17 protecting those around you, other family members,
18 other friends, so that if you were exposed at somewhere
19 along the line, there's really not a good way to know,
20 you know, off of an airplane. They don't have some of
21 the same precautions for, you know, were you in the
22 proximity?

23 But we flew without any interruptions. There was
24 no -- no hostile people on the plane. Everybody was
25 friendly. Everybody abided by the mask mandate. And

1 it -- it was an enjoyable trip.

2 It's -- I think sometimes we put so much emphasis
3 on "I don't want to do it" that we don't realize how
4 easy it is.

5 And believe me, with a beard -- I created a new
6 style called mask beard. It was rather interesting,
7 but I won't show it to you.

8 But it was -- it was -- I felt safe. My grandkids
9 felt safe when we got there, and we had a nice visit
10 for the end of the day.

11 So just to kind of remember to take some sanitizer
12 along. Clean your hands whenever you can. Wash your
13 hands thoroughly, especially in the airports where you
14 have multiple people. Your baggage is handled by
15 people that might not be wearing gloves. When you pick
16 it up, make sure that you clean your baggage off, as
17 well, before you take it to your destination.

18 I think that was really what I wanted to talk
19 about today, was just, you know, those different things
20 that we need to do when we travel because we really
21 don't want to limit our travel. We've got things that
22 we want to go see, we want to go do. And we can't let
23 something like COVID just stand in our way. But we
24 have to abide by some of the rules.

25 So that was all I had for today.

1 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Thank you very much. I
2 appreciate that.

3 (Interruption by reporter for
4 technical issue.)

5 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Okay. There we go.
6 So we got the -- back online.

7 So moving on to Item Agenda No. 2, the approval
8 transcripts of last meeting, the chair would entertain
9 a motion to approve the Washington State Electrical
10 Board minutes of October 28, 2021.

11 BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: So moved.

12 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Board Member Nord,
13 motion.

14 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: We have a motion.
15 Do we have a second?

16 BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: Alice Phillips,
17 second.

18 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: We have a motion. We have
19 a second.

20 Any discussion?

21 Discussion I would have is, the very beginning of
22 your minutes, last time, Wayne, you mentioned about
23 flooding. And that was hitting the nail on the head.
24 We -- shortly thereafter we had a flooding. So maybe
25 it's not a good thing that you had kind of predicted

1 that happening.

2 All right. So any other discussion about the
3 minutes from the last meeting?

4 Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying
5 "aye."

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Any opposed?

8 Motion passes.

9 Okay. Moving on to Item No. 3, we have three
10 matters on the agenda today we need to briefly address.

11 Firstly is Mr. Electric of Clark County, Citation
12 Nos. ECHBO00579, ECHBO00581, ECHBO00583, ECHBO00584,
13 and ECHBO00585. This matter is current staying before
14 the Electrical Board. And there is federal litigation.
15 The parties have prepared a joint statement to the
16 current status of the litigation and sent to the Board
17 prior to today's meeting. I appreciate the parties in
18 a timely update.

19 I would ask that all parties to attended the
20 April -- April 2022 meeting to be prepared to have a
21 hearing on the merits unless the parties can show good
22 cause for the stay to remain in place prior to that
23 meeting.

24 The second matter we have is for Advanced
25 Drilling, with -- LLC, and Robert Laymon, Citation Nos.

1 ESIMZ00384 and ESIMZ00385. It has come to the Board's
2 attention that the firm in this case is no longer
3 represented. In order to -- in order for them to find
4 new counsel or to fully review the Department's
5 proposed order, this matter is also continued till the
6 April 2022 meeting.

7 So lastly, our last item here is concerning
8 Leonard Tobin, Citation Nos. ECHBO00970, ECHBO00971,
9 ECHBO00972, ECHBO00973, and lastly, ECHBO00974. These
10 should be corrected numbers from the actual agenda that
11 was sent out. This matter is also going to be pushed
12 off and heard on the April 2022 meeting.

13 So this concluding our portion on the No. 3 of our
14 appeals.

15 Moving right along.

16 So our next item here is the Department
17 legislative update with Lorin Lathrop.

18 Are you available here online?

19 MR. LATHROP: Yes, Chairman Jenkins, I am
20 here.

21 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: All right. I'll leave
22 the -- up to you. Go ahead.

23 MR. LATHROP: Good morning, everyone. I'm
24 Lorin Lathrop, the electrical technical specialist
25 working for the Department with a few updates for you.

1 First, with the -- with the update for the
2 rulemaking on WAC 296-46B-995 for appeals to the Board.
3 We were able to get the CR 102 filed at the beginning
4 of December. We held the hearing on January 6th. We
5 had two members of the community call in and no one
6 left a comment. No one issued any written comments.

7 So we are moving forward with the filing of the
8 CR 103 on March 1st. And the effective date for the
9 update to these rules will be on April 1st. So
10 everything there is moving according to plan.

11 The other thing is we are watching -- with
12 legislative session going on, we have a number of bills
13 that have been proposed that would affect the
14 electrical industry.

15 Just to give you a brief update, we've got House
16 Bill 1187, which is a bill to increase the scope of
17 work for HVAC contractors to work on mini split
18 ductless systems.

