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ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING

MEETING

April 25, 2024



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STATE OF WASHINGTON ELECTRICAL BOARD
APRIL 25, 2024 - SPOKANE, WA

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
ELECTRICAL BOARD
ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 25TH, 2024
9:24 A.M. PST
PAGES 1 THROUGH 59

Ramada Inn at the Spokane Airport
Inland Empire Room
8909 West Airport Drive
Spokane, Washington 99224

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**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**



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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jason Jenkins, Electrician Chair
- Wayne Molesworth, Secretary/Chief Electrical Inspector
- Jack Knottingham, Electrician
- Byron Allen, Electrical Unity Representative
- Erick Lee, Electrician
- Ben Blohowiak, Board AAG
- Mike Nord, Telecom Worker
- Dylan Cunningham, Elec. Engineer/RCCD
- James Tumelson, Building Official
- Bobby Gray, Electrical Contractor
- Kerry Cox, Telecom Contractor



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(Proceedings commence at 9:24 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: I'd like to call the Electrical meeting to order on April 25th at approximately 9:24 a.m. So thank you all for attending. I appreciate you making this trip out here, those of you who've made the trip from other locations, like I have, to Spokane. Thank you.

This morning I've asked our Secretary, Mr. Wayne Molesworth, to do a quick simple safety message this morning.

*** SAFETY MESSAGE ***

SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Good morning, Board Members. And this is a very short brief, but, I think, an important safety message. Especially this time of year where the sun is coming up early, on your way to work driving, just about anyplace, is how do we see out of our vehicles and what do we see out of vehicles.

There was just recently an accident in the Tumwater area where somebody was driving and wasn't wearing sunglasses. The sun was in their eyes. And they missed a turn and was killed. The determination was if they'd had sunglasses or a clean windshield maybe, they may have been able to avoid that.

So it's always a good idea to carry an extra



1 pair of sunglasses in your car, because you may forget
2 your sunglasses at home this time of the year. And it
3 might be cloudy in the morning, and at night, when
4 you're going home, you might be driving into the sun as
5 it's setting.

6 So my safety topic today is keep that extra pair
7 of sunglasses in your car and wear your sunglasses when
8 you're driving. And make sure that they are the type
9 that really -- what do they call those -- photovoltaic,
10 yeah, or -- not photovoltaic, no, those will burn the
11 crap out of you. Whatever you say, make sure that
12 they're photo sensitive, right, and give you good
13 clarity. Anyway, that was it.

14 The other part of the safety topic today is
15 that, you know, if one person has to give the safety
16 topic too often, it can be mentally distressing. And
17 so I'd appreciate a volunteer next time to give safety
18 topics at the next meeting.

19 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Thank you, I appreciate
20 that. We will definitely give it back to you again
21 next meeting.

22 So I do want to make sure I've said it. We
23 actually do you have a quorum so we are good to go and
24 move forward.

25 *** APPROVE LAST MEETING MINUTES ***



1 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: And now, we're at the
2 point where we would like to approve the last meeting
3 transcripts from January 25th. The Chair will
4 entertain a motion.

5 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Board Member Nord, motion.

6 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: We have a motion.

7 Do we have a second?

8 BOARD MEMBER GRAY: Second.

9 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: We have a motion; we have
10 a second. Any discussion?

11 All in favor to approve the January 25th, 2024,
12 transcripts, all in favor, say, aye.

13 COLLECTIVE: "Aye."

14 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: All opposed?

15 Hearing none, the motion passes.

16 *** Appeals ***

17 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: All right. So we're on to
18 our next item, and I didn't bring a sheet up here, for
19 Appeals. And so did we have someone here from Interior
20 Electric?

21 I'm hearing nothing. We have counsel here from
22 the Department.

23 JOHN BARNES: Yes, Your Honor. John Barnes,
24 Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington,
25 Department of Labor & Industries.



1 Yes, this is somewhat of an unusual appeal.

2 Inspector Steele was out --

3 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: One second, let me do the
4 introduction to the rest of this to make sure.

5 The matter before us today is an appeal in the
6 matter of the Interior Electric, Incorporated, and
7 Wayne S. Marvin, Docket No. 06-2023-LI-1905, and
8 06-2023-LI-1906. The hearing is being held pursuant to
9 due and proper notice to all interested parties in
10 Spokane, Washington, on April 25th, 2020, at
11 approximately 9:27 a.m.

12 This is the appeal from the original initial
13 order issued by the Office for Administrative Hearings
14 on November 28, 2023. It is my understanding that the
15 decision set aside citation notices, ESTLU01538,
16 ESTLU01539, ESTLU01541 issued by the Department of
17 Labor & Industries on December 21st, 2022.

18 It is further my understanding that the
19 Department has timely appealed the decision to the
20 Electrical Board. And we're now to this point where,
21 if you would like to give your statement.

22 JOHN BARNES: Thank you.

23 This is a Department appeal. And the issue is
24 whether or not the replacement of the fuel dispenser at
25 a gas station requires a permit. Initially, Inspector



1 Steele was out and he became aware that fuel dispensers
2 had been replaced at numerous gas stations without a
3 permit. This was done by Interior Electric and their
4 electrical administrator, Wayne Marvin.

5 When Inspector Steele contacted Wayne Marvin,
6 his excuse was that he thought this was a like-in-kind
7 replacement that did not need a permit. Inspector
8 Steele then went ahead and issued the citations for
9 failure to have -- to get an electrical permit prior to
10 the installation.

11 And there was also a few other citations; one to
12 Interior Electric for failure to ensure electrical
13 installation were in strict conformity to the
14 electrical statutes, rules, regulations, and
15 ordinances. And then, also, there was one to Wayne
16 Marvin, as the administrator, for his failure not to
17 obtain a permit and to see that all the regulations
18 were followed.

19 Now, the interesting part about this one is not
20 so much the debate, but it went to a Hearing and the
21 ALJ made numerous rulings. And what the Department is
22 taking issue with is not the ruling, but with the
23 ultimate conclusion from those.

24 Now, the ALJ did find that replacing these fuel
25 dispensers was electrical work and required permit, and



1 the ALJ made such findings. The ALJ also found that
2 replacing a fuel dispenser did not meet the exception
3 to having a permit for a like-in-kind replacement.

4 Now, after making these findings, the ALJ then
5 contemplated whether or not any permits that were
6 obtained after the fact, after Mr. Steele had contacted
7 Mr. Marvin, and he did obtain permits and have
8 everything inspected; so all of those fuel dispensers
9 were inspected.

10 But the question came, you know, can a work
11 permit or an electrical permit that was obtained six to
12 eight months after the actual work was done, is that
13 timely? And for some reason, the ALJ, despite finding
14 that the permit was required, decided that because
15 Mr. Marvin obtained those permits after contact with
16 Inspector Steele, that they were promptly -- once he
17 found out that he needed a permit, he obtained a permit
18 and got them inspected.

19 And somehow, under the ALJ's decision, that
20 relieved him of any of these citations. You know, for
21 the failure to get a permit in the first place. So
22 that's essentially it in a nutshell, what took place.

23 And the Department's position is that if it was
24 electrical work, as found by the ALJ, there was no
25 exception as a like-in-kind replacement. There was no



1 permits pulled; and any permits that were, were late
2 and would still be subject to citation, which the
3 Department did. And there is not any good faith, "I
4 didn't know that this was not like in-kind; I didn't
5 know that this was a violation, therefore I should get
6 excused."

