

Staff Report to Larimer County Board of Appeals

TITLE: 2020 National Electrical Code Adoption
REQUEST: Recommend Adoption to Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners
LOCATION: Unincorporated Larimer County
STAFF CONTACT: Eric Fried, Chief Building Official

BACKGROUND:

On July 1, 2020, the Larimer County Building Division will assume responsibility for electrical permitting and inspections in unincorporated Larimer County from the Colorado Electrical Board. Per Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS 12-115-107 (2) (a), 12-115-120, and board rules adopted thereunder), the current National Electrical Code (NEC) adopted by the state is the minimum legal electrical code for the state and all city and county governments subject to state law. The NEC is published by the National Fire Protection Association and some version is adopted by nearly every state across the United States.

Right now, the 2017 NEC is the adopted state code. Colorado Electrical Board staff have informed Larimer County that they plan to adopt the 2020 NEC effective August 1, 2020, without amendment. Local codes may be more but not less stringent than state code.

When the Larimer County Board of County Commissioner adopted the 2018 editions of eight of the model building codes, effective February 1, 2019, it also adopted the “latest edition of the National Electrical Code as adopted and enforced by the State of Colorado Electrical Board,” while deleting the electrical chapters (34-43) of the International Residential Code. Whenever the Colorado Electrical Board adopts a new edition of the NEC, this edition becomes the electrical code of record for Larimer County. Although formally adopted, before July 1, 2020, the NEC is not administered by Larimer County.

If no action is taken by the appropriate county boards, the 2017 NEC will be administered and enforced locally from July 1 to August 1, 2020, at which point the 2020 will take effect. Although they are similar, having two different NEC editions take effect within one month could lead to unnecessary confusion and complexity for customers and staff alike.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Appeals approves signing a Letter of Recommendation to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners to adopt the 2020 National Electrical Code for unincorporated Larimer County, to be effective July 1, 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft Board of Appeals Letter of Recommendation
Colorado Electrical Board March 19, 2020 Letter to Larimer County Building