19 We have Senate Bill 5599, which is a technical-fix
20 bill to help create some of the unintended
21 circumstances from the apprenticeship bill that passed
22 a few years ago to -- for journey-level certification
23 requirements and exam qualifications.

24 We have House Bill 1831, which is a new
25 requirement for electric-vehicle infrastructure

1 training to install electrical-vehicle chargers
2 regardless of certification in the state, that they
3 would require this additional certification.

4 And lastly, we have Senate Bill 5914, which is a
5 bill to remove the requirement for technical and --
6 technical colleges and trade schools to be not for
7 profit. So it will allow for-profit schools to be
8 established in Washington.

9 And those are the things that we have on our slate
10 that we have been watching.

11 If the Board has any questions, I will do my best
12 to answer them.

13 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Could you repeat the
14 House Bill number for the mini split systems?

15 MR. LATHROP: House Bill 1187.

16 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Any other board members
18 have any questions for Mr. Lorin Lathrop?

19 I'm kind of excited personally to see that the --
20 we're getting some of the adjustments from the
21 apprenticeship bill hopefully come through because I
22 know there's some hiccups that we're running into with
23 that. I haven't really gotten a chance to look at the
24 bill. I'll be looking at it before next meeting.

25 Same with the EVITP. That's been around for

1 actually quite a while now. So I'm curious to see what
2 happens with that, too, personally.

3 Any other questions or comments for -- from Lorin
4 Lathrop?

5 All right. Well, hearing none, we'll move on to
6 Item No. 5.

7 Thank you very much for your time Lorin. I
8 appreciate it.

9 MR. LATHROP: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Moving on to temporary
11 allowance for basic training classes, Mr. Wayne
12 Molesworth, please.

13 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Good afternoon,
14 Mr. Chairman, board members. This is going to be a
15 short report on this.

16 We actually notified through the newsletter that
17 the allowances we were having for online basic trainee
18 classes was coming to an end as of March 31st. As of
19 March 31st all trainee classes must be done in
20 person. So that's -- that's short and sweet.

21 We feel that we've gotten to that point and talked
22 with others about their ability to be in person. And
23 it seems like people are ready to go down that path.
24 So . . .

25 Are there any questions?

1 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Just maybe a slight
2 question.

3 Have you heard anything, have any kickback from
4 trainee programs that are concerned about this change
5 or that are unable to meet this requirement?

6 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Yeah. I have not heard of
7 any kickback as of yet. We're giving them close to
8 three months, it appears. And so there should be the
9 ability to bring that into line fairly easily, I would
10 think. And I know that a few have actually been
11 preparing for a while. So . . .

12 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Thank you.

13 Anybody from the Board have any questions
14 concerning the temporary allowances for basic trainee
15 classes?

16 Have a quiet meeting. Okay.

17 BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: I have a question.

18 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: So moving on --

19 BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: So the in-person
20 classes, I assume they're going to be following all the
21 COVID protocols and mask mandates and N95 or -- what is
22 it? -- KN95 all of that stuff.

23 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Yeah.

24 BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: Okay.

25 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: So we don't have control

1 over that from us. That's a state mandate. And so I
2 would assume that the providers are going to have
3 criteria for their classes in order to attend in
4 person. That's going to be probably by provider. Some
5 may be more stringent than what the state requires.
6 But we don't -- we aren't regulating that action.

7 BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: Thank you.

8 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Yep.

9 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Thank you very much,
10 Alice.

11 Anybody else have any questions concerning that
12 for Wayne?

13 All right. Hearing none, I guess, Wayne, we're on
14 to Item No. 6, the secretary's report.

15 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Okay. Bring that up over
16 here.

17 All right. Well, good morning again. And my
18 name's Wayne Molesworth. I'll be reading the
19 secretary's report into the record as of January 27,
20 2022.

21 As far as the budget goes, the electrical fund
22 balance on December 31, 2021, was 11,000 -- or
23 11 million -- sorry -- 981,696, which is about five
24 times the average monthly operating expenditures. The
25 average monthly operating expenditures for second

1 quarter of Fiscal Year 2022 were \$2,233,316 compared to
2 \$2,443,286 for the same period last year, which is a
3 decrease of about 8.6 percent. Average monthly revenue
4 for FY 2022 was \$2,448,607 compared to \$2,380,593 for
5 this same period last year, an increase of about
6 2.8 percent.

7 January 2022 customer service had -- 42,348
8 permits were sold last quarter. That's 99.7 percent
9 for 400 -- or 42,221 were processed online, which is
10 the same from last quarter. 99.9 percent of contractor
11 permits were sold online, which is consistent with the
12 previous quarter. Homeowners online sales from this
13 quarter is 97.3 percent, which is a .4 percent increase
14 from the previous quarter. Online inspection requests
15 were 81.3 percent, which is a 1.1 percent decrease from
16 last quarter. During this quarter customers made
17 95.4 percent of all electrical-license renewals online,
18 which is the same for last quarter.

19 Key performance measures.

20 The percent of inspections performed within 24
21 hours of request, the goal is normally 86 percent. In
22 FY 2021 we had 76 percent, and 2022 was also
23 76 percent.

