



Michigan Chapter International Association of Electrical Inspectors

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Greetings Everyone,

Re: IMPORTANT State of Michigan Public Forum outcome on the Michigan Electrical Code rules.

Important information about the Public Forum of the Michigan Electrical Code Rules. I encourage you to send this to everyone you know that are involved in the electrical industry requesting their input.

Tuesday, June 20, 2006 the State of Michigan held the public forum for the proposed electrical code rules for the 2005 Michigan Electrical Code.

The meeting was taken over by the telecommunication industry complaining about having to secure permits for their work. Out of the approximately 65 people attending about 55 of them were from the telecommunications industry.

The State electrical permit fees for telecommunication wiring had a public hearing earlier in the year and went into effect at the State level on April 1, 2006. Many local jurisdictions have also followed the State's direction. The permit fee issue was a big part of their concerns.

Let me give you some of the concerns mentioned at the public forum:

1. These fees will be a barrier to economic development in Michigan.
2. These fees will hinder technological development in Michigan.
3. The telecommunication industry is self regulating and no inspections are required.
4. Telecommunications installers/contractors are already held to higher standards than those in the NEC.
5. The wiring performed by the telecommunications industry should not be in the National Electrical Code.
6. Wiring by the telecommunications industry does not pose a safety issue.
7. There has never been anyone hurt or killed because of a problem with telecommunications wiring.
8. The wiring done by their highly trained technicians is superior to installations by an electrical contractor.
9. Electrical inspectors are not qualified or trained to inspect telecommunication wiring.
10. Electricians are not trained or qualified to install telecommunications cabling and should only be performed by qualified telecommunication technicians.
11. The proposed rules will put small contractors out of business.
12. The fees were added to obtain more money for inspectors and governments.

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"Let the Code Decide"

Lee Schwartz, MHBA, stated to the audience, that any municipality that is not getting permits for telecommunications wiring installations is in violation of the State Construction Code Act. The fees and licensed people are not required, but a permit is required.

I am hoping that all of you send your comments to the State to be heard. The telecommunications industry spoke loudly at the forum and may be speaking to the legislature. The IAEI and the electrical industry need to get their thoughts sent to the State to assist them in backing up the permit requirements for telecommunications.

I think all of you are aware of situations by telecom people that were unsafe. Please send those to the State of Michigan. I have an installation that failed on Monday where the only violations are the telecommunication wiring done by someone other than the electrical contractor. They used riser rated cables in a plenum return air ceiling, and the occupancy was not approved. Let's focus on the safety issues from grounding and bonding to "through-penetrations" to increased fire load and also maybe try to put some historical perspective into this (fire incidents, other states approaches, Code history, etc).

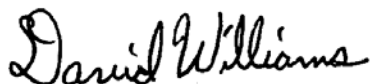
I must repeat that this is very important to make your voice heard. I want to thank those that attended the forum from our association George Little, Phil Clark, Tom Kriegish, Jim Chase and especially Mike Forister, NEMA, coming from Wyoming. I felt that the electrical industry should have had a better showing regarding the proposed electrical code rules and I am hoping we will come through now by providing public comments.

I encourage everyone to send an email or fax to the Bureau of Construction Codes (~~and Fire Safety~~), State of Michigan.

vmonro@michigan.gov

Fax 517-241-9308 Attn: Virgil Monroe, Electrical Chief.

Thank you for your concern and comments



David Williams
Chapter President