



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF  
ENERGY RESOURCES**

Wednesday, December 13, 2017  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

**Attendees:** Kevin Rose, Christopher Armstrong, Brian McCowan, Becca Trietch

**Meeting Minutes:**

Meeting started at 5:14PM

Becca Trietch, Chief Program Development, RI Office of Energy Resources (OER), introduced the meeting and facilitated a round robin introduction.

Ms. Trietch then described the development process used to draft the proposed Rhode Island Commercial Stretch Code. Brian McCowan, Senior Vice President of Technology and Development, Energy & Resource Solutions (ERS), gave an overview of the proposed Rhode Island Commercial Stretch Code document. Both presenters used a PowerPoint presentation (the presentation is now available at the following URL: <http://www.energy.ri.gov/policies-programs/lead-by-example/case-studies/stretch-code-development.php>).

**Questions/Comments Received**

Mr. Christopher Armstrong, Director of Building Envelope Science at Pace Representatives, Inc. and a member of the America Institute of Architects Rhode Island (AIAri), asked the following questions. Ms. Trietch and Mr. McCowan's responses are shown after each question.

1. Mr. Armstrong asked what format should be used to submit comments. He also asked about the timeline and process for reviewing public comments.
  - a. Ms. Trietch stated that written comments should be submitted to her via email or mail. Her email can be found on the PowerPoint presentation and both her email and mailing address can be found on the Office of Energy Resources website. The Office of Energy Resources will review and respond to all public comments that are received before the deadline for comment submission. The Commercial Stretch Code document will then be edited accordingly and posted publicly on the Office of Energy Resources website. She expects this process to be completed by the end of January 2018.
2. Mr. Armstrong asked if the multiple references to commissioning requirements throughout the document was intentional. He believes the multiple references are confusing when there is one section that explains everything concisely.
  - a. Mr. McCowan explained that the references were kept in because it was believed that no harm was caused by them. However, if they result in confusion then they should be removed.
3. Since Rhode Island has not yet updated base codes to the latest ICC codes, Mr. Armstrong asked if the section describing the expected incentives from National Grid needs to be updated. He believes the incentive structure may have assumed a base code advancement. He also asked if a prescriptive package of incentives will still be offered by National Grid.

- a. Mr. Kevin Rose, a National Grid representative, responded that he would review the incentive description section and be sure to respond to the Office of Energy Resources via written public comment if any changes are necessary.
4. Lastly, Mr. Armstrong pointed out that one of the close-out tables appears to be missing in the document. He will send any such edits to Ms. Trietch via written comment.
  - a. Ms. Trietch thanked him for reviewing and bringing any such errors to her attention. It appears that a few sections were changed when the document was converted to a PDF for public comment. Any such errors will be fixed for the final version of the document.

Mr. Kevin Rose, Senior Program Manager for Mass./R.I. Codes & Standards at National Grid, asked the following questions. Ms. Trietch and Mr. McCowan's responses are shown after each question.

1. Mr. Rose asked if a section about insulation requirements had been purposely omitted. He would recommend having specific insulation requirements.
  - a. Mr. McCowan responded that a section on insulation standards was written, but it appears that the section was inadvertently omitted in the PDF shared for public comment. The insulation section will be added back for the final version.
2. Mr. Rose asked if following the Commercial Stretch Code would be a means for public buildings to comply with Rhode Island's Green Buildings Act (GBA), and if so, what other certifications or programs can be used to comply with the GBA.
  - a. Ms. Trietch responded that yes, a public building built to comply with the Commercial Stretch Code would also be in compliance with the Green Buildings Act. LEED certification, CHPS, Green Globes, and the latest International Green Construction Code (IGCC) can also be used to comply with the Green Buildings Act, as can other certifications/programs. However, if other certifications/programs are used, they would need to prove equivalency with LEED certification requirements as reference in the Green Buildings Act.
3. Mr. Rose asked if ASHRAE Appendix G (the Performance Path) that will likely be released in 2018 is expected to align with the Commercial Stretch Code document.
  - a. Mr. McCowan stated that reasonable calibration is expected as IGCC and ASHRAE standards are naturally merging with every update cycle. Mr. Armstrong also added that there is not expected to be a 2018 IGCC. Instead the next version of the IGCC is expected to be the same as ASHRAE 189.1.

Ms. Trietch asked if there were any other questions or comments from the audience. Hearing none she adjourned the meeting.