24 Percent of inspections performed within 48 hours
25 of request -- excuse me -- were -- FY 2021 were

1 88 percent and again in 2022 were 88 percent. So not a
2 lot of fluctuation in those.

3 Total inspections performed we had 66,874 in this
4 quarter of 2021 and 61,627 in 2022. This is a
5 reflection in the decrease in the number of staff we
6 had and the number of inspections that were requested
7 during that period of time. Also, it reflects the VEI
8 inspections, which is next.

9 Virtual electrical inspections, VEI, performed in
10 2021 was 2,445. In 2022 for the same quarter was
11 5,770.

12 VEI is having a very strong impact going into this
13 year. Because of our lack of staff and our vacancy
14 level we're seeing a lot of contractors buying in and
15 participating in the VEI program.

16 Number of focused citations and warnings,
17 contractor licensing, worker certification, no permits,
18 failing to supervise trainees, the anticipated total
19 number is 4,136. Actual numbers from FY 2021 were --
20 the field was 473, ECOPE audit was 1,490, for a total
21 of 1,963. Change in FY 2022 in the field was 249.
22 ECOPE audit was 797 for a total of 1,046.

23 This is a pretty steep change from same quarter
24 last year. Some of the reasoning behind that is that
25 we were down several staff in ECOPE. ECOPE was also

1 helping licensing with their auditing of different
2 documents in order to ensure that our contractors and
3 electricians were getting their licenses timely and
4 that our trainees' affidavits were being reviewed.
5 They were a great help. That assistance that they were
6 giving licensing will come to an end March 1st, and
7 we should see a rebound.

8 Also, we were short almost four inspectors in
9 ECOPE for a good period of time. We're down to one
10 vacancy right now.

11 And we've also created a relationship for
12 compliance with the City of Seattle where we're working
13 with one of their inspectors that's doing compliance.
14 And the state processes those citations, writes the
15 citations and prosecutes them. The City of Seattle
16 develops an evidence package for us. So there is a
17 little bit of overlap there. We're looking at
18 increasing the ECOPE program by a couple of inspectors.

19 So line 6, inspection stops per inspector per day,
20 this is just a workload indicator. It was 11.1 last
21 year, and it's 12 this year. So emphasis has been on
22 getting more inspections done, trying to adapt in order
23 to cover for the vacancy rate that we currently have.

24 Serious electrical corrections that would result
25 in disconnection, there were 9,916 last year. 800

1 and -- 8,941 this same quarter this year.

2 Turnaround time for average plan set reviewed,
3 goal is less than 1.6 weeks. Last year it was five
4 days. This year for this quarter it was three days.

5 They've been doing a wonderful job of plan review.
6 We have really made a lot of good decisions in plan
7 review. And they're absolutely turning out jobs in a
8 very timely fashion. We've been getting a lot of good
9 comments from our customers.

10 Plan pages reviewed, 1,249 last year, 985 this
11 year.

12 Okay. Licensing, citations, amusement rides,
13 appeals, continuous improvement is still at the top of
14 our priority. We have been in the process of hiring
15 and continued training of staff to support the
16 workload.

17 We have filled two vacancies. With many the field
18 offices still closed, licensing staff continues to work
19 on influx of mailed documents. The field service
20 locations are no longer assisting with licensing phone
21 calls.

22 The licensing team is working together and has
23 implemented a schedule that provided focused time to
24 help on licensing workload and focused time answering
25 phone calls. This schedule has been paramount in

1 helping the team manage the workload and continue to
2 meet customers' needs by being available for phone
3 calls.

4 The licensing backlog is at 352 documents with the
5 oldest date of 12/20 am.

6 I do want to make a comment here about licensing.
7 They have spent an enormous amount of time developing
8 different processes and identifying those processes
9 that were standing in our way of actually fulfilling
10 our customers' needs. And I think they've done a great
11 job by having focus time for document processing so
12 they're not answering the phone while they're trying to
13 do other work.

14 And the -- only a couple months ago that backlog
15 was at about 1300. And so they've come a long way
16 clearing the backlog and keeping up with new documents
17 coming in. We've been really happy.

18 And our staffing is now back up to the level it
19 was in 2011. We've been short between two and three
20 staff completely during that period of time. And this
21 just helps our stakeholders get their licenses and
22 their certificates renewed in a timely fashion. And we
23 can't be happier about that.

24 There are no new testing labs.

25 And at this time I would ask if there was any

1 questions I could answer from the Board about the
2 secretary's report.

3 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: This is Board Member
4 Baker. I've got a serious of questions for you, Wayne.

5 So we'll start with -- so the 24 hours, the goal
6 is to be -- perform the inspections in 24 hours. Could
7 you explain just for the record, is that 24 -- 24
8 working hours or actual clock hours?

9 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: So it's 24 clock hours.
10 Right? So it's -- it's from the time that inspection
11 is requested. That's when the clock starts on it, and
12 it goes from there.

13 I want to elaborate a little bit on the 24-hour
14 point. That's not the mandate. The mandate is within
15 48 hours. But we want to make sure by tracking the 24
16 so that we can see what kind of problems that we were
17 having before we get to that 48.

