



Pahrump Community Library District Lighting Retrofit – RFP # 2022-PCLD-01/PWP NY-2022-391

9-29-2022

To:

John Shewalter, Pahrump Library Board Chairman via email:

Brian Shoemake, Pahrump Library Board Co-Chairman via email:

Re: Electrical code violations discovered at Pahrump Library, 701 E. East Street Pahrump, NV
Industrial Light and Power, LLC Electrical Permit #BS-22-1536

Mr. Shewalter and Mr. Shoemake,

As you are aware, throughout the above public works lighting retrofit project, Industrial Light and Power's employees identified multiple electrical code violations involving fire and life safety issues as well as NFPA and NEC code violations at the Pahrump Library which we are obligated to disclose to the electrical inspector as well as the Pahrump Fire Chief.

There were clear indications that unqualified personnel or person(s) have performed electrical work at the facility in the past with a complete disregard for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), National Electric Code (NEC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Multiple issues that we found include:

- 8 energized electrical boxes with their covers removed and conductors not properly contained within an enclosure presenting a potential fire and life safety hazard.

- 4 energized electrical boxes which were open and exceeded their fill capacity presenting a potential fire and life safety hazard and required the installation of extension rings to accommodate the conductors within.

- 3 locations where there were energized conductors twisted together and sticking out of electrical junction boxes above the ceiling with no approved wire nut to cover the energized conductors presenting a potential fire and life safety hazard.

- 1 electrical box in main electrical room containing fire alarm HVAC damper control circuitry was open with devices hanging by the conductors and required us to de-energize, trace conductors, and extend and install extension ring. (also viewed by Chief Lewis on 9/22/2022)

-1 electrical box controlling fire alarm HVAC dampers was open with exposed wiring in the equipment room outside the main electrical room. (also viewed by Chief Lewis on 9/22/2022)

- Repair broken 3/4" flex conduit incorrectly installed by previous contractor or by unqualified handyman at multiple existing recessed can locations.

-3 locations where recessed cans had been "tapped" into with an abandoned extension circuits where the conductors inside the recessed can wiring compartment were energized and bare without a wire nut to protect from the energized voltage. These improper, non-code compliant and obviously abandoned electrical "extensions" installed from existing junction boxes consisted of Romex house wiring (not allowed in this building construction type) and then MC cable which was improperly stripped by an obviously unqualified person. It is not known how long these serious fire and safety violations have existed at the facility or what they once were intended to be used for, however several of the most serious safety violations were removed and fixed when discovered by Industrial Light and Power electricians as the violations were unsafe and presented a clear fire hazard and a safety hazard for our workers.

-Multiple instances when working on the existing fixtures, as soon as the fixture wiring box was opened an improperly installed bare conductor within the fixture shorted to ground (luckily ILP's employees are professional experienced electricians and are safety conscious so nobody was injured) however this event caused the 1200 amp main breaker for the building to trip its GFCI Ground Fault Relay, briefly causing power in the entire building to go out on 9/16/2022 and again on 9/27/2022. It was also found that the installed model BGFL 159-1200 GFCI Ground Fault Relay in the facility main switchgear was last inspected on 11-22-2000 (likely during the original installation) with a re-test due per the attached inspection sticker of 11-2003. There is no evidence that this GFCI Ground Fault Relay has ever been retested nor that the main switchgear or panelboards have been inspected per manufacturers requirements. (See Attached photo.)

NFPA 70E requires all electrical equipment to be inspected and mechanically tested per the manufacturer's recommendations, which is every three years. Additionally, NFPA requires that at a minimum you have arc flash warning labels installed on all electrical panels and your panels are also missing these minimally required warning labels. (At the main switchgear and then three additional panels within the building). We also suggest having a third-party arc flash hazard analysis and coordination study performed at the facility as well to be in full compliance with the NFPA and NEC as it seems from the visible labeling that your electrical power distribution system has not been fully tested since it was installed in 2000.

There was also an existing receptacle located to the left of the computer lab in the main library with a piece of flammable paper taped over which had written on it by library staff "Surge Warning- Do Not Use". (See Attached Photos.)

Due to the potential life safety and fire hazards associated with this diagnosis previously made and noted on the device by some unknown person regarding a "surge issue" ILP has advised the Library Board Chairman that we need to connect circuit testing equipment and perform a 7 day data logger test on that branch circuit and to provide a testing report to see if there is in fact a "surge issue" by recording electrical measurements 24/7 for a 7 day period and to review to see if there are any clear signs of surges/swells present in that recorded data range on circuit L3/20.

As a side note, there were also additional non-electrical potential health hazards found as well such as trash (discarded cups, cans, napkins, an old bowl of dried out fruit, etc..etc...) in various ceiling areas as well as old mouse traps with very old pieces of chocolate on the trip pad being used for bait located above the suspended ceiling of the Library.

During our site visit with Pahrump Fire Chief Scott Lewis and with John Shewalter and Brian Shoemake in attendance along with Library Director VANESSA ANDERSON, many of these electrical violations which were easily visible (such as open/exposed electrical boxes and exposed energized wiring in multiple locations) were pointed out to Chief Lewis who agreed these are fire safety violations and needed to be corrected immediately.

It was also discovered that the Library needed to install 3 additional exit signs to be compliant with the fire code (specifically NFPA 101 7.10), as inspected by Pahrump Fire Chief Scott Lewis on 9/22/2022 in addition to numerous other life safety fire code violations which were not electrical in nature which Chief Lewis discussed with the Board Members and Library Director VANESSA ANDERSON including illegal storage of flammable materials in the fire riser room and electrical room, blocking fire sprinklers above shelving units in office areas, blocking fire alarm pull stations, missing emergency exit door panic hardware, and required signage on all exit doors which was also missing. One fire alarm pull station Chief Lewis specifically pointed out to

myself, Brian Shoemake, John Shewalter and Library Director Vanessa Anderson located in the staff break room was blocked by a coffee cart in violation of the NFPA. Brian Shoemake moved the cart in front of Chief Lewis to correct the code violation.

During the site visit with Chief Lewis on 9/22/2022, Industrial Light and Power directly asked Library Director VANESSA ANDERSON if, as the Director, she was performing the required monthly tests of the exit signs and emergency lights as required by NFPA 101 within section 7.9. Her response was no, they were not, and further she did not even seem to be aware of this NFPA requirement which is clearly something a person hired in a "Director" position should be aware of in our opinion. Industrial Light and Power suggested to the Board members present during the meeting with Chief Lewis on 9/22/2022 that they create a monthly test log sheet and make sure all exit signs and emergency lights are tested monthly as required by the NFPA which Fire Chief Lewis also agreed with.

Thank you for your time, and please do not hesitate to reach out for any clarification on any of the above electrical notes regarding the Pahrump Library.

Thank you,



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Bid Limit: \$3,000,000.00

GROUND FAULT SYSTEM
PERFORMANCE TEST

☐ CALIBRATED ☒ TESTED

REFERENCE NO. 2302814

DATE 11-22-00 SETTINGS:

RETEST 11-2003 200 AMPS

ENGR. JHAME 0.1sec DELAY

eti® electro-test 2200 E. PATRICK LANE, #21
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