7 You know, what that does is it opens the door
8 for others to just simply claim ignorance. "I didn't
9 know that this was a violation. And once I found out
10 from the Department that it was, I quickly changed in
11 the way I was practicing. Therefore, I should be
12 excused from any type of penalty." That's essentially
13 what they're asking for here.

14 And the Department thinks, and believes, that
15 the ALJ was correct in its findings, but was not
16 correct in its conclusion that no citation should be
17 issued.

18 Are there any questions?

19 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Thank you very much.

20 Any questions from the Board? Yes?

21 BOARD MEMBER ALLEN: Board Member Allen.

22 So if I'm understanding your review correctly,
23 there were -- there was the issue of whether it was an
24 in-kind replacement. It was determined that it was
25 not. It was the issue of whether it was required



1 permits, and that was determined that it was required.

2 But then there was the issue of "were the
3 permits late." Because after being told that they
4 needed to have permits, the -- Mr. Marvin went out and
5 got the permits.

6 Is that, am I correct in my, kind of, review of
7 that?

8 JOHN BARNES: Yes, you are correct.

9 BOARD MEMBER ALLEN: Okay. Would it, kind of,
10 seem like a catch-22 that I get penalized for getting a
11 late permit after I'm told that I need to get a permit
12 and I go ahead and get it. I mean, does that feel like
13 a catch-22?

14 JOHN BARNES: No, it doesn't, because here's the
15 thing. You need to get a permit for almost any type of
16 electrical installation. The same could be said for
17 anybody else that doesn't obtain a permit. And then
18 once told that they need one, goes out and gets it.

19 Mr. Marvin is the electrical administrator. He
20 should know the rules and regulations of the State.
21 And he should have known that this does not qualify as
22 the like-in-kind replacement.

23 BOARD MEMBER ALLEN: And if I could just follow
24 up on that. I don't disagree that he had to have
25 permits. I don't disagree with the findings that it



1 was not an in-kind replacement; that it did require
2 permits.

3 I guess what I'm concerned about is that, once
4 I'm told, "okay, you should've had the permits," and
5 then I go ahead and get the permits, now, I get fined
6 for getting a late permit. So it's a penalty for my
7 cooperation on what was a violation. I'm just
8 struggling with that. It just feels like a catch-22.
9 I'm damned if I do and I'm damned if I don't. Do you
10 know what I mean?

11 JOHN BARNES: Well, yeah, even if Mr. Marvin did
12 not obtain those permits, he still would've been cited
13 for, you know, one, for having a permit. And for, you
14 know, at least, the electrical administrator not making
15 sure everything is compliant with the rules and
16 regulations. So those would've already been issued or
17 were going to be issued to him.

18 And I'm assuming that if he went forward without
19 having that permit, that eventually this Board would
20 require that he did obtain one if he, you know, had not
21 done that. So I don't see how, either way, I think the
22 same citations are going to be issued.

23 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: It looks like I've got a
24 converse from our Secretary, Wayne Molesworth.

25 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: So, Wayne Molesworth,



1 Secretary of the Board. So 296-46B901(5), actually
2 states: "Electrical work permit number on or adjacent
3 to the electrical service or feeder panel supplying
4 power to the work prior to beginning any electrical
5 work, and at all times until the electrical inspection
6 process is completed." So he was in violation of that
7 law from beginning to end.

8 The problem is that the reason that's in place
9 is because if he hadn't had a permit and requested
10 inspection, the Department may never have looked at
11 that installation, therefore putting the public at
12 risk.

13 And so it's, kind of, like a speeding ticket.
14 If I am driving 80 miles an hour out here on the
15 freeway, I'm going to get a ticket. Even though my
16 intent is to slow down for the rest of my life, right.
17 And so that's how I would look at that law.

18 But the point is that it's actually very clear
19 in the WAC when that permit is required to be
20 purchased.

21 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Board Member Knottingham?

22 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Yeah, Board Member
23 Knottingham. Just a couple things. One is, without
24 the permit being purchased, I don't believe there could
25 have been electrical inspection; is that correct?



1 JOHN BARNES: That is correct.

2 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: So you wouldn't know,
3 as Wayne stated, you wouldn't know if it was a safe
4 installation or not until the permit is purchased;
5 which causes the request, and then causes the
6 inspection to happen.

7 The second one I wanted to point out, is that
8 according to the inspector's statement -- and this is
9 on the citation that ends in 1538, and in our packets
10 on page 140 -- the inspector says that the permits
11 hadn't been purchased for nine job sites until he
12 requested additional information from "Brad." So there
13 was some discussion.

14 And I haven't read every word of the document,
15 but it appears that what triggered the purchase of the
16 inspections wasn't the inspector saying he needed them;
17 it was the fact that he was inquiring about work that
18 had been done without an inspection.

19 JOHN BARNES: Correct.

20 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Yes, Board Member.

21 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Board Member Nord. By law,
22 Mr. Marvin is responsible as the administrator to
23 understand and implement that laws of the State of
24 Washington concerning the proper installation of
25 electrical equipment. That's what he is charged with



1 doing.

2 He obviously failed that charge. And failing
3 that charge, he put the public at risk by installing
4 fuel dispensers without inspection to ensure that
5 they've been installed properly, there were no
6 explosive reaction, or any danger to the public.

7 As a result of that, I believe the
8 Administrative Law Judge's opinion should be
9 overturned. The financial obligations of the citations
10 need to be followed up on, issued, and collected.

11 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Would that be a motion?

12 BOARD MEMBER NORD: That would be a motion.

13 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: I'll second that
14 motion.

15 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Okay. So we have a
16 motion, to clarify, to overturn the ALJ's decision?

17 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Correct, or his
18 interpretation.

19 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: And affirm Department's
20 citations?

21 BOARD MEMBER NORD: And the financial
22 obligations of those citations to be collected.

23 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: We have a motion; we have
24 a second from...

25 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Board Member



1 Knottingham.

2 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Any discussion?

3 Hearing none, all in favor of the motion,
4 signify by saying aye.

5 COLLECTIVE: "Aye."

6 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Any opposed?

7 The motion passes. All right. Thank you very
8 much. The Board has made its decision.

9 AAG BLOHOWIAK: Mr. Barnes, this is Ben
10 Blohowiak. Will you prepare an order reflecting the
11 Department -- or the Board's decision here today,
12 please?

13 JOHN BARNES:: Yes, sir.

14 AAG BLOHOWIAK: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: One second, please.

16 So Kugel Construction, citation numbers,
17 EZINS02418, EZINS02419, and EZINS02420 have been
18 continued to the next meeting.

19 *** Department/Rulemaking Update ***

20 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: And so we're already up to
21 our Item No. 4, the Department/Rulemaking update with
22 Randy Barnes and/or Larry Vance. Are you available?

23 And please speak and spell your name for the
24 reporter. And the floor is yours.

25 RANDY BARNES: Fantastic. Randy Barnes, tech

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1 specialist for Wayne Molesworth.

2 First, I would start by thanking all of you that
3 participated in the tech committee and reviewing the
4 WAC proposals this year from the Electrical Board. It
5 was quite a process for me. It was my first time, so
6 it was very, very educational for me, and it was great
7 to work with all of you.

8 So, saying that, we adopted the new WAC in NEC
9 April 1st, which I'm sure all of you are aware of. And
10 as of July 1st, we will have a fee due increase that
11 was passed as well.

12 Our site, the laws and rules page has the
13 current code as well as an exam-friendly. So the
14 "exam-friendly," meaning the 2020 still. We will be
15 updating the electrical exam anticipated late this
16 year, possibly the first of next year.