18 But, yeah. They're -- they're clock.

19 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: So thank you for that.

20 My first question is: If the goal is 86 percent
21 and this quarter for the last the two years you haven't
22 met that goal, could you explain why it is you're not
23 meeting that goal?

24 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Well, we're running right
25 now a vacancy rate of right around 28 percent to

1 30 percent, I think. And what we've done is tried to
2 prioritize our inspections so that we're getting to
3 those inspections that are, first of all, health and
4 safety.

5 Second of all, any cover and service inspections
6 that hold up multiple trades so that we can keep the
7 industry going. Right? The construction industry's on
8 a great rebound. Last thing we want to do is stand in
9 the way and screw up schedules. So we're looking at
10 doing those next.

11 Then we've got the types of inspections that are
12 maybe one-offs that just affect that electrician and
13 that homeowner. They're still important. We try to
14 get to them as quickly as we can.

15 But we also are plagued with -- a lot of our
16 vacancies are in our areas that are far out, you know,
17 mileage-wise. Let's take the peninsula, for example.
18 It's very hard to get people up the peninsula because
19 our inspectors used to live up in that area, and now
20 they don't. So we're bringing people in from Whidbey
21 Island to help cover, and that spreads them out, you
22 know, even more.

23 So I think that it's a -- it's a bunch of
24 different things that kind of add up to why we're not
25 able to meet that timeline.

1 Now, saying that, we've also increased and the
2 regions have given us some of their vacancies to apply
3 towards VEI inspections, which -- those are all within
4 24 hours. So when I mentioned VEI numbers, all of
5 those are done within 24 hours.

6 We are also looking at -- we're not even looking
7 at. We're doing it -- increasing the scope of VEI
8 inspections because of some of the different
9 experiments we did with how effective can we be with
10 VEI with different types of inspections. So those,
11 we're adding three right now. As a matter of fact, we
12 start interviews for three VEI positions next week.
13 And we'll be putting those in place.

14 We see that, field inspectors compared to VEI
15 inspections, VEI is doing about 1.6 compared to every
16 inspection that field inspectors do, and that's
17 primarily because there's no mileage. They're not out
18 there driving. There's no safety concerns, no tools
19 needed, and less time on the job site.

20 And so hopefully, by implementing that and some of
21 the others, we'll start to see those numbers come back
22 in place. But it's hard to -- hard to really make that
23 difference when you have a vacancy rate as high as we
24 do right now that came about as of October 18th.

25 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: And did I hear you

1 correctly? Did you say 28 to 38 vacancy rate?

2 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: To 30.

3 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: To 30. All right. All
4 right.

5 So scrolling down, your inspections performed,
6 66,000 last quarter, 61,000 this quarter. Do those
7 numbers include the virtual inspections, or is that a
8 completely separate number that's added to the 66 and
9 61?

10 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: You know, Don, I think
11 they're inclusive. That's been my understanding. I'd
12 have to look to be absolutely sure if they didn't
13 subtract them out of there. But there's nothing that
14 makes me think that they would be excluded from number
15 of inspections.

16 I think the next line where it talks about VEI
17 inspections is that portion of those inspections were
18 done by VEI.

19 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: And I thought I heard
20 you say during your report that the -- one of the
21 reasons for the reduction of inspections was because of
22 capacity. Is that what I heard you say?

23 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Reduction of inspections?

24 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Yeah.

25 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Inspections being done?

1 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Yeah.

2 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Be because of our vacancy
3 rate, our capacity to get there.

4 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: And I believe --

5 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Twenty -- at the current
6 time we have 22 recruitments open. The problem is that
7 we're not getting a lot of applicants.

8 And one of the commitments I've made is that I'm
9 not going to hire to fill seats to put inspectors in to
10 write their name on a sticker. When we hire we want to
11 have inspectors that can go out and actually make a
12 difference for their -- for our customers. And I don't
13 want to saddle our customers with people that "We just
14 want to get inspections done."

15 And so we've had a couple instances where we've
16 had people that have been -- have their journeyman
17 certificates but only maintenance careers for the last
18 15 years. And this is the applicant we're getting now,
19 is that we ask a simple question, "What's the
20 difference between a service and a feeder?" and they
21 can't answer it. I mean, they answer it, but it's
22 incorrect.

23 One person that came close, we asked him -- we
24 told him that, "One of your answers was incorrect. Can
25 you tell me which one that was?" And he chose the one

1 that was correct as being incorrect.

2 So this is a struggle for us trying to find staff
3 that are very well-versed electricians that can go out
4 and make decisions and actually see wiring method for
5 what it is. There's -- it's -- yeah.

6 Back in the early '90s we were about right with
7 the wages with everybody else. But now, with
8 everything happening with the contracts and stuff out
9 there, especially in the King County area, we're
10 struggling.

11 However, I'm going to add a little bit to this.
12 And I'm sorry if I'm editorializing. Our management
13 has gone to State HR and really gotten some good --
14 some fixes for us and some benefits and some different
15 pay scales that we can effectively do without having a
16 class-and-comp package in place. So we're hoping that
17 all of those make a difference in our recruitment and
18 that we're able to recruit a higher level.

