

Question of the Month – According to the 2020 NEC, is an outdoor heat pump supplied by a 240-volt 30-ampere branch circuit installed at a dwelling required to have ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) protection? *See correct answer on Page 2.*

WAC 296-46B Rulemaking Update

The process of revising the electrical rules is underway. Rule proposals submitted during the open window – October 10, 2019 through November 15, 2019 are compiled and posted on Rule Development section of our [Laws and Rules](#) webpage.

The primary reason for rulemaking is the July 1, 2020 effective date of the recently published [2020 National Electrical Code \(NEC\)](#). Rulemaking offers everyone an opportunity to propose amendments to the 2020 NEC rules to improve safety or clarity.

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of a broad cross section of representatives from the electrical industry reviews the proposals and provides advice to the department. The TAC meets on December 11, 2019 in the Orcas Room of the Tacoma Rhodes Center, 949 Market Street, Tacoma at 9:00 a.m. The meeting is open to the public, but to efficiently consider all proposals, comments will be limited to appointed members of the TAC. After the TAC meeting, the Electrical Board reviews the rule proposals and makes further recommendations at their next regular meeting.

Before adoption of any rules, there are formal opportunities to provide written comments or present testimony at public hearings. See the Rule Development section of our [Laws and Rules](#) webpage for additional information about what happens next and to view the proposals.

For complete details about the process, see the [October 2019 Electrical Currents](#) Newsletter Special Edition.

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

No L&I Electrical Inspections on January 8 – Statewide Electrical Inspector Training

Training for all electrical inspectors is happening on January 7 – 9, 2020. To relieve some of the impact, January 8 will be the only day attended by all L&I inspectors, no inspections will be performed that day. On January 7 and 9, inspectors will be available but at reduced capacity. We regret the inconvenience this causes, but we have found that a statewide approach improves consistency and is the most efficient use of our training budget. Please let your customers know and plan for inspections accordingly.

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.

Safety Tip of the Month

Be safe – be seen! Daylight is very limited this time of year. High visibility is your best bet for safe working or outdoor activities in low light conditions. Always wear reflective clothing or accessories so that others can see you. Wearing reflective clothing reduces the possibility of injury from a motor vehicle or other mobile equipment.

2020 Stakeholder Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.		
January 28 – Tumwater – L&I Building Auditorium - 7273 Linderson Way SW	January 29 – Aberdeen – L&I Building 415 W Wishkah St, Suite B, Rm 112	February 4 – Vancouver – L&I Building – 312 E Stonemill Dr. Suite 120, Room C49
February 5 – White Salmon – White Salmon Valley Library – 77 NE Wauna Ave	February 6 – Kelso – L&I Building, 711 Vine St. Room R11	February 26 – Tacoma – exact location yet to be determined
February 27 – Sequim – Clallam County PUD , 104 Hooker Rd, Lake Crescent Room.	February 28 – Silverdale – L&I Building 10049 Kitsap Mall Blvd NW Suite 100	March 3 – Tukwila – L&I Building 12806 Gateway Dr. South, Rm C30
Mid-April – Everett – exact date and location yet to be determined	Mid-April – Mount Vernon – exact date and location yet to be determined	April 21 – Pateros – Howard's on the River Event Center 233 Lakeshore Drive
April 22 – East Wenatchee – Douglas County PUD conference room, 1151 Valley Mall Parkway	April 23 – Moses Lake – L&I Building 3001 West Broadway Avenue	Mid-May – Spokane – exact date and location yet to be determined
Mid-May – Colville – exact date and location yet to be determined	Mid-May – Pullman – exact date and location yet to be determined	Late-May – Yakima – exact date and location yet to be determined
Late-May – Kennewick – exact date and location yet to be determined		

Meeting dates and addresses are also posted on the [Electrical Calendar](#) page of our website. Join the [Electrical Email Bulletin](#) to get the Electrical Currents newsletter and other important updates.

The 2023 National Electrical Code is Open for Public Input

Not happy with something in the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC)? The 2023 edition is now open for public input! Anyone can submit a proposal to make changes to the NEC to be published in August 2022. The public input closing date is September 10, 2020.

To submit a public input using the online submission system, go directly to the National Fire Protection Association – NFPA 70 page using this [link](#). Once on the NFPA 70 page, select the link "Submit a Public Input" to begin the process. You will be asked to sign-in or create a free online account with NFPA before using this system. If you have any questions when using the system, a chat feature is available, or contact NFPA by email or phone at 1-800-344-3555

Answer to Question of the Month: Yes. 2020 NEC 210.8(F) is a new section that requires all outdoor outlets for dwellings, other than those covered in 210.8(A)(3), Exception to (3), that are supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts to ground or less, 50 amperes or less to have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

By the way, according to the NEC, an outlet is defined as a point on the wiring system at which current is taken to supply utilization equipment.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* A power company lineman, investigating theft of power discovered this very creative and dangerous installation supplying a receptacle.



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