

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MEMBERS OF THE CODE COUNCIL

FROM: Mark Blanke, P.E.

DATE: February 18, 2014

SUBJECT: MEETING AGENDA – February 27, 2014

The State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council will hold a meeting on February 27, 2014, via videoconferencing at the Department of State: One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Conference Rooms 505 and 1135, Albany, New York; 123 William Street, Room 231, New York, New York; and 65 Court Street, Conference Room 208, Buffalo, New York. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Code Council members can attend the meeting at one of these locations. If you plan to attend the meeting in New York City or Buffalo please let me know.

The meeting will start with a presentation of the proposed changes for the Residential Code of New York State (RCNYS). A chart identifying the more significant proposed changes to the RCNYS will be sent to you prior to the meeting. There will also be a presentation on additional code change proposals intended to enhance the resilience of buildings to withstand damage and aid in recovery after an event similar to Hurricane Sandy. This may include among others:

- Increase the lowest floor elevation requirement in the Building Code for buildings located within flood hazard areas to at least base flood elevation plus 2 feet.
- Relocating mechanical and electrical systems in flood hazard areas to be above the lowest floor elevation.
- Enhance emergency power requirements for hospitals, senior centers, firehouses and police stations.
- Updating the reference standard for flood-resistant design construction of ASCE 24 to the 2013 edition.
- Provide emergency access to potable water

Following the RCNYS and resilience presentations the Council will be asked to consider conceptual approval of rule makings for the updated Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and residential provisions of the State Energy Conservation Construction Code. Some remaining outstanding issues include provisions for residential sprinklers in newly constructed one- and two- family dwellings, eliminating the requirement for automatic fire extinguishing systems at newly constructed gas stations, and updating the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70) to the current 2014 edition. It is our opinion that the issues concerning residential sprinklers and gas station fire extinguishing systems currently either lack necessary scientific data or economic data to make an appropriate determination to move forward on these issues. It is also our opinion that the updated Uniform Code should include the latest edition of the NEC (2014) and enhanced resilience provisions to buildings.

At the meeting we will provide an update on our progress for the next commercial Energy Code and the Council will consider the request for more restrictive local standards (MRLS) by the Village of Freeport to enhance flood protection requirements within the village.

Currently we have one pending public code change proposal that is still pending a staff review. This is a proposal to adopt the National Fire Protection Standard No. 130-2010 (fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems) for the design and construction of passenger rail stations. The public code change proposal to require electronic monitoring for portable fire extinguishers was sent to the council for consideration. Please notify me if you would like to consider and discuss this proposal at a future meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (518) 474-4073 or Mark.Blanke@dos.ny.gov.

MDB:mb