19 The other thing I would ask -- and I've kind of
20 been chuckled at when I do this. But I'm going to
21 start asking that I can attend some of the different
22 trades groups' meetings and really promote the benefits
23 of work-life balance with the electrical-inspections
24 group and try to encourage more and more people to look
25 at it as a career path.

1 You know, it's very rewarding. Might not have the
2 money behind it. But it is a very rewarding time. And
3 it does give us a lot better work-life balance.

4 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Yeah.

5 I'm going to get through these 'cause other board
6 members may have similar questions. But there's -- I
7 have an agenda I'm working towards here, so bear with
8 me.

9 Number of focused citations, looking at the ECORE,
10 numbers are greatly reduced there. That's concerning
11 to me as a contractor, as a taxpayer. That means the
12 underground economy is having their way within our
13 state. That is not acceptable. And I believe I heard
14 you say in that category, as well, it's because of
15 capacity and shortage of manpower.

16 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Yeah. And that was --
17 that was -- really the basics behind that was that we
18 were having trouble filling those vacancies in ECORE.
19 We also needed to get caught up in licensing so that we
20 could process licenses. And so there's a matter of
21 moving some staffing around on a temporary basis to
22 ensure that we get everything done. Right? And part
23 of that is that I really want our guys to have licenses
24 so they can go to work.

25 And we had some big investigations going that took

1 up a lot of time for some of our staff. So that also
2 limited it.

3 We had two of our highest performers retire this
4 last quarter in ECORE. And we're in the process of
5 filling those positions. And now we've filled them
6 with internal candidates from audit. So the next
7 quarter we should see a pretty good rebound for those
8 numbers.

9 But, you know, I want to say that there's --
10 especially in today's environment, you're going to see
11 a little fluctuation just because we got to get all the
12 work done. And it's important. Our people don't want
13 to wait for months to try to get their licenses either.
14 Right? 'Cause legally they can't go out to work, or
15 they are part of the underground economy if we aren't
16 able to get them a license. And I hate to say that.

17 So it's a matter of, you know, how do we make our
18 resources stretch the farthest until we can get all
19 this pulled back together?

20 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: The last thing I'll
21 point to -- and I'll let some other board members weigh
22 in. But in the past, line 6 about number of
23 inspections per day, that number historically has been
24 10. And it crept up to 11 last year, and now this
25 quarter we're reporting 12.

1 And what I'm seeing here in all these categories
2 is the frog in the pot of water. Right? We're slowly
3 going the wrong direction, and we have been for some
4 time. Again, I'm assuming that's because of a shortage
5 of staff. It's --

6 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Well, the --

7 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: The number -- the number
8 of inspections is reduced. But our inspectors are
9 doing more inspections per day, which tells me they're
10 really -- that -- a shortage in staffage and those
11 staff members are even more overworked than they were a
12 year ago.

13 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Well, I'm going to -- I'm
14 going to respectfully disagree with you, Don, on
15 overworked. When I was -- I was an inspector for 17
16 years. I averaged a little over 100 miles a day, and I
17 did 14.5 inspections a day average.

18 So there -- there are some situations out there
19 where they can only do so many. Right? This is an
20 average.

21 And so we have to look at over -- over a period do
22 we have guys where they are able to get to more permits
23 with fewer miles? Are they stepping it up a little
24 bit?

25 One of the things that we're trying to get them to

1 do is reduce their reinspects. If I'm missing a couple
2 staples and a strap here and there, I shouldn't be
3 writing that stuff. I should be going ahead and
4 calling that contractor, telling them what I've seen,
5 "Please check that out," and move that on because when
6 we limit our ability to allow them to be responsible
7 for the work that they're doing, that means we're just
8 not getting to that next inspection soon enough.

9 And so we are pushing them a little bit towards,
10 "Think about what you're going to write here and the
11 reinspect that's going to go with it" because if I got
12 to go 40, 50 miles out of my way to go reinspect
13 something of a lower caliber of inspection, I'm not
14 doing a service to anybody. I'm just doing an
15 inspection for that one particular residence. Right?
16 So we're trying to look at this more from a broad
17 standpoint.

18 I'm actually glad that I'm seeing some movement in
19 that direction because -- I'm not seeing a great
20 movement but just a slight movement so that we can see
21 that some of those things are actually sneaking in
22 there and that they're starting to think about their
23 work because they are concerned about their customers.
24 They want to get to all those jobs.

25 So that's the only thing I'd push back a little

1 bit on that part of it.

2 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Yeah, I appreciate that.
3 And I didn't mean to state that they're overworked.
4 I'm just looking at the numbers and seeing if the
5 numbers are telling a story.

6 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Absolutely.

7 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Yeah.

8 Coming from the field and understanding the
9 relationships with the inspectors when they come out to
10 inspect, multiple times I have had inspectors say,
11 "Yeah, put a few more nail plates. Put a few more
12 staples, I'm going to approve this and trust that
13 you're going to take care of that."

