

Associate Committee on the
NATIONAL BUILDING CODE
National Research Council
Canada

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING
OF THE
PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE
NATIONAL BUILDING CODE

Held at the Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on
the 23 September 1981.

* Members Present

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| Mr. P.J.H. Sheasby, Sask. (Chairman) | Mr. R.A. Hewett (Ex-Officio) |
| Mr. S. Bishop, P.E.I. | Mr. A.T. Hansen (Ex-Officio) |
| Mr. J.C. Currie, B.C. | Mr. R.H. Dunn (Secretary) |
| Mr. R.P. Lynch, N.B. | |
| Mr. P. Masson, Que. | |
| Mr. D.O. Monsen, Alta. | |
| Mr. W.L. Pollock, Yukon | |
| Mr. H. Whyte, N.S. | |

Members Absent

Mr. G. Adams, Ont.
Mr. J.T. Allston, Nfld.
Mr. L.D. O'Morrow, Man.

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OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all members, noting that it was his first meeting as Chairman. Mr. Hewett advised that on the 24th he would be attending a meeting of the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) Committee on the coordination of Standards (CCS). Agenda items for the CCS meeting include, areas of responsibility of the SWO's; glossary of terms; energy conservation in buildings; windows and doors; adhesives; structural glass; intended use or misuse of product standards; signs and symbols; model codes; public review procedures of standards; and socio-economic analysis of proposed changes to standards.

A copy of the agenda for the meeting of the PAC is attached as Appendix B.

* A complete list of membership showing title and affiliation is attached as Appendix A.

responsibility of the regulatory authority with respect to third-party certification.

The PAC agreed with the foregoing and suggested that the views of the Committee be brought to the attention of the SCC and CSA.

This concludes the report of the Subcommittee on Administration and the actions by the PACNBC on the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

13.6

MEASURES FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Committee considered the draft resolution (Appendix H) from the Council of Energy Ministers requesting that the National Building Code reflect the appropriate state of the art of building technology in an environment of dwindling petroleum resources. Correspondence (Appendix I) between the Honourable Marc Lalonde, Messrs John Roberts, Edward Cowley and W.A. Cumming of NRC was also reviewed. The correspondence raises the question of whether or not the Measures for Energy Conservation should be included as mandatory requirements in the National Building Code.

During the discussion that followed, it was noted that questions regarding the mandate of the Associate Committee relating to whether or not the scope of the NBC should be expanded to include energy conservation are the responsibility of the Associate Committee. If the Associate Committee was to agree to extend the scope of the NBC beyond its current requirements relating to public health, fire protection and structural sufficiency, to include energy conservation, it would open the door to other regulatory needs as perceived by interested groups, such as physical security in buildings. Some members expressed concern that if such a precedent were established, the current scope of the National Building Code could eventually be extended well beyond its original purpose.

With respect to the direct question of the inclusion of the Measures for Energy Conservation as mandatory requirements in the NBC or whether the

Measures should continue to be published in its present form, i.e. as a document suitable for adoption by provinces to regulate energy conservation in new buildings, the Chairman asked for the views of those provinces represented at the meeting. In view of the importance of the subject, the Secretary was requested to contact those provinces not in attendance.

BRITISH COLUMBIA -

Mr. Currie was of the opinion that the Measures should continue to be published as a separate document suitable for adoption by the provinces. He noted that the Measures have not been adopted in B.C. One reason for non-adoption relates to concerns about the possible effect of energy conservation on the structure (houses) as a whole. Problems have been reported and there is a need for more research and understanding of this subject. Another reason is that the Measures require a level of expertise beyond that usually found in the inspection staffs of smaller municipalities. Thus enforcement of the Measures would be difficult. With the adoption of the 1980 Code, British Columbia will be including minimum requirements for insulation in residential construction. It is intended that these requirements will apply to the province as a whole.

ALBERTA -

Mr. Mosen reported that in adopting the 1980 NBC, insulation values were included in the Alberta Code. He noted there was some support for the Measures. HUDAC has recognized the need for energy conservation requirements as related to housing. He was of the opinion that by the time the 1985 edition of the Code is published there will be substantial support for mandatory energy conservation in new buildings. He saw no problems of adoption whether the Measures were referenced in the Code or as a separate document. In view of rising energy costs, he would support a move toward the mandating of energy measures by reference in the NBC.

With respect to the use of the Measures he thought it was too early in the life of the document to make it mandatory. There is no overall policy for dealing with energy conservation in the province. The

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masonry industry is strongly opposed to mandatory regulations at the present time. Eventually, as energy costs continue to rise, there will be support for mandatory requirements for energy conservation.

