

# Meeting Minutes: Board of Electricity

Date: April 13, 2021  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Location: WebEx Event

## **Members Present**

1. David Curtis
2. Alfreda Daniels
3. Sarah Gudmunson
4. Duane Hendricks – Chair
5. Mike Hanson
6. Jeff Heimerl
7. Todd Huttner
8. Peter Lindahl – Vice-Chair
9. Travis Thul
10. Desiree Weigel – Secretary
11. John Williamson – CO’s Designee

## **Members Absent**

Cole Funseth

## **DLI Staff & Visitors**

Jeff Lebowski (Gen. Counsel, DLI)  
Lyndy Logan (DLI)  
Steve Dudley (DLI)  
Todd Green (DLI)  
Dean Hunter (DLI)  
Marty Kumm (DLI)  
Clara Albert (Electrical Assn.)  
Jason Carlson (IBEW 292)  
Barbara Conti (Commerce)  
Michelle Dreier (Electrical Assn.)  
Nick Erickson (Housing First)  
David Fisch (MNESTA) *by phone*  
Adam Hanson (MN/ND ABC)  
David Smith (Eaton)  
Gary Thaden (NECA)

## **1. Call to Order**

- A. Roll Call:** Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll call was taken by Secretary Lindahl and a quorum was declared with 11 of 12 voting members present via WebEx.
- B. Announcements/Introductions:** Hendricks read the following remote meeting statement:  
Thank you for joining this remote meeting via WebEx. As board chair, I have determined today’s meeting is via the WebEx platform due to the current status of the state of Minnesota operating under the peacetime emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Per Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.021, of the Open Meeting Law, electronic meetings are acceptable when an in-person meeting is “not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under Chapter 12.”
  - All handouts discussed and WebEx instructions are posted on the Board’s website at: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/board-electricity>
  - Everyone present on this WebEx event can hear all discussions.
  - All votes will be taken by roll call.
- C. Journal of Votes** – Per Minnesota Statutes 13D.01, Subd. 4, the vote of each member will be recorded in a journal made available to the public.
- D. WebEx instructions/procedures**  
WebEx instructions and procedures were read.

## 2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

A motion was made by Lindahl, seconded by Curtis, to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

## 3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Lindahl, seconded by Heimerl, to approve the Jan. 12, 2021, regular meeting minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous with 10 votes in favor of the motion, one abstention (Weigel); the motion carried.

## 4. **Regular Business**

- A. **Expense Approval** – Lyndy will review, sign, and send per diems to Financial Services for approval/payment.
- B. **Enforcement & licensing update** – Williamson gave an Exam Summary – see **Attachment A**. Electrical Enforcement Actions can be found on the department’s website at: <http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-enforcement-actions>
- C. **Inspections update** – Williamson referred to **Attachment B**

## 5. **Special Business**

### A. **Officer nominations** **Chair**

- Lindahl nominated Duane Hendricks. The roll call vote was unanimous with 10 votes, and one abstention (Williamson); Hendricks was nominated Chair.

### **Vice-Chair**

- Hendricks nominated Peter Lindahl. The roll call vote was unanimous with 10 votes, and one abstention (Williamson); Lindahl was nominated as Vice-Chair.

### **Secretary:**

- Lindahl nominated Desiree Weigel. The roll call vote was unanimous with 10 votes, and one abstention (Williamson); Weigel was nominated as Secretary.

### B. **2020 NEC Adoption update**

- Lebowsky said Oral Argument will be held remotely at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 29, 2021. If you would like to observe that argument, please visit the Court of Appeals website on the morning of the argument at: <https://www.mncourts.gov/Remote-Hearings.aspx>. Click on the “Public Access” tab and follow instructions to remotely view the 30-minute argument.

### C. **2023 NEC Adoption update**

- Dean Hunter, Chief Electrical Inspector, CCLD, DLI, said complete correlation on the first draft will be the first week in May, with completion in July.
- More information can be found on the NFPA’s website at: <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=70&tab=nextedition>

- D. NERA update  
Steve Dudley, CCLD, discussed topics discussed at the NERA meeting on Oct. 19 & 20, 2020, and Feb. 22, 2021 – see **Attachment C**.