14 That's fine. That's good. I've always
15 appreciated that about the Department. I am concerned
16 that that doesn't take on a life of its own and
17 inspectors start saying, "Yeah, I'm going to file this,
18 and I'm going to trust you're going to take care of"
19 something and now they're doing it because they're
20 trying to manage their time and now we're not being as
21 thorough and diligent. And that's up to an inspector
22 having that -- you know, that discretion. Right?

23 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: That's up to him and his
24 supervisor. Right? The supervisors are supposed to be
25 taking a look at what types of corrections are being

1 written out there and what their workload is with their
2 staff. And so, you know, that's a finessing thing.
3 They've got to look at it, make some decisions out
4 there and go --

5 But I will tell you that I did have a
6 supervisor -- and I think this has changed now. I
7 think we've got this on a different track. But his
8 comment to me was, "Isn't our job it write
9 corrections?" And that is not our job. And I hope --
10 I hope that's the feeling of the Board. That's part of
11 the job depending on the type of correction.

12 But our job is to -- to take the time to take a
13 look, make sure that we're finding things that maybe
14 the contractor had overlooked, and then getting them
15 fixed so that we have a semblance of a code-compliant
16 installation.

17 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Thanks, Wayne.

18 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: I'll comment to that. I'm
19 concerned when you're saying doing inspections, I think
20 safety is our number one piece, making sure it's a safe
21 installation. "Code compliant" indicates that. But a
22 safe installation is my key.

23 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: And I agree with you,
24 Jason. What I want to make sure that I voice my
25 opinion on on those -- on that comment is that a

1 code-complaint installation and a safe installation
2 don't really reflect each other.

3 We look at a snapshot in time. And so when we
4 leave, things can happen on that job site. Things can
5 be code complaint and not be safe. And things can be
6 safe looking but not be code compliant. And that's
7 where we look at it and go, okay, well, is this really
8 a situation that we need to write a bunch of
9 corrections on because it's just as safe. Just made
10 this bit over the line of not being code compliant.
11 Right?

12 And we give them a little discretion in that. And
13 we want people that can have that discretion and
14 understand, you know, what that looks like.

15 And lately we've not been interviewing people like
16 that. So . . .

17 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Does anybody else have any
18 questions for Wayne concerning the report?

19 I will add to that, Don, those are some of the
20 same questions I had.

21 One of the just a slightly added question was
22 No. 6 as you mentioned before going from 11.1 to 12.
23 Does that include the -- I know it says "stops," so I
24 assume it doesn't. But just -- so I'm going to ask the
25 question:

1 Does that include the virtual electric
2 inspections, also?

3 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: No.

4 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Okay. So that number --

5 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: It's a separate thing.

6 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: -- has nothing to do with
7 it?

8 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Right.

9 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Just want to make sure
10 because that would make sense why it went up. But it's
11 not because of that.

12 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Right.

13 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: All right. Any more
14 questions?

15 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Yeah. This is
16 Board Member Knottingham.

17 It looks like you guys are reading Wayne's report.
18 I do not have a copy of that. So if I could be added
19 to a distribution list or make sure I get a copy, also,
20 I would appreciate it. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Yeah. I'll definitely
22 make sure it gets listed out there. It's something
23 I'll talk about with Beth when we're done here.

24 Any other questions concerning the report?

25 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Jason, if you think it

1 would be appropriate, if we could take a few minutes,
2 I'd like to maybe dive a little bit deeper with Wayne
3 about recruitment and retention. We're kind of on that
4 subject, if that's all right with you.

5 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Yes. I was kind of
6 waiting for this. Thank you. I was --

7 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Okay. All right.

8 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Thank you. Go right
9 ahead.

10 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Wayne, I think you
11 pretty much answered the questions I've written down
12 here in advance. But one of them was: How are you
13 doing with recruitment and retention? It sounds like
14 you're -- I think you used the word "struggling."

15 If you want to expand on that at all?

16 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Well, I think that the --
17 what I was saying about struggling was actually our
18 recruitment and the candidates that we were getting for
19 recruitment was a struggle. And so that all is -- as
20 you guys know, that's all based around, you know,
21 wages.

22 I've told our leadership -- and they've listened
23 really closely -- that when I was an electrician, I
24 worked off the book, and there was a couple of things
25 that I asked. Right? So how much overtime -- how many

1 hours are they working? How much overtime are they
2 working? You know, and what goes on the check, and
3 what goes in the annuity? Those were the things that I
4 needed to know before I was going to travel.

5 And that's the same thing we have here, is first
6 thing that people ask about is, well, what does it pay?

7 And we have about a \$30,000 benefit package. And
8 we try our hardest to make sure that people understand
9 the benefits included in that package along with the
10 wages that we have.

11 But, you know, when you have a group of younger
12 candidates, you know, that may be in their 40s or right
13 in there, that -- they've got a lot of goals that they
14 have ahead of them that they need to make some money at
15 this point in their careers. And they're hard to
16 recruit into a job such as this with the wages that we
17 have. So that's really the struggle.

18 What I will tell you guys is that we're right
19 now -- I don't know if you're all familiar with our
20 step system and the ranges. But we have -- we're
21 approaching State HR to move everybody in the program
22 for retention purposes to Step M, which is a step that
23 was reserved for only people that have been here for
24 six years in their positions.

