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To: [Logan, Lyndy \(DLI\)](#)
Subject: FW: Issues to be addressed by the NEC 2026 Adoption Committee
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FYI- Dean

From: Brandon Nelson <bnelson@statewidelea.org>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:26 PM
To: ELECTRICITY, DLI (DLI) <dli.electricity@state.mn.us>
Cc: Dave Dressler <ddressler@statewidelea.org>
Subject: Issues to be addressed by the NEC 2026 Adoption Committee

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To the NEC 2026 Adoption Review Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Statewide Limited Energy JATC regarding the adoption of the 2026 National Electric Code (NEC) by our state. As we do every NEC cycle we have performed our own analysis of changes. As a part of that process, we discovered several issues that cause us to be concerned about certain aspects of this edition. While some of the issues that we flagged are addressed by the *Summary of Significant NEC Changes* that will be reviewed by the Adoption Review Committee, many of our most concerning issues were not present in that document. With that having been stated, we would ask the Adoption Committee to please review the following changes to the 2026 NEC:

720.6 (D) – This subdivision says that if screws may penetrate to use a protection method in 720.6, but what protection method is required? 720.6 is the entire protection section.

720.6(J) – Multiple issues exist here, this was 725.31 in the 2020 and 2023 NECs. The first issue actually goes back to the last version when the circuit reclassification went away. That reclassification allowed Technology Contractors to do the work, but we cannot find a record of whether or not the Board considered the implications of that change at that time. Now in the 2026, the requirement has been further weakened by the removal of the Class 1 wiring (724.31) methods which specified the acceptable raceway types. The

requirement now just requires those cables to be “protected from physical damage.” Without further guidance, the average contractor is likely to interpret this incorrectly.

720.21 – There used to be multiple separate versions of this for a reason. The current version for all Limited Energy cabling covers all “openings around electrical penetrations.” 770.26 used to give the requirement for “penetrations of optical fiber cables” as well. A strict reading of the 2026 version would allow no firestopping if the penetration only contains fiber optic cabling.

720.22 – Nonconductive Optical Fiber cables (OFN) would no longer be allowed in dust / loose stock / or vapor removal ducts. While not a decrease in safety, this is a new burden that must at least be considered by the Board as an increased cost.

722.13 – Speaker cables in the same raceway with other types of CL2/CL3 circuits has always been a heating, shock hazard, and induction issue. That is why speaker cables have not been allowed in the same raceway or cable as other CL2/CL3 circuits for a very long time (2023 NEC 725.139(F) as an example). That restriction no longer exists for any Limited Energy system except for PLFA (722.13(F)(6) 2026 NEC). However, even the PLFA version incorrectly cites the allowance for using CL2/CL3 wiring methods in 722.136; the problem with that citation is the fact that the subject of section 722.136 is low-power network-powered broadband cables and not audio cables.

723.40 – The 2023 NEC required that Article 392 Pats I & II (722.3 (E) 2023 NEC as an example) needed to be followed for cable trays for most Limited Energy systems, but this new section makes no such reference. As such, there are more questions than answers as to the installation methodologies.

Cables and conductors in a wet location issues:

1. There is a blanket exemption for all communications cables, coax, and fiber regardless of circuit type in 720.5 (A). This appears to be an error as the remainder of those types of exceptions only apply to “*unlisted* outside plant limited-energy” items.
2. 720.11 has an equally problematic exception for that includes all of the cables in the last point and also NPBLP cable. This should also point to 722.2(B) for the cable, but it points to 310.010(C); which is not necessarily problematic but it is the wrong item nonetheless.

These exceptions will make the installations of these cables inherently less reliable and ultimately less safe.

We would ask the NEC 2026 Adoption Review Committee to consider these changes at the October 28th meeting in addition to the changes already being considered. We thank you for this opportunity to give our input during this important process.

Sincerely,

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