

Chairman Fischer and Other Members of the Administrative Rules Committee:

My name is Don Offerdahl. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota State Electrical Board. I am also here with Board Members Eugene Cross, President, and Karen Karls, Secretary, as well as our Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg. I am here to testify before you today on our administrative rule changes in Chapter 24-02.

The N.D. State Electrical Board published notice as required in all North Dakota county newspapers at the cost of \$1,400.00. Additionally, we give notice in our quarterly newsletter, which is mailed to all licensed electricians and registered apprentices, and discussed at our continuing education classes. Regulatory analysis and economic impact statements were not required or prepared.

Article 24-02-01-02(1)(b). Two comments opposing the proposed language were received stating the work experience in military needs to be more defined to be equivalent to work experience gained in North Dakota. The Board agreed and added "A maximum of two thousand hours of electrical construction experience gained in the armed forces of the United States which the board has determined is equivalent to work performed under the supervision of a North Dakota licensed electrical contractor."

Article 24-02-01-03(2). Six comments were received about equipment being recognized by the nationally recognized testing laboratories (UL). The comments indicated there are other means to assure safety of equipment in these facilities. The Board reviewed the comments and added the following language: "Manufacturing firms that install industrial machinery for use by the firm itself and employ professional engineers may evaluate the industrial machinery according to NFPA 79 or UL 508 Standards."

Article 24-02-01-21. This article covers examination procedures that would allow third party companies to administer the electrical examination. We received one comment opposing this proposal. Although the Board proposed to have a third party provider to administer the examinations, the Board indicated, at the present, that it is the North Dakota State Electrical Board's intent to continue to administer examinations, but wanted the language in place in the event a third party examination provider becomes more feasible.

Article 24-02-01-02(2). Changes in this article are part of House Bill 1218, which was before the 60th Legislative Assembly. We received 10 comments - 5 of those comments opposed the language because it departs from the precise language of House Bill 1218 with respect to requiring training approved by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. In the proposed rule, the term "recognized" was substituted for "approved" in reference to what training programs would be recognized by the Board. In the initial introduction of House Bill 1218, the draft Bill was changed to include Bureau of Apprenticeship Training programs and other training approved by the Board to accommodate the associations that presently have apprenticeship training programs. When House Bill 1218 was first heard by the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, the language of "other training" was opposed because of testimony of BAT training director indicated that one government entity, the Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, approves related training courses and that there is not a need to have another

government department duplicate this. For those concerned, the language was changed as you can see which I quote: "successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training." This again was to accommodate the concerns in House Bill 1218, which was passed.

The Board received a comment from Barry Dutton, Regional Director of the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, stating that their office cannot approve related training as they only approve apprenticeship training programs. Once we received those comments, I contacted Mr. Dutton and his regional director, Steve Opitz. We resolved a way to recognize related training providers that are acceptable to be approved in an apprenticeship program.

The Board considered the comments and determined that the proposed language would allow apprentices to utilize the North Dakota State College of Science and similar programs to satisfy the requirements of House Bill 1218 for all apprentices registering after January 31, 2008. The present training providers of Bureau of Apprenticeship Training programs do not have to change the way they presently provide training. If a contractor for whatever reason does not wish to be in a program, the apprentice, under his employment, would not be able to take the electrical examination.

I will try to answer any questions that you have at this time.

Don Offerdahl

From: Opitz, Steve - ETA [Opitz.Steve@dol.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2007 10:21 AM
To: Don Offerdahl
Cc: Dutton, Barry - ETA; Opitz, Steve - ETA
Subject: RE: Related Apprenticeship Training

Mr. Offerdahl;

As of July 9, 2007, The U. S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship has seven Registered Apprenticeship programs operating within the state of North Dakota with ten training sites. The related technical instruction (RTI) curriculum providers that are currently being utilized by the North Dakota Registered Apprenticeship programs to satisfy the RTI requirements are:

- National Electrical Contractors Association/National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee NECA/NJATC
- Independent Electrical Contractors Association (IEC)
- North Dakota State College of Science Outreach Related Study Program (NDSCS)

Although the above mentioned are the only curriculum providers actually being used for RTI in North Dakota at present time, this does not represent an exclusive list of curriculum providers that are available to current and future North Dakota Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors.

Steven D. Opitz, Regional Director
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*Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the National Apprenticeship Act at Workforce Innovations, July 16-19, 2007. For more info check out:
<http://www.workforceinnovations.org/>*

-----Original Message-----

From: Dutton, Barry - ETA
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2007 11:31 AM
To: Opitz, Steve - ETA
Cc: dofferdahl@nd.gov
Subject: FW: Related Apprenticeship Training

Don,
I received your email and will forward it to Mr. Opitz for his review. Thank you
Barry

Barry Dutton, ND State Director
U. S. Department of Labor
Office of Apprenticeship

9/14/07

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dutton.barry@dol.gov

From: Don Offerdahl [mailto:dofferdahl@nd.gov]
Sent: Thu 7/5/2007 8:58 AM
To: Don Offerdahl; Dutton, Barry - ETA
Subject: RE: Related Apprenticeship Training

Barry, Just a note to see if you got this e-mail and if I worded the question correctly. Don

From: Don Offerdahl
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2007 4:23 PM
To: 'dutton.barry@dol.gov'
Subject: Related Apprenticeship Training

This e-mail is to verify if the N.D. State College of Science Outreach Program is being used to satisfy the related study for the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship Program. I appreciate your time in reviewing this matter. This will help in carrying out the local requirements for apprentices.

Sincerely,

Donald Offerdahl, Executive Director
N.D. State Electrical Board