25 So now we're looking at that as being some way to

1 retain those that maybe aren't at Step M yet and to
2 keep them because we need to retain the people that we
3 have. And that's going to be tough.

4 You know, one of the things I mentioned earlier
5 was that -- or not with this group but with Joel
6 Sacks -- is that, you know, apprenticeship is coming
7 up. And there's a new apprenticeship bill. Where are
8 we going to find the instructors that we need to make
9 sure that those apprenticeship classes get taught? I
10 mean, there's going to be some wages there that might
11 be higher than ours. So we're going to compete with
12 them, as well. So it's going to be a little bit of a
13 struggle for the next few years.

14 We're actually looking at a class-and-comp
15 package. HR is serious about getting us in line with
16 that.

17 But on the other hand, what they've told us is
18 that, "Every time you have a recruitment, you hire."

19 And I really -- you know, and from a Board
20 standpoint, this is going to sound bad. But I really
21 spent some time with supervisors telling them, "You
22 need to hire the people that are going to be the future
23 of this program. You do not need to hire somebody to
24 fill a seat that's going to do ten inspections a day
25 and you don't know whether they're just signing their

1 name to it or walking away, or if they recognize the
2 wiring method that's being installed."

3 You need to find that out because, if you're
4 hiring every time you recruit, then we don't have a
5 hiring-and-retention problem, right, according to State
6 HR. We have to make sure we're only hiring those
7 people that are going to fit in with us.

8 And I've told them same thing I'm telling you:
9 That's where the struggle's going to come for the next
10 two years or so, until we can get that passed, with the
11 number of inspections, the vacancy rates, and that type
12 of thing 'cause that all plays into that class and comp
13 and State HR looking at our wage package, and raising
14 our wages.

15 And that in turn makes us competitive. So . . .

16 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: You mentioned King
17 County Local 46. As you know, they're taking \$15.50
18 over the next three years. You're not going to keep up
19 with that.

20 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: No.

21 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: You're trying to recruit
22 the best of the best. And that local's going to set
23 the standard for the compensation package for the
24 industry across our state.

25 CHIEF MOLESWORTH: Yep.

1 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: And it's going to be
2 very difficult to keep up with that.

3 I'm going to make -- I'm going to make a statement
4 here. And this is coming from me, necessarily, coming
5 from a taxpayer. I know I have a seat on the Board.
6 But I'm pretty passionate about this. And we have
7 talked about this as a board for as long as I've been
8 on the Board.

9 We've gone through four different chief electrical
10 inspectors, all of them saddled up with the same
11 challenge. We've had directors from the Department of
12 L&I come in and tell us, "This is a challenging
13 situation to navigate, and we're doing the best we
14 can."

15 I've been to the training sessions with the state
16 electrical inspectors and heard their complaints. I've
17 sat in the room. I know they're undercompensated. We
18 know they're undercompensated. We know there's a
19 retention and recruitment challenge. We've been faced
20 with it for 12 years.

21 I don't know if you're all aware, but on
22 January 19th Governor Inslee -- and I don't know if he
23 reads these minutes or not.

24 Sue, do a good job cleaning up my words here in
25 the event that the governor reads this 'cause I want to

1 speak directly to the governor just for a second.

2 On January 19th he issued an emergency order to
3 deal with the issues revolving around the European
4 green crap. And in that order he addresses the issue
5 that they're having and how it could affect the state
6 and small businesses. And he went on to urge the
7 legislature to provide additional emergency funding, as
8 requested by the wildlife department for the state of
9 Washington.

10 And it's my understanding that the governor has
11 the sole authority to determine when and where an
12 emergency exists. So, Governor, if you're listening
13 and you're paying attention here, you have an emergency
14 that exists within the electrical department of L&I.
15 There is a severe compensation discrepancy with our
16 inspectors.

17 And I would urge Governor Inslee, with all respect
18 for the position that he holds -- I would urge him to
19 put an emergency order in place and charge the
20 legislature or whoever needs to be charged to address
21 this and get these inspectors the proper compensation
22 package so that the administrators that are trying to
23 hire and recruit can hire, retain, and recruit the best
24 of the best within our industry and get this department
25 back where it needs to be, where it was 25, 30 years

1 ago, where these inspectors were the best of the best.

2 And the challenge that Wayne is facing, the
3 challenge that we have in front of us, is only going to
4 perpetuate if we don't address the problem. Governor,
5 you have the authority to put an order in place so we
6 can resolve this. We haven't resolved it for 12 years.

7 So if there's ever been a time for the governor to
8 step up, this would be the time for him to step and put
9 something in place so we can take care of this problem
10 once and for all.

11 BOARD MEMBER BURKE: This is Board Member
12 Dominic Burke. I would also like to second that and
13 add that this is a safety issue.

14 BOARD MEMBER BAKER: Absolutely. Absolutely.

15 As Jason said, our inspectors are out there
16 inspecting small businesses, and they're ensuring the
17 safety of property and personnel. And when we are
18 short-staffed and don't have the amount of people out
19 there to do that work and ensure --

20 Absolutely, Dominic. Thank you. This is
21 absolutely a safety issue.

22 Not to mention it -- we have an underground
23 economy that we've been fighting. And when we are
24 shorthanded and short-staffed because we can't
25 compensate those people properly, that underground

1 economy's only going to grow.

