

Illinois Energy Code Advisory Council Residential Subcommittee
April 11, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.
Teleconference
MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members

Chairman David Wytmar, Groundwork, Ltd.
Allen Drewes, Home Builders Association of Illinois
Jason Huelsmann, Home Builders Association of Greater Southwest Illinois
Don Plass, HR Green, Inc.
Dean Studer, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa Mattingly, Capital Development Board

Guests

Eric Lacey, Responsible Energy Code Alliance
Darren Meyers, International Energy Conservation Consultants LLC
Jeff Mang, Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)
Tracy Butler, Home Builders Association of Greater Southwest Illinois
Bill Ward, Home Builders Association of Illinois
Donald Surrena, National Association of Home Builders
Bill McHugh, Chicago Roofing Contractors Association
Ian Blanding, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)
Eric Makela, New Buildings Institute
Lindsey Elton, Affordable Housing Developers
Tony Holub, Passive House Alliance
Anita Lichterman, Village of Winnetka
Mike Collignon, Green Builder® Coalition
Nate Kleist, Energy Diagnostics
Sean Lintow, Sr., SLS Construction & Building Solutions
Nicole Westfall, MEEA
Greg Thorpe, Illinois Council of Code Administrators
John Easter, American Chemical Council

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll of Subcommittee members was called by Ms. Mattingly. She stated that Council and Subcommittee member Tom Ayers had recently resigned from his position. So CDB will be seeking a replacement representing code officials very soon.

Chairman Wytmar explained that each individual who proposed the code change would be asked to speak briefly and give background on the amendment. It was also explained that the 2015 residential amendments would be considered later in this meeting or at a future meeting.

Chairman Wytmar asked Mr. McHugh to discuss his proposed amendment.

Proposed Code Change R01 – Mr. McHugh gave information on his proposal which adds a definition of roof covering replacement. The City of Chicago has added this definition to their 2016 Roofing Code Memorandum. Mr. Plass stated that he reviewed the City Memorandum and that part of the definition in that document also states that the energy use of the building can't increase. This is not included in the proposal submitted by Mr. McHugh. Mr. McHugh stated that the charging language in the 2018 IECC already states this so it doesn't need to be in the definition.

Mr. Mang asked Mr. McHugh if the peel and replace was not already allowed under the current code language. Mr. McHugh stated that this proposal clarifies that if the roof covering replacement doesn't increase the energy use then it doesn't require that insulation be added. This is only for roof membrane replacement. This proposal differentiates between roof recover versus roof replacement.

Mr. Meyers stated that in formal interpretations by the State of Illinois, a roof recover is only removing the weather resistant covering. Therefore, there is no energy increase or decrease.

Mr. Lacey stated that he is not aware of this language being used in any other state and that caution should be used in adding new definitions.

Mr. McHugh stated that he would be amenable to changing the language to say membrane in place of roof covering. City of Chicago uses the term "roof covering".

Ms. Lichterman added that for the average home owner, it will not be cost effective to add insulation every time just the roof membrane is replaced. She is in agreement with this proposal. Mr. Mang commented that the residential chapter of the IECC also covers low-rise multiple dwellings (apartment buildings).

The Chairman asked if any subcommittee members wanted to change language. Motion was made by Mr. Drewes to recommend that this proposal be accepted and submitted to full Council. It was seconded by Mr. Plass. Motion passed.

Proposed Code Change R03 - Mr. Meyers stated that his amendment regarding duct testing addresses comments that he had received from all over the State. He feels this testing should be done like the blower door testing with a third party when required by the code official. Mr. Plass stated it is a good proposal. Ms. Lichterman stated she already has been requiring third party testing and likes that it will be included.

A motion was made by Mr. Plass to accept the proposal. It was seconded by Mr. Huelsmann. Motion passed.

