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STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

October 2, 2013

William H. Moeller, P.E.
Chief Plumbing Code Consultant
NCDOI/OSFM Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1202

Mr. Moeller:

During its meeting held September 19, 2013, the Board considered your question regarding the recent law amendment to NCGS 87-43.1, the statute which lists exceptions from the requirement to hold license as an Electrical Contractor. The new language provides as follows: "*The provisions of this Article shall not apply to the bonding of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) gas piping systems as required under Section 310.1.1 of the 2012 N.C. Fuel Gas Code.*"

The following response is submitted:

Question

Does this mean that anyone, licensed or unlicensed, can open the panel, remove the cover and install the ground wire for the bonding?

Board Response

The Board carefully considered all aspects of this issue with respect to Section 310.1.1 of the 2012 N.C. Fuel Gas Code, the best interest of the unlicensed CSST installers and the best interest of the public. The Board determined that the referenced exemption provision of NCGS 87-43.1 would apply to installing the bonding conductor from the point where the gas service enters the building or structure and running it to a readily accessible external mounted intersystem bonding termination device, an approved grounding electrode conductor or an approved grounding electrode such as the metal frame of the building or structure, rod, or pipe, but outside of any energized electrical panels. The Board further determined that, when such external connections are not available, a licensed electrical contractor will be required to make the connection inside an energized electrical panel, or provide a termination device for use by the public.

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The Board appreciates your interest in this matter. If we can assist you further, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robbie Brooks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert L. Brooks, Jr., Executive Director
NC State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors
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cc: Board Members
Board Counsel
Board Field Staff