17 So that's about what I have for you. Quick and
18 short unless there are some questions.

19 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Any questions by the
20 Board?

21 Yes, Board Member Knottingham.

22 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Just to clarify, the
23 exam-friendly version, is that the old version of the
24 WAC?

25 RANDY BARNES: Correct, the 2020 version.



1 No?

2 LARRY VANCE: It's the latest and greatest.

3 RANDY BARNES: It's the latest and greatest.

4 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Okay.

5 RANDY BARNES: But it's formatted like the old
6 printed copies, right?

7 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Yeah.

8 RANDY BARNES: So you can put it in a PDF
9 version and print it. There's space for rings, that
10 kind of thing.

11 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: So just the
12 formatting has changed, that's all.

13 RANDY BARNES: The formatting has, yep.

14 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Okay. Thank you.

15 BOARD MEMBER COX: Board Member Cox.

16 Clarification then, the exam-friendly is the previous
17 WAC for those who are needing to take exams --

18 RANDY BARNES: The exam-friendly is the current
19 2023.

20 BOARD MEMBER COX: Okay. Got you.

21 RANDY BARNES: It's just formatted in an
22 exam-friendly version. It's got the table of contents;
23 it's got spacing. Rather than the version that's
24 available from the Code Reviser's page. Both of those
25 have links on our page, on our laws and rules page for

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1 both.

2 BOARD MEMBER COX: And it's well documented so
3 those who are going to be taking the exam or otherwise
4 will know which one they need to study with? Is
5 that ...

6 RANDY BARNES: Do you want to jump in?

7 LARRY VANCE: I'll jump in.

8 RANDY BARNES: Sorry. Larry updated our web
9 page for the WAC rules and all of that ...

10 BOARD MEMBER COX: Very good.

11 LARRY VANCE: The current exam-friendly version
12 is nothing more than --

13 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Can you introduce yourself
14 and spell your name for the court reporter?

15 LARRY VANCE: Yes, I'm Larry Vance. I'm a
16 technical specialist for the Department of Labor &
17 Industries. I work for the Electrical Program and the
18 Chief Electrical Inspector, Wayne Molesworth.

19 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Thank you.

20 LARRY VANCE: Okay. I'll jump in.

21 So the exam-friendly version is just something
22 we put out because of the formatting and extraneous
23 information that's included from the office of the Code
24 Reviser. There's a lot of things that have nothing to
25 do with the exam, that -- so you take 150-some pages



1 and you bring it down to 120, just for, from the
2 standpoint of formatting, removing statutory reference
3 information, just extraneous information that doesn't
4 have anything for the exam candidate to -- there's just
5 nothing there for them. It's just words on a page.

6 When we update the WAC, we make sure that we
7 haven't done anything that alters the exam. So
8 historically, you would be able to take about any
9 version of the WAC, take the exam, and not be
10 compromised in your ability to pass the exam.

11 The next time the exam is updated, we'll visit
12 the WAC, and we'll likely, you know, maybe add some
13 questions, maybe address some new things in the WAC.
14 It's kind of nice to let a cycle go by, or a little bit
15 of time go by, just so that the WAC stabilizes a little
16 bit. Because there is things that we introduce into
17 the rule that we learn about later that maybe we want
18 to tweak. So we're not really trying to test exam
19 candidates on some of the nuances of the WAC. It's
20 more the foundational elements of the WAC.

21 So, if that -- and we've already updated the
22 exam-friendly version twice. Potentially, we would've
23 updated it three times, but this last update we were
24 able to, just from a timing standpoint, have the new
25 fee schedules. CR-103 had been signed, so we went



1 ahead and included the new fee schedules.

2 So we don't have to go through the exercise
3 again, because it's actually quite a thing to do. We
4 obtain a copy of the actual rule from the Office of the
5 Code Reviser. We format it. And we go through and, it
6 just takes a lot of work to get the document looking as
7 good as it does. It's not -- you know, it's not a
8 literary piece of work for, by any means.

9 But then we also have to work with the forms and
10 records part of the Agency. I mean it's not something
11 we can just switch, you know, update and post. We
12 don't -- it doesn't work that way in a large
13 organization. Forms and records, they have final say
14 on the publication itself. And so it's an actual form.
15 It's owned by the Department. And every time we update
16 it, we have to go through this whole thing.

17 We should have the same version up until
18 we -- until another rulemaking happens. And we don't
19 have anything on the horizon. There was someone here
20 that approached the Board and talked about a rule
21 proposal last meeting, and we were able to work through
22 that issue without having to have a -- any rules
23 modified. There was somewhat of a misunderstanding
24 about the number of floors allowed, residential scope
25 of work and so on and so forth, and we were able to



1 just clarify some things and so the issue became moot.
2 Yeah.

3 So exam-friendly version, people are able to
4 print that at any office supply store, their own place
5 of business, or wherever they want to print it. But
6 things happen so often in it, like I said, we've
7 already updated it twice. And to print off a large
8 number of copies or anything like that, it's just
9 throwing -- it's like selling last years' calendars or
10 something. I mean, it's just throw them away.

11 BOARD MEMBER COX: So just for my clarification,
12 it is the current WAC as adopted through the CR-103
13 process --

14 LARRY VANCE: Yes.

15 BOARD MEMBER COX: -- and just simply formatted
16 differently?

17 LARRY VANCE: Yeah. Yeah. And we have one
18 comment on formatting is that we use the same, like,
19 indent the first line half an inch. That's the same
20 style as the Office of the Code Reviser and typing
21 services. And we're going to change that. We're going
22 to just left align everything. And it will reduce the
23 number of pages.

24 And some people just don't like it when there's
25 a sentence, kind of, hanging off over there to the



1 left. You know, it looks too "governmenty." So we're
2 going to probably change that a little bit next time.

3 But what we find, what's really helpful for
4 people is just having the table of contents. It's
5 something that's not provided by anything published,
6 the official versions. And the table of contents seems
7 to be really helpful for people.

8 BOARD MEMBER COX: Very good. Thank you.

9 LARRY VANCE: Yeah.

10 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Yes, Board Member Gray?

11 BOARD MEMBER GRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 Larry, what's the plan for updating the exam for
13 the NEC; is that going to be done in-house or is that
14 going to be done --

15 LARRY VANCE: Well, I can defer to Wayne or I
16 can defer to Randy and Loren, who are more on the game
17 plan on that. But, typically, we do it in-house.

18 BOARD MEMBER GRAY: Okay. And the expectation,
19 if I heard you right, was early next year, next
20 calendar year?

21 RANDY BARNES: That would be what -- that's the
22 goal. Loren wants in here. Loren's already knee-deep
23 in reviewing.

24 LOREN LATHROP: Loren Lathrop, technical
25 specialist for the Department working for Wayne



1 Molesworth.

2 The exam is about 2600 questions. So, and then,
3 another 50 to 60 code calculation questions that are in
4 there. Typically, the last time we did this three
5 years ago, it took about three to four months with one
6 person working on it; then to be checked and everything
7 else. It's, kind of, one of those things where when
8 you dig through it, you find multiple things that were
9 maybe missed the last time it was updated. Maybe it's
10 a couple of code cycles back. You also have to move
11 things around. So we're trying to give ourselves
12 enough time to make sure that we put out the best
13 product possible and give the best exam we can.

