

**Illinois Energy Code Advisory Council Residential Subcommittee  
December 8, 2014 – 1:00 p.m.  
Teleconference  
MEETING MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

Lisa Mattingly, CDB  
David Wytmar, Groundwork, Ltd.  
Don Plass, Building and Fire Code Academy  
Tom Ayers, City of Rock Island  
Bruce Selway, Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Jason Huelsmann, New Tradition Homes (HBA Greater Southwestern IL)  
Joseph Zimmer, Architect  
Tracy Butler, HBA Greater Southwestern IL  
Don Surrena, National Home Builders Association  
Dean Graven Board of Directors of Springfield Area Homebuilder  
Shannon Bookey, CDB  
Eric Lacey, Responsible Energy Code Alliance  
Jerry Grant, DuPage County Plan's examiner  
Mike Collignon, Green Building Coalition  
Bill McHugh, CRCA  
Darren Meyers, International Energy Conservation Consultants LLC  
Allen Drewes, Home Builders Association of Illinois  
Eveylen Youell, Home Builders Association of Illinois  
Bill Ward, Home Builders Association of Illinois  
Matthew Giudice, MEEA

Chairman Wytmar called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll call of the Subcommittee members was taken and introduction of guests was made.

Chairman Wytmar asked Mr. Meyers to present his amendments.

Mr. Meyers said that much of what supports his proposals is in his amendment statement. DOE analysis indicates that residential buildings meeting the 2015 IECC (as compared with residential buildings meeting the 2012 IECC) would result in national source energy savings of approximately 1.03 percent, site energy savings of approximately 1.12 percent, and energy cost savings of approximately 0.90 percent of residential building energy consumption, as regulated by the IECC.

Chairman Wytmar stated that his understanding from conversations with Bruce Selway is that there are difficulties with getting the whole state on board with energy code compliance and that to keep moving forward without getting compliance is not in the State's best interest.

Mr. Ayers stated that he agrees with Mr. Meyers' analysis that there are minor energy savings in the 2015 and that there would not be much lost by staying with the 2012. He said that there are many areas of the State that are not enforcing the current code. He suggested if the 2012 IECC is kept to update the pointers to the 2015 International Mechanical Code.

Mr. Ward said that the home builders are interested in going forward with the 2015 Code. He asked that Mr. Surrena be able to provide comment.

Mr. Plass asked if we stay with the 2012, would that include Section 406 from the 2015 IECC. Mr. Meyers said that he thinks that is an unfriendly amendment. This is the ERI section and he does not believe that this will help with compliance. Mr. Plass said that this seems to be the biggest change between the 2012 and 2015. Mr. Meyers suggested that this path was a way to manage numbers and not necessarily gain compliance.

Mr. Selway joined the call at 1:23 p.m. He stated that part of the problem is the perception that complying with the code is an ever changing target. An update to the 2015 will be looked at as needing to learn another code.

Mr. Ayers stated that there is a local political element that is inhibiting enforcement in certain jurisdictions.

Mr. Plass asked how home buyers are being educated. Mr. Selway stated that the Home Performance Program has worked with the realtor organization and will start working with appraisers in the coming year.

Mr. Plass stated that energy inspections aren't taken as seriously as the structural inspections.

Mr. Meyers remarked on an article that as younger code officials come on board there will be more interest in sustainable initiatives.

Chairman Wytmar said that he is torn on the issue. He stated that he likes to see the code move forward so it isn't static. He also understands that we aren't getting compliance.

Mr. Surrena mentioned the 77 code changes approved between 2012 and 2015. He said that only 10 were anything other than clarifications. The 2015 clarifies a lot of sections that were confusing to code officials. These clarifications will help with interpretation and enforcement.

Mr. Selway commented that people may not be complying with the code because they are frustrated. If we implement a new code more people may stop complying. Mr. Meyers stated that we won't lose goodwill if we retain 2012. Jurisdictions that are complying will continue and it gives three more years to gain more areas of compliance for those jurisdictions that are not currently enforcing the Code.

Mr. Ayers stated that staying with the 2012 is more about perception than actual change. Many sections in the 2015 are largely a cleanup of the 2012. He asked to hear from the homebuilders about why they prefer to go to the 2015. In Iowa the homebuilders are fighting against the 2015.