SASKATCHEWAN -

Mr. Sheasby said that the province does not have a provincial building code but a study committee has been formed to study the possibility of introducing a code at some appropriate time. The Minister responsible for energy conservation endorsed formation of the study committee because it was his intention to introduce energy conservation through the mechanism of a provincial building code. Whether the requirements are in the NBC or in a separate document is not a major issue. He favoured a reference in the Code because adoption by the municipalities would tend to be automatic because permission to amend the NBC must come from the Provincial Department of Municipal Affairs. To date no municipality has adopted the Measures. It should be noted that although a municipality that wants a building code must use the NBC, the legislation does not state which edition must be adopted. Thus municipalities could defer the adoption of the 1985 Code for years.

With respect to the use of the Measures, the government requires that all government buildings be designed for energy conservation and the Measures is used as a guide together with other criteria.

MANITOBA - not present.

ONTARIO - not present.

QUEBEC -

Mr. Masson said that Quebec is in the process of adopting the Measures for Energy Conservation through legislation. The bill has yet to be proclaimed. He favoured the Measures as a separate document and not referenced as part of the NBC.

NEW BRUNSWICK -

Mr. Lynch said that a governmental study group has produced a document for energy conservation which applies to all public owned buildings. He had some concern that each government department has a tendency to go its own way on matters relating to energy conservation. He favoured energy requirements referenced in the NBC but could live with a separate document.

NOVA SCOTIA -

Mrs. Whyte expressed the view that if the Measures are not tied to the Code in some form, there is always the danger of some other governmental agency taking it up. She thought there was a need for energy conservation in some form and would support any move to make the Measures mandatory by reference in the NBC.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND -

Although the Building Code Act adopts the NBC, the Act has not been proclaimed; thus at the present time there is no mechanism for referencing the Measures. Mr. Bishop favoured the continual publication of the Measures in a form suitable for adoption when the province decides to do so.

NEWFOUNDLAND - not present.

YUKON -

Mr. Pollock favoured the Measures as a separate document not referenced in the NBC. He was concerned that if the Measures were made mandatory in the NBC that the Yukon may not adopt the NBC. Questions have been raised in Cabinet regarding the cost of energy conservation in buildings. Time is needed to get the public involved to the point where they would support mandatory requirements.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - not present.

In summary B.C., P.E.I., Yukon and Que. favoured the continued issuing of the Measures suitable for provincial adoption as a separate document.

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Alta., N.S., and N.B. favoured making the Measures mandatory by reference in the 1985 Code.

13.7 POTENTIAL DUPLICATION OF ACTIVITY BY SWO'S IN THE GENERAL AREA OF ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Committee considered the suggestion in a letter from Mr. Hennessey, Executive Director of the SCC (Appendix I), regarding the need for a central planning group, advisory in nature, to define standards requirements in the area of energy conservation in buildings.

The PAC supported the concept of a central planning group as outlined in Mr. Hennessey's letter and recommended that it be under the SCC. The PAC agreed that there is a need for strong action to sort out who does what in the preparation of standards related to energy conservation. The PAC look to SCC to take this action. The PAC was also of the opinion that the current Coordinating Committee on Standards was not effective in this area and thus the need for a higher level planning group under the auspices of the SCC. To be effective, such a group may need to seek authority under the Standards Council Act to make decisions that are binding on those included in the National Standards System.

The Secretary was requested to send a letter to the SCC in support of the proposed central planning group and to express in the strongest possible terms that the PAC looks to the SCC for strong and decisive action in this area.

A copy of the above noted letter together with the following documents relating to this subject are attached for information as Appendix K.

- (a) Summary Ad Hoc meeting at SCC to discuss energy conservation
- (b) Summary record of Ad Hoc meeting to discuss CGSB and CSA activities in the field of energy conservation.

13.8

MOISTURE INDUCED PROBLEMS IN HOUSING

The Committee was referred to a letter dated 27 August 1981 from Mr. R.V Hession, President of CMHC, which included a brief outline of the above noted problem (Appendix L).

In response to a question asking if DBR will be studying the problem, Mr. Hansen replied that if the Associate Committee considers it to be a serious problem, it may ask DBR to become involved. In the meantime, the Associate Committee has asked CMHC for full details of its investigation of the problem.

Mr. Currie said that there are problems of condensation on the West Coast. He believed the problem was related to the need for adequate air supply. The B.C. Building Code may introduce requirements in this area.

All members were requested to forward any information they may have relating to the problem.

13.9

CSA STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Committee considered a letter dated 2 September 1981 (Appendix M) from Mr. Z.S. Shah inviting a provincial representative to serve on the above noted CSA Steering Committee.

During discussion, it was questioned if the proposed CSA Steering Committee on Energy had been officially approved by the CSA Policy Board. Reference was made to the position of the PAC with regard to the support of the SCC for a central planning committee to coordinate standards requirements in the area of energy conservation in buildings. Until such time as the proposed SCC Committee is formed, the PAC did not think it appropriate to become involved in this CSA Steering Committee or in other senior energy committees under the auspices of other standards writing agencies such as the proposed CGSB Advisory Board on Standards for Building Performance and Energy Conservation.