

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

City of Columbia & County of Boone
City Hall, Conference Room 1A

June 1, 2016

Mayor Treece and Council Members,

On Tuesday, May 24, Energy and Environment Commission and Building Construction Codes Commission met during the regular meeting of EEC. During the meeting both Commissions gathered information and listened to comments to determine if any consensus could be reached between the two groups regarding implementation of the International Energy Efficiency Codes contained in the 2016 International Building Codes.

Fred Malicoat, of BCCC, indicated that they would withdraw their opposition to air leakage testing, including blower door tests and duct tests. He mentioned that they were unaware that these tests were uncovering failures and buildings were passing the test only after previous failures were remediated. This was revealed during the public comment period during the last City Council meeting.

We discussed at length the proposal for the Solar Ready ordinance. BCCC members mentioned that they had no problem with most of the Solar Ready provisions with the exception of the documentation requirement which they considered to be onerous. At one point we considered dropping the documentation requirement but John Simon, Building Regulations Supervisor, City of Columbia, mentioned that he had future plans to start requiring builders to file building plans with the City to be more consistent with other cities our size and make enforcement easier. After hearing this, the EEC withdrew our offer to remove that requirement.

We could not come to consensus regarding slab foundation insulation. Some members of EEC don't feel that the benefits gained by using foundation insulation on slab gains enough in energy efficiency to warrant the requirement. Others feel strongly that anything that can be done to reduce the use of fossil fuels is worth doing. The BCCC remains committed to the belief that the use of this type of insulation will require more footings on the slab and increases the cost of the foundation to the point where energy efficiency returns are not worth the initial investment. In addition, they have concerns with termite damage hiding beneath the insulation.

I hope you find this information useful in making your determinations regarding these sections of the 2015 International Energy Efficiency Code.

Yours truly,

Jan Dye
Energy & Environment Commission
Chair