**6. Committee Reports**

**Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC)**

Hendricks said the CCAC has not met since Dec. 10, 2020. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 27, 2021.

**7. Complaints**

No complaints.

**8. Open Forum**

Marty Kumm, Electrical Inspector, CCLD, DLI, said that in the first three months of 2020, there were approximately 212 solar permits issued, representing approximately 5.1 megawatts of solar. In the first 3 months of 2021, 480 solar permits were issued, representing approximately 19.7 megawatts of solar. There has been a significant increase in solar activity and in wattage in the first quarter of 2021.

**9. Board Discussion**

Members of the Board thanked those serving as officers and Lyndy for her assistance.

**10. Announcements**

Next regularly scheduled meeting – 9:00 a.m., WebEx Event

- A. July 13, 2021 – Annual meeting – Office nominations and voting
- B. Oct. 12, 2021

**11. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Heimerl, seconded by Lindahl, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Desiree Weigel*

Desiree Weigel  
Secretary

# Exam Summary Report

1/1/2021 - 3/31/2021

	<u>Apps</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Resched</u>	<u>No Show</u>
POWER LIMITED TECHNICIAN	4	3	0	0	0	1
Session Totals:	23	12	10	0	0	1

Exam Session: 3/17/2021 8:30

Location: NEW ULM CONFERENCE CENTER - BALLROOM

Exam Session: 3/17/2021 8:30

JOURNEYWORKER A ELECTRICIAN	20	5	15	0	0	0
MASTER A ELECTRICIAN	7	3	4	0	0	0
POWER LIMITED TECHNICIAN	2	1	1	0	0	0
Session Totals:	29	9	20	0	0	0

Exam Session: 3/18/2021 8:30

JOURNEYWORKER A ELECTRICIAN	17	2	15	0	0	0
MASTER A ELECTRICIAN	7	2	4	0	0	1
Session Totals:	24	4	19	0	0	1
Location Totals:	138	42	94	0	0	2

Grand Totals:	496	139	334	0	0	23
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**Statewide Activity Report**  
 For the Period 01/01/2021 thru 3/31/2021

Total Active	Date Range Activity			Issued Permits	Aging of Expired Permits			
Current Count	IN Count	OUT Count	Net Change Count	< 12 Months Count	12-18 Months Count	18-36 Month Count	> 36 Months Count	> 12 Months Count
62,132	25,379	28,114	(2,735)	50,345	4,566	5,974	891	11,431
Percentage of Current Active Permits								
	41%	45%	-4%	81%	7%	10%	1%	18%
	<u># of Inspections Performed</u>		<u>Inspection Reports</u>	<u>AFBs</u>	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>License Checks</u>	<u>Violation Reports</u>	
For Date Range:	40,518		4,726	4,269	1,371	179	2	
Year to Date Total:	40,530		4,729	4,281	1,380	179	2	

**"Total Active"**: The total current active permits ("Issued", "Expired" or "Hold" status).

**"Date Range Activity"**: The permits that were Issued and permits closed out and the net change for the selected date range.

**"Issued Permits"**: Represents the number of permits that are currently less than 12 months old.

**"Expired Permits"**: Permits for installations filed with inspection fees of \$250 or less are void 12 months from the original filing date regardless of whether the wiring is completed. Permits filed with inspection fees of \$250 or less are not refundable after 12 months from the original filing date. The authority to install electrical wiring associated with a specific permit is void at the time of a final inspection or expiration, whichever occurs first. The authority to inspect wiring covered by a permit continues until the installation is approved at a final inspection.

**"Aging of Expired Permits"**: Represents the age of expired permits that are still active. This does not include any permits that have a value over \$250.

**"For Date Range:"** Represents the numbers in the respective columns during that date range. Violation reports are yet to be counted by this report.

