

Question of the Month – If a person is not happy with something in the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC), how would they make a suggestion to change it? See correct answer on Page 2.

COVID-19 Electrical Program Updates

L&I Office Closures – L&I regional offices are closed to public visits until further notice. Most of our services are available online. A great way to find what you want is to search your browser (e.g., “L&I renew electrical certificate” or “L&I purchase electrical permit”). Local L&I offices can help you by phone from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (except state holidays). Please call your closest [regional office](#), or you can call the Office of Information and Assistance at 360-902-5800.

Electrical Inspections – L&I is following the Governor’s Directive Regarding Construction – We are performing electrical inspections in accordance with the Governor’s March 25 [guidance memo on construction](#). For the latest updates from the Governor’s office visit <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>. If you have an inspection on an essential facility, or your project meets the guidelines in the latest guidance from the Governor’s office, please indicate this in the comment section of your inspection request. This guidance also applies to virtual electrical inspections (VEI). We will only inspect projects in compliance with the Governor’s guidance in support of efforts to control spread of the virus on construction sites.

Renewing a Training Certificate – On March 13, Governor Inslee issued a proclamation prohibiting all public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs from conducting in-person classes in all counties of Washington State. This prohibition will last until April 24, 2020, unless extended to a later date. Because of this, holders of training certificates with expiration dates on or after March 13 may not be able to complete the basic classroom instruction required to renew their certificates.

The department will allow those trainees who renew their certificates without completing the required classroom instruction to continue working with their certificate in inactive status until 60 days following April 24, or later if extended beyond that date. This will allow them to complete their required classroom instruction when classes resume. This allowance will apply only to holders of training certificates with expiration dates on or after March 13, 2020 who have renewed and are in inactive (“T”) status due to lack of basic classroom instruction. It does not apply to holders of training certificates in expired, archived, or suspended status. It does not apply to holders of electrician, administrator, or master electrician certificates, as online classes are available for continuing education.

Training certificate holders must renew their certificates by paying the usual renewal fee. You can do this online. Follow instructions on the renewal notice or visit the [Electrical Trainee](#) page of our website. All other requirements remain in effect such as submitting affidavits of experience, supervision, and visible display of certificates. Electrical contractors and administrators will not be penalized for employing trainees who are inactive in accordance with the above.

Citation Appeals – 20 Day Appeal Window Requirement Revised – On March 23, Governor Inslee issued a [Stay Home - Stay Healthy](#) Proclamation 20-25 prohibiting all commercial and residential activities in all counties of Washington State, except for specific limited activities identified on the essential services list. This prohibition will last until April 8, 2020, unless extended to a later date. Companies and individuals issued electrical “Important Notice: A citation has been issued...” letter(s) or a license/certificate renewal denial letter requiring a response to the Department within a 20 day window may not have the ability to timely respond. Because of this, Department mail containing electrical “Important Notice: A citation has been issued...” letter(s) or license/certificate renewal denial letter sent after March 1, 2020 will have the 20-day response window extended to a maximum of 20 days beyond April 8, 2020, unless extended to a later date. All responses must meet all other requirements of law and rule.

Safety Tip of the Month

During times of isolation, try to stay connected with family and friends. Call them, try FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom. Stay safe, healthy, and positive 😊

April Stakeholder Meetings to be Re-Scheduled – In order to comply with the Governor’s emergency proclamation restricting the size of gatherings due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), we are cancelling all stakeholder meetings scheduled in April. We will re-schedule these for later in the year. Please join me at any of the following meetings in May from 6 – 8 p.m., unless announced otherwise. Watch for future announcements in this newsletter and on the [Electrical Calendar](#) page of our website regarding stakeholder meetings scheduled for May and those that will be re-scheduled.

May 11 – Kennewick – [Benton PUD](#) Auditorium – 2721 West 10th Avenue

May 12 – Spokane – [Spokane Falls Community College](#), 3410 W. Fort George Wright Drive, Bldg. 17, Sub Lounges

May 13 – Colville – [Spokane Community College](#), 985 S Elm St., Classroom 132

May 14 – Pullman – Parks & Recreation, 190 SE Crestview, Room 218

May 20 – Yakima – Perry Technical Institute, 2011 W Washington Avenue

WAC 296-46B Rulemaking Update – Public Hearing to be by Conference Call

The department has filed a continuance of the rule proposal CR-102 to make changes to the public hearing scheduled for April 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The hearing will be conducted by conference call to allow for oral public comments and testimony on the proposal rather than holding an in-person meeting. We are strongly encouraging written comments. In addition, we are extending the written comment period until 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2020.

You can find details and rulemaking documents by visiting the Rule Development section of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) webpage. Review the proposals and submit comments if you desire. Here’s how to submit comments:

- Mail written comments to: Alicia Curry, Department of Labor & Industries, Field Services and Public Safety Division, PO Box 44400, Olympia, WA 98504-4400.
- Email: Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov, or Fax: 360-902-5292
- Attend the public hearing by conference call: Call 1-866-715-6499. If you receive a busy signal and cannot connect, an alternate number to call is (719) 325-2776. When prompted for the passcode, enter 9862128073 followed by the pound sign (#). The telephonic hearing starts at 10:00 a.m. and will continue until all oral comments are received.

The proposed adoption date for the new rules is May 19, 2020 and the proposed effective date is July 1, 2020. For complete details about the process, see the [October 2019 Electrical Currents](#) Newsletter Special Edition. If you need additional information or have any questions about the rulemaking process, you may contact Alicia Curry at 360-902-6244 or Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov.

Answer to Question of the Month: The 2023 edition of the NEC is now open for public input! Anyone can submit a proposal to make changes to the NEC. The public input closing date is September 10, 2020. To submit a public input using the online submission system, visit 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.

Ugly Picture of the Month: Headlines reported the first U.S. death from coronavirus occurred in Washington on February 29, 2020. Since then, things in our world have changed dramatically. We in the electrical program wish everyone well during this time and are praying for a speedy end to this situation. Until then, please abide by directives, [stay home and stay healthy](#).

Washington state man becomes first U.S. death from coronavirus

The CDC says it's responding to "the first possible outbreak" of the virus at a U.S. long-term care facility in Washington.

Health officials in Washington state said on Saturday a coronavirus patient has died, marking the first death in the U.S. from COVID-19, the illness associated with the virus.

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<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>

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