

August 27, 1981

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Gregory
Tom *DKS*
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MEMORANDUM TO: The Honourable Paul Cosgrove
Minister Public Works Canada

FROM: R.V. Hession

RE: Moisture in Buildings

It has become evident to the Corporation that there has been a significant increase in the incidence of moisture induced damage in frame construction. The problem is most commonly encountered in single family housing and the damage appears to be occurring in the exterior walls.

There is an apparent close relation between energy conservation attempts and high levels of moisture accumulation. In some cases, structural deterioration of the wall has resulted. The worst conditions have been encountered in the coastal areas, but there is insufficient evidence to conclude that the problem is confined to those regions.

Our research has included consultation with other federal and provincial authorities, utility companies and the housing industry. While there is not unanimity on the cause of the problem, there is a clear need for further action to reduce the incidence of wall deterioration.

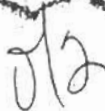
The problem is not of course, confined to NHA housing. I have written to the Chairman of the Associate Committee on the National Building Code and the Provincial Deputy Ministers of housing, drawing their attention to this situation, suggesting action in their respective areas of responsibility and expressing our willingness to collaborate. Because of its related interest and proposed demonstration program, I have also brought this matter to the attention of Energy, Mines and Resources.

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For our own part, I have committed substantial resources, both staff and research funds, towards determining the extent of the problem and seeking measures which will reliably diminish it in the future. We propose to undertake this work in close consultation with the many interests involved.

The purpose of the attached briefing note is to bring this matter to your attention and to advise you on the action being taken.



A handwritten signature, possibly 'JL', is written in dark ink over a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the title 'President'.

President.

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GWAYNE MURCHISON/HC/jb
Docket P517
Typed August 20, 1981

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