14 So it's going to take a little bit of time.
15 We've got the foundations built right now. Randy and I
16 are working on a schedule to get it done. And our goal
17 is, worst-case scenario, is the first of 2025. I
18 really hope we're before that. But, you know, there's
19 fires every once in a while and we have to switch
20 priorities. But that's the goal at this point.

21 As well as updating some old questions that are,
22 especially, as we talk about the WAC and the RCW,
23 there's some older questions that are not as good as
24 they could be. Maybe some updates there. Maybe adding
25 some of the laws and the rules that have changed over



1 the last few cycles that we now can add. And as Larry
2 said, they have stabilized, so ...

3 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Comment. We're on the
4 same mode of, once that things rolls over, the new
5 test, everyone is testing on the same test. We're not
6 doing the old testing, right?

7 LOREN LATHROP: Right.

8 LARRY VANCE: Yes. And, really, as far as the
9 exam being updated to the new code, you're really
10 looking at just, it's an incremental change. It's not
11 significant. If someone were to take a test right now
12 on the -- let's say they took a test on the 2002
13 National Electrical Code. How much would they -- how
14 much would they be missing out on, right.

15 It's not huge. There'd be some, potentially,
16 some AFCI issues, a few code changes, right. It's not
17 a significant thing. And the, you know, exams are
18 based on foundational elements. So chasing the
19 peripheral is not something that is the focus of the
20 exam, so ...

21 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Yeah, my comment was meant
22 simply because it makes more work for you all as far as
23 who is taking what exam --

24 LARRY VANCE: Oh, absolutely.

25 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: -- it's nice for us to say



1 in this State, this is the new exam. And if you have
2 to retest, we can (indiscernible) your code. So I'm
3 liking it.

4 LARRY VANCE: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: And I'm glad that we're
6 using less resources to do it.

7 LARRY VANCE: Yes. No, it's very good.

8 When we had the split exam, when you remained
9 testing on the exam that you started on, that was
10 interesting. The reports that the Board receives about
11 statistic summaries, there was various versions of the
12 exam that were on there, and it was a mess.

13 It's much easier to, just like you when we
14 had -- we used to have a similar approach with the
15 code. You know -- or with fees, excuse me. In other
16 words, you stayed with the set of fees that you started
17 with when you came to permit. Well, some permits are
18 four or five years it takes to complete the work.
19 Well, there could be four of five fee increases during
20 that time.

21 And so you're getting a -- you've added some
22 item to your permit today, but you get the old rate.
23 Well, it costs this much to do business today. So it's
24 a matter of -- it's not that big a burden for somebody,
25 again, because of the way that the exam is designed and



1 the fact that it's focus is foundational.

2 And we've never really had anybody complain
3 about the fact that they were, they crossed a bridge,
4 so to speak, in the exam process; that they went from
5 one edition of the code to the other. Other than they
6 had to possibly obtain a different book for the open
7 book exam, so ...

8 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Thank you very much.

9 Secretary, did you have a question or a comment?

10 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH Yeah, Wayne Molesworth.

11 Just to, kind of, wrap that up and summarize.

12 Larry is exactly right. There's two different parts of
13 qualifying for somebody to take an exam, right. You
14 have skills, which they learn in OJT, and then you have
15 an exam.

16 To me, the skills and abilities that they have
17 working are even more important. And we're working on
18 some things like that. Whereas the knowledge is, since
19 this is an open book test, this allows us to know that
20 they know how to use the code book and that they can
21 find specific information. So whether it's updated or
22 not, they're still allowed and able to use that code
23 book. We still know that they are capable.

24 When we talk about minimizing it, that there's
25 very few changes, that doesn't mean we don't look at



1 every single question, right. We have to, to make sure
2 that everything coordinates and is complete.

3 And like the techs have said, we find things.
4 And I really commend them for that. These guys are
5 working their butts off. We have one other individual
6 who is a trainer, who I think is helping at some point
7 and may be helping a little bit more once I talk to
8 him. But I give the guys probably an insurmountable
9 goal, which was I wanted it done by, if not before, the
10 first of 2025, because we're already a year behind 2023
11 code, right.

12 And that's something that I think, and I hope
13 going forward we can remedy and have our codes adopted
14 in relationship, or closer in relationship, to when the
15 code is actually printed, right. That can and can't
16 happen because rule changes take a long time and you
17 have a very long process. So we just may look at it a
18 little bit differently in the future.

19 That was really all I was going to say, is
20 that's it's a very thorough process. And like Larry
21 mentioned, we're just looking at whether or not they
22 know some of these things and know that they can use
23 that code book to find what they need to find.

24 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Thank you very much.

25 Anymore comments or questions from the Board?



1 All right, well, thank you.

2 Looks like we're up to -- Larry, if you want to
3 stay there. It looks like we've got Certification/CEU
4 quarterly report from Technical Specialist, Larry
5 Vance.

6 *** Certification/CEU Quarterly Report ***

7 LARRY VANCE: Yes. With the Board packet there
8 were several exams that were sent out. One of them was
9 the, essentially, the exam results from, based on
10 national testing locations. So it's, again, very
11 apparent that people are able to take exams all over
12 the United States, and that our system of examination
13 is very accessible. People don't have to come to
14 Washington to wait -- to come to Washington to take an
15 exam. They can get certified before even coming. And
16 that's something that's very advantageous, that PSI
17 offers.

18 As far as the exam reports, we have a report
19 that is -- let's see, it's from -- it's last year.
20 It's from January 1st of 2023 until December 31st of
21 '23. So it's a years worth of data. It's about four
22 months old. But no real -- no significant changes in
23 the exam pass rates.

24 I can tell you just off -- and this is just
25 coming off of the top of my head -- that there is an



1 increase in the number of apprentices that are
2 registered now. The area that -- the number of
3 training agents again has increased. The training
4 agents, of course, are the employers that employ
5 apprentices. And the number of apprentices is up by
6 probably 1000 or so. It's real hard, because there is
7 also apprentices completing, and new apprentices
8 entering the registration system. So that's kind of a
9 moving target.

10 But it will be interesting over time to see if
11 we distance ourselves a little bit from the current
12 pass rate, which is about 50 percent first time pass
13 rate.

14 And, one other thing, I've mentioned before is
15 that not everybody that's taking the exam is someone
16 that has just completed their training. A lot of
17 people that take the exam are people that are coming
18 from other states, that are just, that qualified
19 through experience and training to take the exam.

20 So they may not have attempted an exam for a
21 number of years when they take the exam. So they may
22 be a little rusty and that may affect the pass rate.
23 So we'll never completely know, but it will be
24 interesting to see if it moves a little bit.

25 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: In our last meeting we had



1 some little things that were -- little hiccups that
2 were happening in the system.

3 Have you heard anything, updates on that, any
4 changes?

5 LARRY VANCE: Yeah. Yeah. When I went to run
6 this -- so this data here is four months old. And when
7 I went to run the report, the current year's worth of
8 data, there was a -- it wasn't coming back. And they
9 had data issues on two days, and they were working on
10 cleaning those data issues up, which would allow the
11 report to function.

12 PSI has been obtained by the -- I believe
13 they've been acquired by one of the, I believe, the
14 world's largest testing companies now. So I'm not
15 privy to their, to, you know, if that's had any effect
16 on them or anything.

17 We did have a Board Member Knottingham had asked
18 about a particular individual and I worked with that
19 individual. And there have been some computer issues
20 with PSI exam partner sites -- partner sites.

