



STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Bob Oliver
Governor's Office

DATE: November 1, 1984

FROM: Fred W. Heard
Director

SUBJECT: Rajneesh Electrical Permits

The Building Codes Division treats Rajneeshpuram the same as any other city or county under its jurisdiction.

There is, however, some conditions in their case that differ from other cities. Without reciting all the litigation involved, I will point out one that affects the issuance of electrical permits within the alleged city limits.

There is a court order that precludes the City of Rajneeshpuram from issuing "permits authorizing development, construction, installation or establishment of structure, facilities or urban uses within the City..."

The injunction was clarified on June 15, 1984 to permit the "City" to issue certain permits (See Exhibit A), with the condition the "City" gives Wasco County Planning Department 48 hours notice. If the County objected to the issuance of the permits, the matter must go to Court for a decision.

Although the Building Codes Division was not included in the court order, we have tried to abide by the spirit of the order and contact Wasco County Planning Department prior to issuing electrical permits, to be assured they have approved the construction proposed by the "City".

There have been some contested cases that caused us to delay the issuance of electrical permits until the matter was settled (See Exhibit B). This procedure is with the advice of the Attorney General's Office. It is quite often one attorney feels an opposing attorney gives their client bad legal advice.

A second issue which differs from that above is the installation of a number of prefabricated buildings that have been moved into the "City of Rajneesh" (Antelope).

Before issuing electrical permits for the buildings to be connected for electrical service, it is necessary for us to verify the electrical system is safe and conforms to the code. The Chief Electrical Inspector for the Building Codes Division personally inspected some of the buildings. He agreed with the Rajneesh Neo-Sannyas International Commune that if they would supply him with inspection records from the state (Idaho) where the buildings were built, he would not require the electrical systems within the walls to be exposed for inspection. While he was making his inspection and agreement with Ma Anand Venu, they were recording every word. However, they did not send him the documents he had requested and he informed them

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by letter (See Exhibit C) he would not approve the buildings for electrical service until he received the documents he requested. He was accused of using "delaying tactics", which I assure you is not true.

The problem with the prefabricated buildings has not been discussed with the Attorney General's Office, as this has nothing to do with the court orders and is our standard procedure.

We issue electrical permits in the standard manner statewide except for that portion of the "City of Rajneeshpuram" which court orders affect.

FWH:bc

attachments