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GREEN SHEET

Energy | Environment | Efficiency

GREEN CODE

The California Green Code is in the final days

of preparation for implementation as a "voluntary code" in 2009. Many of the provisions in the current draft code leave key elements important to us out, namely third party verification.

The American Institute of Architects developed a good matrix to evaluate rating system components to see that they are in line with the AIA's own goals on sustainability. Beyond building performance requirements, additional key components include requiring independent third party compliance and documentation of actual building performance.

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) expressed that they intend to propose some very stringent language on 3rd Party Verification during the next tri-annual code cycle that begins in 2009. We intend to work collaboratively with various state agencies to see that our components are incorporated into the actual "mandatory" code.

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) are developing a "green" plumbing and mechanical code and have invited David Dias (Business Representative from SMWLU 104) and me to work with them on its development. We attended their first meeting in Chicago and plan on attending the next meeting this August.



QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

In August of 2007 I started as the consultant to Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 104 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bruce Word, President and Business Manager, and I worked out an agreement that would engage my services in Sacramento. The mission was not complicated: Enhance our industry's ability to increase market share by engaging in the regulatory process, particularly in the sustainable building arena (also known as "Green Buildings").

Jim Hussey, President of Marina Mechanical in San Leandro, has been active in the sustainable building movement for a number of years and agreed with Bruce that our industry could grow market share in the green building sector as it was less price driven.

From the efforts of these two leaders the Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy was formed. April 1, 2008 the JCEEP officially became reality and our work has begun. We are focusing our efforts on the green building code, energy efficiency codes (CEC Title 24) and the public utility energy efficiency portfolios. 3E International Incorporated, my consulting firm, was engaged as a consultant to work with the JCEEP in achieving the mutual goals of the California Local Unions of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association and the California Chapters of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

The 2008 Energy Code was adopted in May and will go into effect in 2009.

There are many provisions in that code which produce a negative impact on our industry. To name a few, the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) and the duct pressure testing protocols called out in the compliance standards.

I testified against the 2008 energy code, and as a result of my testimony and some deliberation with Bill Pennington, CEC Office Manager, Maziar Shirakh, was assigned to tour our TABB Certification facility in Los Angeles. Shirakh was very impressed with the level of dedication in our industry, and Shirakh and Pennington have asked that we participate with them in implementing the 2008 Acceptance Standards.

CEC just adopted a report to the Assembly on the HVAC Industry. This report was requested through Assembly Bill 2021 (Levine). Although the report lacked sufficient references to SMACNA and its' standards, we did get invited and did participate in the process.

I am of the opinion that our relationship with CEC is just in its infancy and as we move forward we can build upon our work in the past few months to forge a meaningful relationship that will result in expanded work opportunities and energy savings for the citizens of California.

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Back in September 2007 the Public Utilities

were instructed by the Commission to develop a strategic plan for energy efficiency for 2009 – 2030. They were to cover residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural with HVAC and Workforce Education and Training Cross Sector plans.

There were numerous workshops conducted regarding “reshaping” the HVAC industry. The Utilities had commissioned several studies to determine why they were not realizing the energy savings they expected through their rebate programs. The reports came back with a unifying theme: “Poor installations!” In the workshops numerous recommendations were put forth as suggestions to “reshape” the industry. This cross-sector report is a work in progress, meant as a guide for the Investor Owned Utilities (San Diego Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric) as they develop their energy portfolio programs in the future.

The opportunity for us to participate with the process continues, and will require a coordinated effort throughout the state, engaging the utilities to structure rebate programs that fit our contractors' business models.

This is another place where the SMACNA Standards need to be more recognized and utilized to assure high quality systems and installations are accomplished. We should work on this in conjunction with requiring 3rd party verification of systems by TABB certified technicians and contractors. We can work with them to sponsor studies comparing our installations to others and showing our quality and how that turns into energy savings.

Within the utilities' strategic plan there are provisions to conduct a statewide scope and needs assessment for workforce education and training. The co-chairs and I have made trips to visit PUC commissioners and their staff to emphasize our interest and willingness to participate in the workforce development sector.

CODES AND STANDARDS

With the assistance of Tom Enslow from the

Adams, Broadwell, Joseph, and Cardozo Law Firm we were able to get TABB included in the OSHPD accepted certifications for balancing and ventilation verifications necessary to meet their standards. With Tom's assistance I have been able to identify key decision makers within OSHPD and look forward to collaborating with them on key issues affecting our industry.

It is very important that we not only keep a working relationship with the various code authorities and the building standards commission, but we should also work on establishing ourselves as players with IAPMO.

The Housing and Community Development Commission has been considering the International Residential Code and implementing that Code for residential in California. The IRC has a plumbing and mechanical code wrapped up within in it. We have taken the position that we are not against its adoption, but asked that the mechanical and plumbing sections be removed and that the California plumbing and mechanical code be referenced instead, so as to avoid duplication.

