M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Fire Marshal Review and Inspection Personnel
FROM: V. J. Bella
State Fire Marshal
Connection of Electrical Power
DATE: March 5, 1997

As most of you are aware, this office previously suspended
enforcement of 55:V:309 which prohibited the connection of permanent
electrical power to facilities prior to a review of plans by this
office. As it presently exists, the Administrative Rule places an
undue burden and responsibility on electrical utility companies to
verify that a requested service is for a new or renovated facility
or one undoing a change of occupancy. Due to the fact that many of
the contacts between the utility companies and the public and the
fact their actions are initiated by telephone contact, it is
impossible for the utilities to fulfill their obligations under the
present rule.

This office has been in consultation with electrical utilities to
devise a mechanism that will satisfy the true intent of that rule.
We are in the process of promulgating a new rule to more reasonably
and effectively accomplish the same end. This new rule has been
forwarded to our legal counsel for implementation. Until further
notice, suspend enforcement of the present rule. As soon as the new
rule is promulgated we will forward copies to each of you.

I appreciate your cooperation and keep up the good work.

VJB/JWJ/adg

cc: Jerry W. Jones