2 Yeah. It is negligent for the governor not to
3 address this and get this taken care of. It's
4 ridiculous that we've been talking about this for 12
5 years and we have not made any headway. In fact, we've
6 probably eroded.

7 Thanks for bringing that up, Dominic.

8 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Thank you very much. This
9 is Jason Jenkins, Chair.

10 Thank you, Dom.

11 Was there anything else that you want to discuss
12 with Wayne?

13 I'm assuming that's a no.

14 Okay.

15 Any other board members have anything to discuss
16 with Wayne Molesworth concerning his report?

17 Hearing none, I guess we're going to move on to
18 No. 7, certifications/CEU quarterly report with
19 Technical Specialist Larry Vance.

20 Larry Vance, are you available online?

21 MR. LATHROP: Chair Jenkins, this is Lorin
22 Lathrop, technical specialist. I am going to stand in
23 for Larry today. He's in another meeting that he
24 couldn't get out.

25 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Oh, okay. Thank you very

1 much.

2 So the floor is yours.

3 MR. LATHROP: Hello, Board. This is Lorin
4 Lathrop, technical specialist.

5 In the last year, first-time-pass rate for the 01
6 electrical exam is 46 percent with 980 applicants.
7 Both of these numbers are consistent to what we've seen
8 over the past few years for taking the exam in the
9 first time.

10 And that was the basis of what Larry had to share
11 with you. I can try to answer any questions if you
12 have them.

13 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Chair Jason Jenkins.

14 I did go through those reports, and they all look
15 consistent with what we've seen in the past. Nothing
16 I've seen is really outside the norm.

17 Any other board members have any questions or
18 concerns concerning the certifications and CEU
19 quarterly reports?

20 It's a very quiet meeting. Okay.

21 I guess, moving on to Item No. 8, which is our
22 public comment regarding items not on the agenda.

23 Do we have anybody here that is here to speak to
24 the Electrical Board from the public?

25 Once again, is anybody here? You'll need to

1 unmute your mic. If you're on the phone, it is *6.

2 Going once.

3 Is anybody here to speak to the Electrical Board
4 concerning public comments?

5 Going twice.

6 And one more time, is anybody here to speak to the
7 Electrical Board concerning public comment?

8 And hearing none, I think we had --

9 Ryan LaMar, I think you wanted some time here
10 towards the end.

11 BOARD MEMBER LAMAR: Sure. I'll take it. I
12 appreciate that.

13 So Board Member Ryan LaMar.

14 This is actually my last meeting. I work for
15 lumen and in my position at Lumen. And in my position
16 at Lumen I've been moved out of field operations and
17 more towards financial and process.

18 So I felt it was appropriate -- despite my safety
19 background in field operations, I felt it was
20 appropriate for me to step down and hand the torch over
21 to a peer that I've work with in the past 12, 13 years
22 who has 30-plus years in outside client operations.

23 So Ed Stemmell has applied for the position, I'm
24 hoping the Board and Governor Inslee accept him. This
25 man is beyond reproach for safety. He is a very

1 safety-oriented person. And I think he'd be a great
2 fit for the Board to replace me.

3 With that said, I want to thank all of you for the
4 four years that I've been on the Board. I've learned a
5 lot, and I've been able to apply some of the -- many of
6 the information you've given to me to better the safety
7 practices in our telecom industry. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Chair Jason Jenkins.

9 Once again, thank you, Ryan, for the time you
10 spent here on the Board. I do appreciate what you've
11 done, and I hope things work out for you here in the
12 future.

13 Does anybody else have any comments?

14 BOARD MEMBER BURKE: And thank you for your
15 service.

16 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Yes. Thank you.

17 BOARD MEMBER LAMAR: Okay. Thanks.

18 CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Anybody else have any
19 comments?

20 Well, hearing none, the Chair would entertain a
21 motion to conclude --

22 Oh, was it --

23 -- to conclude the Electrical Board of
24 October 28th.

25 October. I'm sorry. January 27th.

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BOARD MEMBER PHILLIPS: Alice Phillips.

So moved.

MR BURKE: Second.

Dominic Burke.

CHAIRMAN JENKINS: I have a motion and a
second.

Any discussion?

All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Any opposed?

Hearing none, motion passes. And that concludes
our January 27, 2022, Electrical Board meeting.

Thank you very much.

(Proceedings concluded at 10:00 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SUE E. GARCIA, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, residing at Tacoma, authorized to administer oaths and affirmations pursuant to RCW 5.28.010, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the 27th of February, 2022, and thereafter transcribed by me by means of computer-aided transcription, that the transcript is a full, true, and complete transcript of said proceedings, consisting of pages 1 through 47;

That as a CCR in this state, I am bound by the Rules of Conduct as Codified in WAC 308-14-130; that court reporting arrangements and fees in this case are offered to all parties on equal terms;

That I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any party to this action or relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and I am not financially interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this February 8, 2022.

Sue E. Garcia

SUE E. GARCIA, CCR, RMR
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