We agree with other stakeholders that code enforcement needs to be improved. The issue at hand is that codes are only enforced sporadically and not uniformly. We should work with the CEC, and CBSC to provide quality training for mechanical inspectors. This could be a topic of an upcoming JCEEP Sub Committee task and discussion should begin on how we could offer and deliver such a service to the inspection authorities.

In summary, we are making significant strides in representing our goals and interests on a variety of fronts. I will keep you posted on a quarterly basis in this newsletter.

LEED SPECIALISTS LEADING THE WAY

to the future

by Liz Abess



Napa Square - First Street

Each issue of the newsletter will feature people/businesses that are active in our industry, sharing their stories and commitment to our common goals.

LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, certification is rapidly gaining in popularity, with Title 24 and AB32 accelerating modifications in how buildings are constructed, and two California companies that are leading the way are Control Air North, Inc. and Bell Products, Inc.

Control Air recently won a "Best of California" award, amongst others, and received a LEEDs platinum rating for its work on the California Academy of Science project in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. A complete service mechanical construction fabrication firm, Control Air came into the project late, but worked closely with architects and engineers to finalize the design develop documents and take the academy to a whole new level. "There is a more integrated approach with LEEDs projects," said Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Mike Pence. "Simply because there is more collaboration required."

LEED is a Green Building Rating System™ that "encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria," according to the non-profit U.S. Green Building Council, from which LEED originated. The rating system

is based on a finite list of available efficiencies, including the following subject areas: Sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy & atmosphere, materials & resources, indoor environmental quality, innovation & design process. Points are assigned to each "efficiency," and LEED ratings rank from platinum (69 points), gold, silver, down to "certified" with a minimum of 26 points.

The California Academy of Science project, a highly specialized facility, incorporated and even exceeded many of the options and houses a full Amazon rainforest inside the building, the largest indoor coral reef in the world, a planetarium, a living roof structure, all recycled water, a dome above the rain forest with portal sensors that measure the humidity and lighting in the building, which then monitors, and open and closes, the windows to allow natural resources to be maximized. Photo sensors dim artificial lighting when natural lighting is available. Pence asserts that Control Air recognized the exceptional opportunity to educate the public in the importance of sustainable environments, and therefore all the LEEDs factors were considered in the project.

Bell Products, Inc., a full service mechanical contractor, with a focus on HVAC and plumbing for commercial and custom residential, also a LEED specialist, has completed two LEED projects as the designer of record, and has one under construction. Director of Business Development Mark Kamrath agrees that a LEED project affects all areas of trades, and – instead of being entirely engineer-driven – requires a "team" approach to design/construction, as well as an extensive start-up and commissioning

plan that is developed throughout construction.

The cost of a LEED project can vary from 1-15% (generally around 5%) more than a conventional project. Kamrath contends that LEED construction may increase the cost to the building, but the result of the energy savings and increase in quality to the environment has many owners convinced that it is money well spent. In fact, statistics show that LEED buildings improve performance levels in offices and schools due to the improved air quality, increased natural light, and more efficient systems, among other things.

Although public buildings have been leading the way, private industry is recognizing the benefits and increasing its focus on LEED projects as the market drives the trend. "The A/C industry represents the greatest use of energy in any building," said Kamrath. "We should be at the forefront of the movement. As a team, SMWIA and SMACNA are positioned to be able to greatly affect the building quality and energy efficiency."

There are approximately 1,500 buildings nationwide that are LEED certified, and thousands more are currently seeking certification by third party entities. When asked about the growth of LEED projects, Mark Pence of Control Air stated, "I don't know if it's measurable, but there are currently fewer projects outside the boundaries of LEED than inside."



Intelligent Green Building Solutions for today's Indoor Environmental Quality

CAL SMACNA's 43rd Annual Convention

April 15-19, 2009

The California Building Standards Commission Meeting

September 11, 2008 (Green Code Adoption)

Western States District Council meeting dates are:

October 1st, ending on October 4th. The meeting is being held in Las Vegas.

Western States Golf Fundraiser

September 11, 2008 – Fairfield CA. Solano Golf Course



DID YOU KNOW?

Jim Rosier, on the JCEEP and a SMACNA contractor, was recently invited to join the Advisory Council of the California Commissioning Collaborative.

The Advisory Council is a group of individuals who have a vested interest in the health and growth of the commissioning industry in California. This is not only an honor for Jim, but his representation on the council will be beneficial to our industry as a whole.

The new California Green Building Code is slated to go into effect on January 1, 2009 – Link to the Code:

http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/prpsd_chngs/documents/2007/bsc_02_07_isor_pt11.pdf

Work on the next tri-annual cycle of the California Building Codes begins in 2009. This will include updates to the mechanical and plumbing code.

All California Utilities have Energy Portfolio Rebate Programs –

Many of these programs offer incentives to upgrade HVAC equipment, tune up equipment, seal ducts and integrate new technology (i.e. thermal storage). Check this site to see what is going on in your region:

<http://www.fypower.org/com/tools/rgl.html>



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Consulting
Services

“...green building strategies should be viewed not as a cost, but an investment that produces both monetary savings and other benefits over time...”