

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth

March 2025

Question of the Month - What size copper equipment bonding jumper is required to be run with the 3/0 copper phase conductors from the source of a separately derived system to the first disconnecting means sized at 200 amps? *See Page 2 for the answer.*

A message from Chief Molesworth

There is a great product that L&I offers that may have been forgotten. Have you ever been in a situation where you sent someone out to do a price quote and the property owner wants to start the job right then and there? It may be very difficult to get a permit purchased and posted quickly. For that reason and others, Provisional Permits were created to cover that gap.

A provisional permit is a sticker that can be adhered to the electrical panel cover allowing work to start immediately. You must then obtain a normal permit within 2 working days, see [WAC 296-46B-907](#).

Provisional permits do not remove the need to purchase a normal permit for the work, it just covers the gap between starting the work and posting the permit on site. This product was developed to be a cost effective way to keep the work moving while obtaining a permit and avoiding a citation for no permit. One of the intentions for citations is to help change how we do business and stay within the law.

Provisional permits are sold in books of twenty at your local service location for \$291.10. This is cheaper than the complications of receiving a citation for no permit.

Update for Proposed Electrical Fee Increase

The department is proposing increasing fees by 6.41%. This is the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) maximum allowable fiscal growth rate for fiscal year (FY) 2026. It is based on the [average personal income growth over the past decade](#).

The agency filed a [CR-102 Proposed Rulemaking](#) on Feb. 18. If adopted, the fee increase would take effect July 1, 2025.

A public hearing on the proposed rules will take place **March 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.** at [L&I headquarters, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA](#). Besides attending in-person, you can also join by:

To join virtually (Zoom):

<https://lni-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/85243532931?pwd=OEs1h736V0GiAnbexZsagTfmfjDdls.1>

Passcode: Uiu7sE+?

To join by phone (audio only): 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 852 4353 2931 Passcode: 11642264

Safety Tip of the Month

Planning some projects this spring that require digging?

[Washington 811](#) has resources to help you find buried utilities.

Dial 811 or check out

www.callbeforeyoudig.org.

Contractor's Portion	Job Site Portion
Provisional Electrical Work Permit Label VALID FOR TWO (2) WORKING DAYS P000 018381	Provisional Electrical Work Permit Label VALID FOR TWO (2) WORKING DAYS P000 018381
Date of work	Date of work
Elec Contractor Name	Elec Contractor Name
Elec Contractor License #	Elec Contractor License #
Electrician Certificate #	Electrician Certificate #
Site Address	Site Address
City County	City County
Job site owner name	Job site owner name
Description of work	Description of work
<small>Return this portion to your local L&I office or: Department of Labor and Industries Electrical Section PO Box 44460 Olympia WA 98504-4460 P500-092-000 provisional electrical permit label 10-2004</small>	<small>Use sunlight and weather resistant permanent marker Clean and dry surface before adhering P500-092-000 provisional electrical permit label 10-2004</small>

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages.

Access this PDF document online at:

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

Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/> -

Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical



Result of Fresh Look Reconsiderations Pilot Project

After nearly a year of the Fresh Look Reconsiderations pilot project, we are ending the program, as of April 1, 2025. The project focused on exploring, identifying and implementing opportunities to enhance the Plumbing and Electrical Program's reconsideration of trainee's submitted affidavits of hours.

The FLR process confirmed the accuracy of our program's initial decisions. Over the 51 total cases received by the electrical and plumber programs, one was overturned due to additional information provided by the customer; the other 50 were upheld. As a result of our learnings, we've made the following changes;

- Updated our letters and engaged in rulemaking to make the outcome of violating the law even more clear.
- Our licensing processes was reviewed and sharpened to provide support for customers who may have questions after the FLR process is closed.

Ending the FLR project does not mean programs will not take another look at denied affidavits if new information becomes available. For questions about the project, please contact HoursReconsideration@Lni.wa.gov or ElectricalProgram@Lni.wa.gov.

What to expect at PSI testing locations

Congratulations on qualifying for an open-book examination. Be prepared by knowing which reference material you can bring in and what to expect at the testing facility. PSI, has two good resources to give you the information you need:

- Video: [PSI Test Center Experience](#)
- [PSI Exam Bulletin](#)

The examination is not about what you have memorized. You will need to be familiar with reference material used in the industry. In addition to the NEC and [WAC/RCW](#), many candidates bring in other copyrighted materials such as a keyword indexes to the NEC, electrical formula pocketbook guides and handbooks on electrical theory. Being familiar with your reference material will greatly improve your chances of success.

Answer to Question of the Month: 4 AWG copper – NEC 250.30(A)(2), NEC , 250.102(C), Table 250.66

Picture of the Month:

An electrical inspector noticed a damaged CT enclosure, meter and service disconnect for an irrigation system. The equipment was pushed sideways, conduits were pulled apart with unfused service entrance conductors exposed. The inspector reached out to the utility to inform them of the hazard. The utility was able to contact the land owner and repairs done the next day getting the system back into a safe condition. This was a great example of everybody working for the safety of the community. *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.*



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Electrical Section website: www.lni.wa.gov/ - Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical

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