**"Year to Date Total:"** Represents the numbers for the calendar year beginning January 1st.

**"%"**: Represents the percentage compared to "Current".

**"AFBs"**: Additional Fees for Billings (invoices for inspection fee shortages)

# Issued Electrical Solar Permits Summary

Issued from 1/1/2021 to 3/31/2021

Permit Type Type of Dwelling or Non-Dwelling	Permit Variant Dwelling New or Existing	Solar Systems Grouped by Size	No of permits	Percentage of Group	Solar Systems Grouped by Size	No of permits	% of Total
					1 Meg to 5 Meg	1	0.21%
Multi-Family Dwelling			6	1.25% Of Total	10K or <	317	66.04%
	Existing Building or Other Items		5	83.33% of Type	10K to 40K	112	23.33%
		10K to 40K	3	60.00% of Variant	40K to 1 meg	16	3.33%
		40K to 1 meg	2	40.00% of Variant	Not Given	1	0.21%
	New Building		1	16.67% of Type	Unknown	33	6.88%
		10K to 40K	1	100.00% of Variant	Total	480.00	
Non-Dwelling			55	11.46% Of Total	Solar Systems Grouped by Size	Watts	% of Total
	Non-Dwelling		55	100.00% of Type	1 Meg to 5 Meg	7,250,000	36.73%
		1 Meg to 5 Meg	1	1.82% of Variant	10K or <	1,953,388	9.90%
		10K or <	10	18.18% of Variant	10K to 40K	2,016,627	10.22%
		10K to 40K	26	47.27% of Variant	40K to 1 meg	8,518,920	43.16%
		40K to 1 meg	14	25.45% of Variant	Not Given		0.00%
		Unknown	4	7.27% of Variant	Unknown	Unknown	
		Total					
Average						44,258	
One-Family Dwelling			401	83.54% Of Total			
	Existing Dwelling or Other Items		399	99.50% of Type			
		10K or <	294	73.68% of Variant			
		10K to 40K	79	19.80% of Variant			
		Not Given	1	0.25% of Variant			
		Unknown	25	6.27% of Variant			
	New Dwelling		2	0.50% of Type			
		10K or <	1	50.00% of Variant			
		Unknown	1	50.00% of Variant			
One-Family Home (Permit Issued to Homeowners)			17	3.54% Of Total			
	Existing Home or Other Items		11	64.71% of Type			
		10K or <	7	63.64% of Variant			
		10K to 40K	2	18.18% of Variant			
		Unknown	2	18.18% of Variant			
	New Home		6	35.29% of Type			
		10K or <	4	66.67% of Variant			
		10K to 40K	1	16.67% of Variant			
Unknown		1	16.67% of Variant				

# Issued Electrical Solar Permits Summary

Issued from 1/1/2021 to 3/31/2021

Two-Family Dwelling			1	0.21% Of Total
	Existing Building or Other Items		1	100.00% of Type
		10K or <	1	100.00% of Variant
Total			480	

# Electrical Permits Issued Summary

Issued from 1/1/2021 to 3/31/2021

ELE Permit Type	New Structure or Existing and/or Other Assoc. Items	Number of Permits Issued	% of Permit Type	% of Total
Multi-Family Dwelling	Existing Building or Other Items	445	94.68%	1.77%
	New Building	25	5.32%	0.10%
	Total	<b>470</b>		1.87%
Non-Dwelling	Total	<b>5,854</b>		23.30%
One-Family Dwelling	Existing Dwelling or Other Items	13,148	89.78%	52.33%
	New Dwelling	1,496	10.22%	5.95%
	Total	<b>14,644</b>		58.29%
One-Family Home (Homeowner Issued Permit)	Existing Home or Other Items	1,795	87.52%	7.14%
	New Home	256	12.48%	1.02%
	Total	<b>2,051</b>		8.16%
Technology Systems	Total	<b>225</b>		0.90%
Transitory (Carnival, etc.)	Total	<b>11</b>		0.04%
Two-Family Dwelling	Existing Building or Other Items	96	92.31%	0.38%
	New Building	8	7.69%	0.03%
	Total	<b>104</b>		0.41%
Utility Load Management Device	New Device	275	15.58%	1.09%
	Replacement Device	1,490	84.42%	5.93%
	Total	<b>1,765</b>		7.03%
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,124</b>		