21 So there's brick and mortar PSI sites, meaning
22 that PSI is one that PSI staffed, PSI employees, and
23 there are what's known as partner sites. Partner sites
24 are like the college in Tacoma, the Airport Inn. I
25 believe, Puyallup -- there is a number of what's known



1 as PSI partner sites. The majority, I believe, of PSI
2 exams are delivered at partner sites. So you're using
3 the PSI partner sites computer infrastructure.

4 And this particular individual, what happened
5 with his result was is that it lived in the partner
6 site's computer on the hard drive. PSI had no record
7 of it, through whatever, you know, did the record not
8 send, you know, was there a glitch, or whatever
9 happened. But the individual was able to go to the
10 testing site and say, "hey, can I have my exam
11 results." It happened to be an administrator exam.
12 "Can I have my exam results? Can you find those."
13 They found them. They printed them. And we're good.

14 It was a great inconvenience, but we're working
15 through some of those issues. And they've dropped off
16 is the other thing. We had a rash of them, and
17 we -- we're not experiencing what we experienced
18 previously.

19 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: That was kind of my
20 question. So still seeing those --

21 LARRY VANCE: No.

22 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: -- or has it cleared up.
23 So it sounds like --

24 LARRY VANCE: No, we did have a computer where a
25 person was partway through their exam. And I don't



1 know if it was an outage, a power outage or, there's
2 just anomalies that happen when you deliver so many
3 exams. It's not perfect. We would like it to be. And
4 that's conversations we can have with PSI as well.

5 I mean, but things happen. People schedule
6 exams and cars hit poles, you know, and take out
7 infrastructure that compromises the testing center. So
8 it's the world, you know, it's not perfect. But we
9 greatly sympathize with people though when they've had
10 an exam experience. We're not delivering the exam, but
11 it reflects on us. You know, they certainly come to us
12 and say "how can you help us," so we have to play the
13 middleman.

14 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: You can bring in some of
15 the board members also.

16 Any other questions? Board Member Cox?

17 BOARD MEMBER COX: Board Member Cox.

18 Larry, looking at your statistics of summary by
19 attempts, can you please clarify for me the attempt
20 number; is that, I'm seeing "attempt zero." Is that
21 the initial attempt?

22 When I'm looking down at the attempts, you know,
23 I'm looking at an 01 Administrator, general exam.
24 First it shows, attempt 7, attempt 1, attempt 4. And
25 then going down, I see "attempt zero," number of



1 passes, 6.

2 Am I to assume that attempt zero was the initial
3 attempt at taking the examination?

4 LARRY VANCE: Well, Kerry, that's a new one.

5 BOARD MEMBER COX: Which is why I'm asking the
6 question.

7 LARRY VANCE: Because there didn't used to be a
8 zero.

9 BOARD MEMBER COX: That's what I thought.

10 BOARD MEMBER CUNNINGHAM: Board Member
11 Cunningham. There is about a dozen attempts zeros that
12 have a percentage of passed.

13 LARRY VANCE: Yeah.

14 BOARD MEMBER CUNNINGHAM: The bottom half of the
15 test results, examination results, all of the attempt
16 zeros are failures. Especially under the
17 administrator's tests. So as you scroll through, there
18 will be a handful, 6 or 2 or 3 exams, attempt zero.
19 There will be between 15 and 50 percent pass rate.

20 LARRY VANCE: Yeah, that's a good one. I'm down
21 in the 01 Electrician Exam. And there is -- out of
22 the -- there's 1177 attempts, and nobody attempted on
23 zero. But that's a great question. We'll have to
24 figure that out.

25 BOARD MEMBER COX: I didn't know if that was



1 like the initial attempt, and then it was reattempt No.
2 1 are reattempt No. 2.

3 LARRY VANCE: No, No. 1 is your first attempt.

4 BOARD MEMBER COX: That's what I -- that's how I
5 used to reading those.

6 LARRY VANCE: I don't know what they're doing
7 there.

8 BOARD MEMBER COX: Okay. So if that could be
9 clarified and brought to our next meeting, I'd
10 appreciate that.

11 LARRY VANCE: Yeah. That's an interesting one.
12 What is a zero; is that a note; is that a -- what is
13 that?

14 BOARD MEMBER COX: Again, 01 Administrator,
15 attempt zero, shows six passes.

16 LARRY VANCE: Yeah.

17 BOARD MEMBER COX: So ...

18 LARRY VANCE: What is that?

19 BOARD MEMBER COX: Yeah. So if you could have
20 that clarified for the next board meeting in July, I'd
21 appreciate that.

22 LARRY VANCE: Yes, I'll pass that question on to
23 them and let them know I need an answer by. Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Board Member Cunningham,
25 do anything else? Any questions or comments? Yes.



1 BOARD MEMBER TUMELSON: Board Member Tumelson.
2 I just had a question about the information, such as
3 this. And how we share that information with, you
4 know, the electricians of the state as a whole. I know
5 that what we're hearing in here, and oftentimes I hear
6 things like, "Oh, is the Board discussing that? I just
7 looked at the website."

8 It appears that we don't post the Agenda or some
9 of these other attachments or addendums that we've
10 discussed here either in the transcript, because, you
11 know, play by play of what's communicated, but some of
12 the other ancillary documents, I can't go back in
13 history and see, kind of, that information.

14 Can we generally share that type of stuff or is
15 that only privy information that comes here to the
16 Board?

17 LARRY VANCE: Once we produce a report, it
18 becomes public information. And there are several
19 people that will request a copy. For instance, exam
20 reports. Just based on their knowledge that they're
21 discussed every month. So they are available, and we
22 do keep them. Anything that the Board is presented.
23 In other words, the Board package that goes out, that
24 is something that is stored and we have record of if we
25 ever need to replicate the information.



1 So if anybody needs a copy, I mean, you can
2 disseminate this information. This is public
3 information, yeah.

4 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Wayne Molesworth. A lot
5 of times there is a limited space on our website and
6 that type of thing, so we have to prioritize. What is
7 the best value to put on that website that people will
8 use the most.

9 We've even gone as far as having what they call
10 a heat test, where we can see how many times they've
11 accessed certain parts of the website. And so we just
12 did that a few years back, and eliminated some of the
13 different types of stuff that got one or two hits,
14 right, over a year.

15 But that's one of the reasons we don't
16 necessarily put in there. They can call us up or ask
17 for a records request for just about anything we have,
18 such as anything from this meeting.

19 BOARD MEMBER TUMELSON: Thank you.

20 LARRY VANCE: Yes, and I was involved in that
21 process. And the, kind of the mantra was it is not a
22 reference center. It's a place to convey information,
23 just essentially the high points. And direct someone
24 to where, you know, I guess if you looked at, you know,
25 I guess, if you looked at, you know, there is, kind of,



1 there's an approach that's called bite; snack; meal.

2 So there is a little bite, or the snack and
3 essentially sends you the meal. And in the world of
4 probably, the Board, you've got the agenda and then the
5 Board minutes would be the meal. But, you know, if you
6 want to read the whole Board minutes, there they are.
7 And if you see something mentioned in the minutes that
8 you want to know more about, then you contact the
9 Department, and say, "hey, I'd like a copy of this."
10 And you can do that through public information request.

11 We get a lot of public information requests. So
12 it's something we have staff member that's, at least,
13 that's a good half of their job is public information
14 requests. Just gathering information and pushing it
15 out the door. "I want to know this." Great, here you
16 go.

