

Question of the Month – When will the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) be published, and when will it be effective in Washington? See correct answer on Page 2.

Invitation to a Stakeholder Meeting Near You

Five meetings in May will complete 19 electrical stakeholder meetings in various locations across the state between January and May 2019. Meetings are an opportunity to talk with the Electrical Program staff in an informal setting. Attend a meeting near you, we want to hear how we can better serve you and help you stay informed of any changes that might affect you and/or your business. Meetings are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. at the locations listed below. If you are not on the email list to receive these newsletters, you may join at our [Electrical Email List](#) webpage.

Safety Tip of the Month

Prevent construction falls from roofs, ladders, and scaffolds. Each year in the U.S. more than 310 construction workers are killed and more than 10,350 are seriously injured by falls from heights. For recommendations, reports, and resources, download the [Construction Falls Fact Sheet](#) from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

2019 Stakeholder Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.		
May 14 – Spokane – Spokane Falls Community College , 3410 W. Fort George Wright Dr, Bldg 17, Sub Lounges	May 15 – Colville – Spokane Community College , 985 S Elm St., Combined Room	May 16 – Pullman – City Parks & Rec , Barley Rm. – 240 SE Dexter St.
May 21 – Kennewick – Benton PUD Auditorium – 2721 West 10th Avenue	May 22 – Moses Lake – L&I Building 3001 West Broadway Avenue	

Rule Update – WAC 296-46B Revisions

A Second Draft of the proposed rules is posted on the [Rule Development](#) page of our website.

A public comment period will open soon so that anyone may submit written comments. In addition, a public hearing will be held at the Tumwater L&I building, exact date and time to be announced. Watch for updates on the Rule Development page and in next month's newsletter.

For more details about the process, or to view or download rulemaking documents including the Second Draft, visit the Rule Development page of our website or see the [August 2018](#) Special Edition Electrical Currents newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Curry, at 360-902-6244 or Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov.

Electronic Plan Review Process Reduces Waste of Handling Paper Prints

For some time now, the department has been working on a project that will significantly reduce waste associated with printing, handling, mailing, and processing of paper plans (blueprints) for construction projects that require plan review. While the fully functioning system for processing plans electronically is not complete, the department began accepting electronic plans from customers on a limited basis last year to pilot the new process. This process allows customers, primarily engineering firms who design building projects using computers to send plans to the department for review electronically eliminating the need to print, package, and mail the paper plans to the department. The department receives the electronic plan sets and plans examiners review them on large screen monitors. Electronic stamps and



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notes are applied to the pages of approved plans, which are then returned to the customer electronically. Since we began accepting electronic plans, use of this process has grown quickly. For the first three months of 2019, the department received, reviewed, and processed 716 pages of plans using the electronic process. This represents about 37% of total plan pages reviewed during this period. More features will be added when the system is fully functional. So far, reaction from our customers and the plans examiners has been very positive. We want to thank those customers who have helped us pilot and implement the electronic process. This will allow the department to review plans much more efficiently making it easier for stakeholders to do business with the electrical program.

Electric Vehicle Chargers – GFCI Protection Requirements

Since 2009, with the passage of House Bill [1481](#) electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure has become more available. More EVs are on the road as well. This session, the legislature delivered House Bill [1257](#) to Governor Inslee for signature. This bill requires electric vehicle capability at all new buildings that provide on-site parking.

To minimize shock hazard to users of charging equipment, Article 625 of the 2017 National Electrical Code (NEC) was modified by Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA). Modifications include a new section requiring Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI) protection for single-phase EV charger receptacles rated 150 volts to ground or less, and 50 amperes or less. In addition to requiring GFCI protection for EV receptacles, TIA 17-2 amends NEC 625.44(A) permitting the use of 240V receptacle outlets for EV charging circuits.

See the complete text of the TIA at: https://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/AboutTheCodes/70/TIA_70_17_2.pdf.

To see all the TIAs and errata, visit the [Current and Prior Editions](#) tab of the NFPA 70 (NEC®) webpage. Always make sure your published version is up to date by checking for errata and TIAs.

Exceptions Offered for Untimely Affidavits of Experience

We have seen too many affidavits of experience denied because they were turned in later than allowed. We have heard you; we understand the impacts. We are improving our communication about requirements and offering a one-time exception as follows:

- Affidavits for legally obtained hours worked on or after June 30, 2014 are eligible for consideration if received before July 1, 2019. Hours worked before June 30, 2014, are not eligible.

This exception applies to all affidavits received through June 30, 2019. We are reviewing untimely affidavits and crediting hours accordingly.

- Beginning July 1, 2019, trainees must turn in affidavits of experience for the prior 2 years within 180 days from the date when their certificate expires. Untimely affidavits will be denied.

The requirements above do not apply to hours worked while a registered apprentice in a recognized electrical construction trade apprenticeship program.

Recently, we sent a letter to all active trainees and electrical contractors about the exceptions offered for untimely affidavits of experience. If you are one of those, and did not receive a letter, please update your address at:

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/LicensingReq/Legal.asp>

For questions about this opportunity, please email us at ElectricalProgram@lni.wa.gov, or give us a call 360-902-5269.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* Green Power? Not exactly your garden-variety electrical panel. 😊

Answer to Question of the Month: The 2020 NEC is scheduled to be published August 5, 2019 (a little over three months away)! It will be adopted in Washington with an effective date of July 1, 2020. To learn more about the NEC revision process, visit the [National Electrical Code](#) page of NFPA's website.



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