



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF
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May 20, 2008

The Honorable Richard Luiz
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, Mn 55164-0620

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ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

Dear Judge Luiz:

I am writing in response to the objections to the adoption of the 2008 National Electric Code raised by the Builders Association of Minnesota. It is the position of the IBEW that the National Electric Code should be adopted un-amended. The IBEW believes that the process the National Fire Protection Association uses for considering and approving changes in itself far exceeds the standard of need and reasonable as required by MN statute. The NFPA process involves the review of proposed changes by industry experts from a wide variety of backgrounds and interest groups and as such, any proposal receives far more deliberative review than it is possible for us to give at the local level to the proposals brought by the Builders Association. The IBEW feels it would set a dangerous precedent for our state to amend this code based on proposals submitted by a group with narrow interest and little technical knowledge.

I would like to direct your attention to Article 90 of the National Electrical Code specifically:

90.1 Purpose

- (A) Practical Safeguarding. The purpose of this Code is the practical safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity.
- (B) Adequacy. This code contains provisions that are considered necessary for safety. Compliance therewith and proper maintenance results in an installation that is essentially free from hazard but not necessarily efficient, convenient, or adequate for good service of future expansion of electrical use.
- (C) Intention. This code is not intended as a design specification or an instruction manual for untrained persons.

I have undertaken a review of the Builders Association's objections and believe all of the changes they have an issue with are changes that are in conformance with the above provisions. I further believe they are issues that could be easily mitigated by incorporating appropriate design changes to the electrical system.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dan McConnell, Political Director
IBEW Local 292

DM:ls
opelu #12, afl-cio

*** RX REPORT ***

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