17 BOARD MEMBER TUMELSON: And I'm glad you
18 mentioned that, because the "bite" doesn't exist on the
19 website, right. There is no agenda, that I can find
20 when you go to the meeting minutes, like, what's going
21 to be discussed. And so it just goes to the entire
22 minutes, all of the transcript stuff, and so.

23 LARRY VANCE: Yeah, the agenda should be posted
24 there for the current Board meeting. It should be
25 there online. It should have the agenda. It's usually



1 included right there with the location.

2 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: For the current meeting.

3 LARRY VANCE: For the current meeting.

4 BOARD MEMBER TUMELSON: I'm looking at it right
5 now. It just says location, and then it says for
6 questions, call, which would then prompt someone to
7 call, which is how I'm looking at it.

8 LARRY VANCE: Hmm. The meeting agenda is
9 normally posted right there, so we'll have to follow up
10 on that.

11 BOARD MEMBER TUMELSON: Thank you.

12 LARRY VANCE: Yes, thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: All right. Any more
14 questions from the Board? Hearing none.

15 Thank you very much. Appreciate your time and
16 your efforts on this.

17 LARRY VANCE: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: I think we're at a good
19 point here where the next couple of items here, the
20 Secretary's Report, I think we can take a short break,
21 get up, move around, get some coffee, and we'll get
22 started up, say, and 25 after.

23 (Break from 10:11 a.m. to 10:31 a.m.)

24 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: All right. We will
25 reconvene the Electrical Board Meeting on April 25th at



1 10:32 a.m. Back to order.

2 So we are on item, Agenda Item No. 6. And from
3 the Secretary of the Board, we are here for your
4 report.

5 *** Secretary's Report ***

6 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: All right. Thank you,
7 Board members. Wayne Molesworth, Secretary of the
8 Board. I'll now read the Secretary's Report into the
9 record.

10 Budget: The electrical fund balance on
11 March 31st, 2024, was \$13,490,224, which is about five
12 times the average monthly operating expenditures. The
13 average monthly operating expenditures for the third
14 quarter of the fiscal year, 2024, were \$2,955,424,
15 compared to \$2,486,725 for the same period last year.
16 This is an increase of 19 percent.

17 Average monthly revenue for the third quarter of
18 FY24 was \$2,740,511, compared to \$2,670,388 for the
19 same period last year. An increase of about three
20 percent.

21 March 1st, 2024, customer service, we had 41,785
22 permits were sold last quarter. 98.5 percent, or
23 41,157, were processed online, which is an increase of
24 .2 percent from the last quarter. 99.6 percent of
25 contractor permits were sold online, which is an



1 increase of 11.8 percent from the previous quarter.

2 Homeowners online sales for this quarter is
3 84.3 percent, which is a 1 percent increase for the
4 previous quarter. Online inspection requests were
5 76.4 percent, which is a .5 percent increase from last
6 quarter. During this quarter, customers made
7 90.7 percent of all electrical license renewals online,
8 which is a .1 percent decrease from last quarter.

9 Key performance measures: Percent of
10 inspections performed within 24 hours of request. The
11 goal is 86 percent. In FY23, we had 78 percent. The
12 same period this fiscal year, '24, was 79 percent.

13 Percent of inspections performed within 48 hours
14 of request. 90 percent, last year. 90 percent this
15 year. A total of inspections performed: Fiscal year
16 2023 was 62,907. Same period this year, 61,362.

17 Virtual electrical inspections, VEI performed:
18 10,344 last year at this time, currently 10,830.
19 Number of focused citations and warnings contractor
20 licensing, worker certification, no permit, failing to
21 supervise trainees; the anticipated number is 4136. In
22 the field in fiscal year '23, we had 263 done in the
23 field. And for E CORE /Audit we had 1,085, for a total
24 of 1348. This same period, this year, the field was
25 576. E CORE/Audit were 3672, for a total of 428.



1 Inspection stops per inspector per day. Last
2 year at this period, 10.9. Same period of time for
3 fiscal year '24, 10.7.

4 Serious electrical collections that would result
5 in disconnection. In 2023, it was 8573. In 2024, it
6 was 8966. Turnaround time for average plan set
7 reviewed. Last year at this time was one day. This
8 year it's gone to four days. Plan review pages, 400
9 last year at this timeframe. And reviewed this current
10 FY 2024 time period was 1377. That explains the four
11 days.

12 So percentage of warnings by focused violation
13 type, licensing was 2 percent, certification 10, no
14 permit 28 percent, trainee supervision 22 percent, and
15 all other focused, 4 percent.

16 Electrical licensing citations and amusement
17 rides and appeals. As of April 3rd, 2024, there are
18 approximately 1,020 items waiting to be processed by
19 the licensing team. That includes affidavits,
20 electrical licenses, renewals, that type of document.

21 The oldest item is dated February 6, 2024.
22 About 870 of these items are affidavits needing to be
23 processed. This is about double the amount of
24 documents waiting to be processed for what was reported
25 in January's Board meeting.



1 In addition to processing documents, licensing
2 staff are responsible for answering all incoming
3 licensing phone calls. For the timeframe between
4 January 1, 2024, and March 31st, 2024, they received
5 6,499 calls through the licensing phone line. This is
6 approximately a 13 percent increase from last quarter.
7 During the quarter, an average of 2,166 calls came in
8 per month, which is about 542 per week, 108 per day,
9 and 13.50 per hour. This does not include inbound
10 calls on their direct lines or outbound calls made to
11 customers.

12 There are currently three vacant positions
13 within the licensing team and licensing supervisor
14 position is vacant. We just got approval to recruit
15 for all the licensing positions except for the
16 licensing supervisor.

17 Due to the current licensing vacancies, staff
18 from the citations team have been assisting the
19 licensing team, and this is impacting citations
20 workload. The citations team have been current on
21 mailing out citations letters to violators, however a
22 backlog is beginning. Also, there is a significant
23 backlog of outstanding debt needing to be sent to the
24 external collections agency.

25 I'm going to add a little bit to that. We have



1 received help from the rest of the Agency, from other
2 programs, to assist in transferring that debt to an
3 outside collections agency to bring us back into
4 compliance. That has yet to be done, but that workload
5 was done by citations and reduced by about half over
6 the last few months. So they've done a good job of
7 trying to keep on board.

8 Testing lab report: 1 new lab, NSS Laboratories
9 Incorporated was approved to be a testing lab, or one
10 of our accredited testing labs.

11 Next section is Passed legislation. As you guys
12 are probably aware, we made some changes to the
13 inspector qualifications. In order for the legislature
14 to actually pass that particular legislation, they
15 wanted us to go into meetings with the AWC, Association
16 of Washington Cities, to determine whether or not there
17 were additional pathways for electrical inspectors to
18 be hired, right, to qualify to be electrical
19 inspectors. We started those conversations. We
20 hopefully will be able to supply the legislature with a
21 report in December.

22 The qualifications that we actually removed, if
23 you're not aware, were those that pertain to
24 engineering experience. You had, whether or not you
25 attended two years of engineering school and then two



1 years -- or four years of experience. Or you attended
2 four years of engineering school and had two years of
3 experience in the electrical trade.

4 What those qualifications didn't determine is
5 whether or not you passed the classes, and -- and
6 whether or not you gained experience in qualifying
7 areas. If you didn't pass the classes, and you had two
8 years of experience, you'd be a trainee, and you may
9 have been working in the assigned {sic} industry. And
10 then you would qualify to become an electrical
11 inspector. That was not in the best interest of the
12 citizens of Washington, and so we removed it.