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Surrena to clarify the homebuilders' point of view on why they would like to move to the 2015. Mr. Surrena notes that the HERS rating is another option and provides a third path compliance. More options are being provided for designers and builders. The learning curve is very easy for the 2015 as it is clarifying issues from the 2012 and adding more options.

Some changes that were made to the 2015 make the code more cost effective for the builder. It provides a third compliance path. This path gives the builder many more options for cost effectiveness. Energy efficiency is still there but the costs go down. These can't be quantified as individual items but will make the homes built to the 2015 more cost effective.

Mr. Ayers asked Mr. Meyers to comment. Mr. Meyers stated that the new compliance path is ERI (Energy Rating Index). He said there is a lot of flexibility built into the HERS index. ERI referenced design is tagged to a certain number. The targets are really aggressive for Illinois jurisdictions. Arguing about the number will be the next problem.

It was mentioned that at the ICC National hearings there was a nonbinding vote with 40% preferring a 5 year code cycle.

Mr. Collignon asked to comment. He would like to second Mr. Surrena's positive comment on the ERI path. He was in favor of it at the national level. Code officials have told him that increasing consumer education would be the biggest help. Being able to quantify a home's performance through a number and comparing it to another home would be very helpful.

Chairman Wytmar asked for any additional comments.

Mr. Giudice brought up the concern of code compliance. Illinois has commissioned a study to see where the State is with compliance. It would be helpful to have the results of that study before making any decisions. Mr. Selway said the study has not been approved yet. He will check to see what the status is. He also suggested that it might be good to have a representative from the firm who is doing the study present to the council the findings and methodology. Ms. Mattingly said that it would be fine to have a presentation to the full Council.

Chairman Wytmar asked about CDB's Legal interpretation. Ms. Mattingly stated that CDB's Chief Legal Counsel had been asked to verify if the Council could make a recommendation to retain the 2012 IECC vs. moving forward to the 2015. Counsel's response was that the Council could make that recommendation. Ms. Mattingly then explained the next steps of the energy code adoption process for Illinois.

At Mr. Ayers request, Mr. Surrena gave an explanation of a new section regarding rooms containing fuel burning appliances. Mr. Surrena stated this applies to the gas hot water heaters and gas furnaces.

Mr. Grant also commented related to gas heated dryers.

Chairman Wytmar commented that regardless of which version of the International Energy Conservation Code the Illinois code is based on, it will still be the 2015 Illinois Energy Conservation Code. Mr. Selway stated that training, education and outreach will be key factors in adopting the new code.

Mr. Ayers asked who will calculate the HERS rating. Mr. Surrena stated that would be the HERS rater. Mr. Meyers stated that we don't know. The Code does not specify a HERS program so it could be one of any number of people.

Mr. Giudice pointed out that the code says that the rater must be approved by the code official. Mr. Selway noted that Illinois has collected information for individuals trained in blower door and duct testing of which some are HERS raters.

Mr. Ayers asked if there was a way to reduce concerns about the ERI path. He is intrigued by the home builder's preference for the 2015. Is there a way that is mutually acceptable that doesn't have any adverse effect that verifies the ERI path. Mr. Surrena stated that the code answers this already in section 406. Mr. Plass said that it doesn't define the Agency in charge of this. Mr. Ayers said that is what he is asking for. It needs to be clearly defined. Mr. Giudice stated that in order to give an official HERS rating, you have to pass the RESNET test and be certified with them. Mr. Surrena said that approved agency is also defined in the code. Mr. Ayers said that some code officials aren't comfortable with making these decisions.

Chairman Wytmar commented Section 406 of the 2015 could be more confusing for code officials and may require training for them. This section could be a big stumbling block because of the time and energy to get code officials, builders and others up to speed.

Mr. Ayers motioned to approve minutes for the meeting held on November 24th. Chairman Wytmar seconded. Motioned passed.

Mr. Ayers motioned that we bring amendment to retain the 2012 vs. adopting the 2015 to the whole Council as soon as possible. Mr. Selway seconded. Motioned passed.

Mr. Ayers motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Plass seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.