## Electrical Permit and Inspection History

### State Inspection Areas

CALENDAR YEAR	Permit Information			Inspection Information		
	Total Permits Issued	Permits Completed	Permits Closed but Not Finaled	Final "Final" Insp.*	All other Insp.**	Total Inspections
2018	107,299	105,518	1,965	104,853	54,822	159,675
2019	110,833	103,960	3,026	108,379	54,065	162,444
2020	126,822	91,125	2,408	107,886	55,710	163,596
2021	25,493	8,598	261	26,049	14,378	40,427

The "**Permit Information**" and the "**Inspection Information**" do not necessarily represent the same permits. The "Permit Information" represents permits issued that Calendar Year. The "Inspection Information" represents the inspections performed that calendar year. The inspections may be for permits that were issued in previous calendar years.

**"Total Permits Issued"** means the permits Issued in the calendar year indicated. Includes permits in status (milestone) 'Abandon', 'Closed', 'Expired', 'Finaled', 'Issued', or 'Hold'. Does not include any other milestone such as "Out of state Inspected Area", "Refunded", etc.

**"Permits Completed"** means the "Total Permits Issued" for the calendar year, this is the number of permits placed into 'Closed', 'Expired', 'Abandon', or 'Finaled' status .

**"Permits Closed but Not Finaled"** means of the "Permits Completed" for the year, this is the number of those permits placed by procedural policy into 'Closed', 'Expired', or 'Abandon' status .

**"Final "Final" Insp."** represents the number of inspections completed that calendar year that caused the permits to be placed into "Finaled" status or milestone. The permits were not necessarily issued that year.

**"All other Insp."** represents the number of inspections completed that calendar year that did not result in a ""Finaled" status or milestone. The permits were not necessarily issued that year.

**"Total Inspections"** represents the total (Finals and Others) number of inspections completed that calendar year. The permits were not necessarily issued that year.

# NERA 2020 & 2021 Virtual Meetings

This year the NERA meetings were held virtually for the first time.

Topics discussed in the meetings held on October 19, & 20, 2020, and February 22, 2021 consisted of:

- Utah lessening reciprocity restrictions.
  - Utah is in the process of dissolving all existing reciprocal agreements and allowing reciprocity with any state that has comparable licensing without an agreement which is in violation of the bylaws.
  - NERA sent a letter to Utah to address the issues with no response. We voted unanimously to remove Utah from NERA.
- Membership status of New Mexico. New Mexico has not been involved with NERA for almost four years which is in violation of the bylaws. Texas has attempted to reach out to them, with no response. We will be sending them a letter and readdressing this issue at the October 2021 meeting.
- CEU credit reciprocity with states who are reciprocal with licensing. Minnesota already accepts CEU's from providers from other states if the course and instructors meet the criteria, and are approved by the dept.
- Maine and Colorado are seeking reciprocity.
- NERA exam bank of questions.
  - NERA legally cannot own the bank of questions
  - Difficulty of providing questions that will work for each state since all states are not on the same code cycle
  - Amendments, law, and rule differences
  - It was decided not to create a NERA exam bank of questions.
- We made some minor bylaw changes regarding Article IX, Officers, and Article XII, Amendments. These changes were made to simplify the replacement of an officer due to extenuating circumstances.

**North Dakota** – The 2020 NEC has been adopted with amending requirements for surge suppression.

**South Dakota** – has adopted the 2020 NEC with several amendments

**Alaska** - cannot make amendments, the code must be adopted in its entirety. Adoption process will start in Spring 2021

**Montana** - code adoption is a 1-2-year process because all codes are adopted at once. MT just adopted and started enforcing the 2017 NEC. The 2020 NEC will probably not be adopted until 2022. They are always one code cycle behind.

**Wyoming** - NEC is effective when NFPA prints it, its automatically adopted. COVID did delay that this year so it was effective in September.

**Colorado** - statute states they must adopt the current code. There were no amendments.

**Iowa** - 2020 NEC became political. Legislators have pushed to adopt the 2020 NEC in its entirety.

**Nebraska** - currently in renewal process and legislation for 2020 codes.