13 Other program updates: I have a couple here for
14 you, the reconsideration process which we introduced to
15 you at last board meeting and the board meeting before,
16 reconsiders only those hours that are denied on
17 affidavits for trainees that are trying to qualify for
18 exam.

19 We've set up and started the process April 1st.
20 We actually have not received any request for
21 qualifying re-assumptions. Looking at their hours
22 again, we made the decision to start those
23 re-assumptions from April 1st. And so we had to draw a
24 line in the sand someplace.

25 The only people that have actually applied for



1 re-assumptions were from before April 1st, and were
2 because they violated the 180-day rule. In the
3 re-assumptions, if they violated the law, and that's
4 their excuse for wanting re-assumption or their
5 justification for re-assumption, we don't approve those
6 if they're in violation of an RCW or a WAC. That was a
7 decision that was made by management as well as the
8 Chief.

9 But, we've implemented it and it's on its way.
10 We'll see how it turns out. Hopefully, it will give
11 people an avenue that maybe we didn't look at
12 everything possible, or maybe they didn't supply us
13 with everything they should've, giving us that
14 opportunity to take a look at their hours once again.

15 One other thing that a little bit of sad news
16 that I'll share with you, because I think the family
17 has made it common knowledge. Brian Stenerson, the
18 supervisor of the VEI team passed away last Friday.
19 And so it was kind of sudden, nobody was aware. And so
20 we send all of our condolences to his family and
21 putting forth a -- putting together a little Fund Me
22 for his family because it happened so suddenly.

23 We are in the process of putting together
24 recruitment for a new supervisor and a have somebody in
25 that position in an interim position, so to continue



1 the process with VEI.

2 And that concludes my report. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Our condolences from the
4 Electrical Board, if you could pass that on I would
5 appreciate that.

6 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Yep, I will.

7 I guess, before I conclude, I should ask are
8 there any questions from the Board?

9 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Just a quick comment on
10 your page 1 of your report, No. 5. Talked about the
11 number of focused citations and warnings.

12 Could you repeat the total for the year again
13 please?

14 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Total for this year was
15 4248.

16 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: I think we misspoke
17 earlier, is what ...

18 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: We had some big citations
19 included in this year, and so -- so the number.

20 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Thank you. Board member?

21 BOARD MEMBER COX: Board Member Cox, that was my
22 question also on performance No. 5 to give a brief
23 summary of accounting of how we got a 300 percent
24 increase in the year?

25 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Yeah, so we had some



1 large citations. I see Phil has left. He probably
2 explains them better. But large citations with
3 multiple locations from out-of-state contractors and
4 in-state unlicensed contractors. So they make up quite
5 a large number of citations, when you're looking.

6 I think we had one -- one group of citations
7 that probably had around 200 instances, right. And so
8 because of the documentation on the citation, we
9 decided to site them appropriately, right. And so it
10 raised the number of citations that we actually issued.

11 BOARD MEMBER COX: So it wasn't that we had more
12 staff to do more work; it was we had an incident or
13 incidents that were large?

14 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Right, exactly. So that
15 brings me to a point that I would like to make in
16 addition, is that one of the -- one of the asks I have
17 for this next budget cycle will be for additional
18 compliance inspectors. I am working on additional
19 agreements with other cities, still trying to identify
20 those cities, that we have with the City of Seattle.
21 Where they have one individual that writes, or that
22 identifies compliance, pulls together the evidence
23 package, and then our ECORE team actually submits that
24 citation.

25 And that will take more, as well as the question



1 was asked to me, well, "how do you know many compliance
2 inspectors you need?" We don't. Compliance is an
3 invisible problem, right. You don't see it until you
4 see it. And so as you can see from the goals that
5 ECOPE has had, they've had the same number of people
6 for quite some time.

7 We raised their goal to I think it was right
8 around 3,000, and they meet that every time. And so,
9 because they meet that every time, my justification is
10 there's more, right.

11 And so, you know, I would look for advice if you
12 guys think, if the Board thinks that's a position we
13 should take, that we should move towards. But that's
14 it's my opinion that it's just as important as making
15 sure licensed contractors are installing the work.
16 Well, it is a part of compliance.

17 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: I think that's a pretty
18 common throughout the Board that we're concerned with
19 making sure compliance is taking care of. And if
20 anybody is an argument against it, that's our position
21 also.

22 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: It will limit our ability
23 to have additional inspectors, but the reports that
24 we're pulling together now show that our inspectors are
25 becoming more efficient. And I'll try to put together



1 a little bit of a data dump for you next meeting to
2 show you where we've gone. Over the last six months,
3 we've reduced overtime and still accomplishing as much
4 work. Because of different processes that we've put in
5 place, so.

6 So I think we can ask for more staff for an
7 Ecore position, rather than inspectors as well is what
8 I'm looking at. I know that won't be favorable in the
9 program. I'll probably hit some rough patches. But
10 that's the way it goes.

11 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Anymore questions from the
12 Board?

13 BOARD MEMBER ALLEN: Board Member Allen. Would
14 it be helpful to have any kind of letter from this
15 Board to support, in support of your request for
16 additional staff?

17 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: I'd definitely appreciate
18 that. A letter in support always helps us to help
19 management understand the work we do, and what that
20 looks like. Whether or not we can do that. And it
21 looks like they're working on it right now. He's
22 probably going to make it into a plane and throw it to
23 me. Just kidding.

24 But the problem we run into with budget packages
25 is they have to be approved by the most upper



1 management, Joel Sacks, and his deputy directors. And
2 sometimes they don't understand the work, and the
3 reason for the work. They look at "well, are
4 inspections getting done, and if so, then we're good."
5 And so we really have to spend some time explaining
6 that particular situation to management.

7 Right now, the Board giving a letter would
8 justify that the Board thinks it's important as well.
9 And since you guys are Governor-appointed you speak,
10 kind of, for what the Governor thinks.

11 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: And this might be outside
12 the scope but I'm going to do it anyway. The Chair
13 would entertain a motion to send a letter in favor of
14 adding those positions?

15 BOARD MEMBER ALLEN: This is Board Member Allen.
16 I would make a motion to send a letter in support of
17 additional staffing as needed.

18 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Board Member Nord, second.

19 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: We have a motion and a
20 second. Discussion?

21 BOARD MEMBER COX: Discussion. Question on your
22 virtual electrical inspection.

23 Are you appropriately staffed in the VEI?

24 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: So we're not. VEI comes
25 from within, within the program, because it takes a



1 real experienced person to be able to tell somebody
2 where to point their camera, right.

3 BOARD MEMBER COX: Right.

4 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: So when we take staff
5 away from the field, we have to make sure they can
6 still cover the inspection load that they have. And so
7 that's another angle that we're probably going to take
8 is that to grow VEI we need to also fill those
9 vacancies, and ask specifically for positions for VEI.
10 And that will give us the ability to also fill those
11 vacancies that we create when we hire VEI inspectors.

12 BOARD MEMBER COX: So is that in conjunction
13 with your need for E CORE "ask"?

14 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: It will be at the same
15 time. It's two different issues, right. And the
16 reason -- I'm just you asked that question -- is the
17 reason for that is we need to develop different
18 programs inside of VEI, such as solar voltaic
19 inspections, right, not on your sunglasses.

20 But so that we're not putting our inspectors in
21 hazards on roofs and that type of thing, right. If we
22 can look at them with VEI, then we're ahead of the
23 game. We haven't got there yet. So we need additional
24 staff, because that will be a very large workload when
25 it does come in. And we may make a separate little



1 unit just for that type of work and EV chargers and the
2 such.