Proposed Code Change R04 – Mr. Makela stated that this proposal increases lumens per watts to reflect what is being offered on the market currently. The lighting associations felt that 65 lumens per watt was reasonable for lighting that is currently being produced. Chairman Wytmar asked if this will drive a phasing out of CFL's with a move towards LED. Mr. Makela said yes, which is what is trending with the market currently. Mr. Plass asked if this was proposed during the ICC code hearings. Mr. Makela said that DOE proposed this at the ICC hearings but it was pulled. He didn't think there was any opposition to it. He said that it will be submitted again for 2021 hearings or something

similar to this. Mr. Plass feels this is a good proposal and that it makes this section less confusing.

Motion was made by Mr. Plass to accept this proposal as submitted. Second was made by Mr. Drewes. Motion passed.

Proposed Code Change R02 – Mr. Holub spoke about this amendment stating that it is currently doable for residential contractors and would require no additional skills. Chairman Wytmar commented that the current Illinois Code is five air changes per hour. The 2018 IECC states three air changes per hour. This proposal is two.

Mr. Plass stated tightness of a building and air changes per hour are indicative of how well the home is built. He asked if Passive House put in an ICC proposal during the ICC code hearings. Mr. Holub responded that they did not but will consider it in the future.

Mr. Plass gave a history of the Illinois code regarding air changes per hours and stated that this is a drastic drop in current requirements. He recommended not going below the three air changes per hour as have been required in the 2012, 2015 and 2018 IECC's. He went on to say that he would vote against this particular proposal.

Mr. Drewes stated he would as well. Mr. Drewes asked that Mr. Ward speak to this based in NAHB's views. A Memorandum was issued from ICC earlier in 2018 that HBA of IL felt gave misinformation stating that NAHB is pressing for three air changes per hour (ACH) getting away from the five air changes currently required in Illinois. Mr. Drewes stated that builders would like this to remain at 5 ACH.

Chairman Wytmar stated that the subcommittee currently doesn't have the technical support from which was once provided by DCEO to provide information on this proposal but most builders he speaks with are already meeting three air changes per hour. But he is inclined for consistency and enforcement reasons to leave it at five air changes per hour.

Mr. Huelsmann said he is just starting to see willingness from builders to comply in areas that are not required to by the municipality. He feels that keeping it at the same level will encourage builders to keep meeting these requirements and also encourage municipalities to provide the enforcement. Mr. Plass agreed that bigger builders have no trouble getting under three ACH most of the time, but smaller builders have some difficulties in meeting it. He would vote against this proposal and would be in favor of staying with 5 ACH.

Mr. Surrena provided information that Maryland is the only state requiring three ACH and they are at 40% compliance. Mr. Lacey felt this was a misstatement regarding Maryland's requirements. He said there are other states such as MA, NY, TX and others that require 3 ACH and some states require 4 ACH.

Chairman Wytmar asked if it was just required or being enforced. Mr. Lacey wasn't sure about compliance percentages in other states but said many of those states had strong enforcement agencies. He asked why IL wasn't trending down at all. Ms. Lictermann said we should take a look at who is enforcing. This is where the problem lies. She thinks that the number could be moved down some.

Mr. Blanding stated that MEEA had performed a survey which included 4200 homes which received a HERS rating. Of those, 97% of the homes were meeting 4 ACH, all were meeting 5 ACH and 83% were meeting 3 ACH. MEEA is working with the state of Kentucky on testing which is still under 2009 IECC. Many the homes are down to 3 ACH. MEEA has provided training on air leakage and followed up to see how builders improved. Chairman Wytmar tabled this conversation at 2:45 p.m.

Chairman Wytmar moved the discussion to the 2015 Illinois amendments. He said we would like to begin looking at those amendments including basement wall insulation, roofing and ducting in additions.

Public Comment:

Mr. Meyers asked that initial appointment dates and expiration dates of terms be added to the Council Member roster on CDB's website. He noted that this information had been asked at the January meeting. He also noted that the appointment process be made public with information provided on what organizations are solicited for recommendations of council appointees. Ms. Mattingly stated that roster would be updated and solicitations for appointee recommendations could also be advertised on CDB's webpage. She noted that these recommendations can only come from organizations that represent the particular industry or trade of that vacancy.

Chairman Wytmar thanked all of the public members that participated on the call.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Plass. Mr. Drewes seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.