3 BOARD MEMBER COX: Right. And so to the point
4 of Board Member Allen's motion, you know, are we giving
5 a general letter of support for hiring staff where
6 needed, which was the reason for my question for VEI;
7 is it all of it, or is it just because it sounds like
8 the Chief is going to have an ask for each of the
9 programs, VEI, ECORE, separately. So I'm assuming our
10 letter would then support any necessary.

11 BOARD MEMBER ALLEN: That was my intent.

12 BOARD MEMBER COX: Very good.

13 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Second?

14 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Yes.

15 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: And I appreciate that.
16 What I would ask is a little bit more focus in the
17 letter and some reasoning from the Board on supporting
18 compliance staff. Otherwise, they might lump it all
19 together again, right? "We'll what did they mean?
20 Well, what does the Board mean by this?" So we want to
21 be a little bit more specific.

22 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: So what you're looking for
23 is maybe a motion on adding staff members to
24 compliance?

25 AAG BLOHOWIAK: I think your motion as it is, is



1 appropriate and gives us plenty of wiggle room to
2 massage the language.

3 Wayne, when is -- when are you doing your
4 funding request? I need a deadline.

5 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: So it's really already
6 started. But, so I would say if I was to get a letter
7 by the middle or the end of May it would probably be
8 sufficient. But the sooner the better.

9 AAG BLOHOWIAK: Okay.

10 UNKNOWN BOARD MEMBER: Next week okay for you?

11 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Board Member Cox?

12 BOARD MEMBER COX: So in addition to that
13 question on Counsel's point, how would the Board go
14 about approving the letter that gets crafted?

15 AAG BLOHOWIAK: The Board has already, well,
16 there's a motion on the table to send a letter. That's
17 the official action, the Board is going to send the
18 letter. I can circulate drafts via email for
19 everybody's approval. I don't see any, the actual,
20 like, it's clear what the Board's intent is and you're
21 going to vote on that. The actual form of it, I think
22 we have flexibility off the record to take care of
23 that.

24 BOARD MEMBER COX: Very good.

25 BOARD MEMBER NORD: The chair --



1 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Are you okay with that or
2 do you want to see it?

3 BOARD MEMBER COX: I'm okay with you just to
4 taking care of it.

5 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Board Member Cox, are you
6 okay with that?

7 BOARD MEMBER COX: Oh, yes. Absolutely.

8 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Anybody else have any
9 issues or. Okay. Board Member Knottingham?

10 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: My concern, and part
11 of it's already been addressed -- but, I believe the
12 Chief has -- and I could be incorrect -- that he has
13 discretion on moving staff to different positions. So
14 I just didn't want to get to focused on -- I understand
15 you want the need for increased compliance. I agree,
16 but I didn't want to have it necessarily locked in
17 where it takes away some of your flexibility.

18 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Yeah, unfortunately, I'm
19 looking to create that flexibility and that push.
20 Because what we've got right now is the law says that
21 the Director has oversight over the Electrical Chief.

22 There's been quite a bit of, not oversight, but
23 actual direction coming from lower levels under
24 Director, right. And he's got the option to delegate
25 his responsibilities to maybe an assistant director.



1 But we're -- because we have a matrix system with field
2 and other places, they are lumping us together with who
3 gets what, and they make the decision. I don't get to
4 make the decision lately. Which ...

5 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Is a problem.

6 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Is a problem.

7 And, but it's a problem I'm trying to remedy
8 through getting more credibility and that, but it's
9 still a problem. And so that's what I'm looking for is
10 to regain some of that with support from the Board to
11 be able to say where those positions belong.

12 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Anymore discussions on the
13 motion? Hearing none, all in favor say, aye.

14 COLLECTIVE: "Aye."

15 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Any opposed?

16 The motion passes. Thank you.

17 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Anything else, questions?

19 BOARD MEMBER TUMELSON: I have just a question.

20 Board Member Tumelson. Thank you for, you know, kind
21 of, the awareness of, kind of, diving into the pathways
22 of becoming an electrical inspector. I know that
23 that's been a focus of, you know, some of the cities
24 that also struggle to find electrical inspectors.

25 And so I know that the Department struggled with



1 that over the years, as well. And so, you know, just
2 an extra focus on what type of pathways do exist and
3 which ones are appropriate and which ones aren't. And
4 I appreciate the Department kind of taking a deep-dive
5 on that. And also the underground economy, yeah,
6 that's, you know, that's a very different one to, kind
7 of, you know, identify how much attention is needed.
8 And so I appreciate the Department's effort on that.

9 Along those lines though, you mentioned EV. I
10 did just want to just touch briefly, I know it's not
11 inside of the scope of, you know, statutory authority,
12 but there has been additional, significant changes to
13 the requirements in the International Building Code,
14 and the International Residential Code and so just
15 wanted to, you know, give the Department a heads-up on
16 that.

17 Every new single-family is going to have EV in
18 the garage. And then commercial buildings has expanded
19 greatly to the requirements for electrical vehicle
20 charging. And so your guys should be seeing a lot more
21 of that coming in with this next code cycle. And so,
22 which was also adopted March 15th of this year, so be
23 on the lookout.

24 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: Yeah, and appreciate
25 that, Jim.



1 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Board Member Knottingham?

2 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Wayne, is there
3 anything the Board can do. You mentioned the matrix
4 issue and, you know, I understand why that came about
5 and when it came about.

6 Is there anything the Board can do to support,
7 directly support getting more oversight over the
8 individual regions?

9 SECRETARY MOLESWORTH: You know, I've not
10 thought a lot about that avenue. So maybe we revisit
11 that next meeting and I'll give that some thought and
12 see what kind of options we might have.

13 I have to be very careful, because in my PDF it
14 talks about creating relationships and working together
15 with regional administrators in the -- in the regions
16 that actually supervise electrical staff. And so I try
17 to do that the best I can. And staying within that is
18 important to me, because that's what my boss's telling
19 me to do.

20 At the same time I think there is probably
21 avenues to where we can effect and be part of their
22 decision-making process a little bit better. So let me
23 think about that.

24 BOARD MEMBER KNOTTINGHAM: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: Any more questions for the



1 Secretary? All right. Thank you very much.
2 Appreciate it.

3 *** Public Comments ***

4 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: All right, we are up for
5 the last item today which are public comments. Does
6 anybody have any public comments? No? Okay.

7 All right. The Chair would entertain a motion
8 to close the meeting.

9 BOARD MEMBER NORD: Board Member Nord, motion.

10 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: All right, motion.

11 Do we have a second?

12 BOARD MEMBER LEE: Board Member Lee, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: We have a motion and a
14 second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of
15 closing, say aye.

16 COLLECTIVE: "Aye."

17 CHAIRPERSON JENKINS: The meeting is closed.

18 (Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF SPOKANE)

This is to certify that I, Tamara Nassar,
Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of
Washington, residing in Spokane Valley, reported the within
and foregoing proceeding; said proceeding being taken
before me on the date herein set forth; that said meeting
was taken by me in shorthand and thereafter under my
supervision transcribed, and that same is a full, true, and
correct record of the testimony of any parties, including
all questions, answers, and objections, if any, of parties.

I further certify that I am not a relative or
employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
am I financially interested in the outcome of the cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have set my hand this 6th
day of May, 2024.



TAMARA NASSAR
CCR NO. 22006692, CVR NO. 8036

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