

231(a)(1) of HAVA (42 U.S.C. 15371) specifically requires the EAC to “. . . provide for the testing, certification, decertification and recertification of voting system hardware and software by accredited laboratories.” To meet this obligation, the EAC has created a voluntary program to test voting systems to Federal voting system standards. The Voting System Test Laboratory Program Manual, published below, will set the procedures for laboratories in this program.

EAC is required to submit the Testing and Certification Manual for approval in accordance with Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requirements. The Testing and Certification Division has updated sections of the manual to reflect proposed changes in certification procedures.

Comments

This notice is published in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, to request comments regarding the burden of responding to the information collection activities of the proposed manual; please refer to the EAC's Web site, www.eac.gov, for further information about the submission of comments regarding burden.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on this draft procedural manual on or before 5:00 p.m. EDT on May 14, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments via email to VotingSystemGuidelines@eac.gov; via mail to Jessica Myers, Certification Program Specialist, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or via fax to 202–566–1392. An electronic copy of the proposed manual may be found on the EAC's Web site <http://www.eac.gov/open/comment.aspx>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Hancock, Director, Voting System Certification, Washington, DC, (202) 566–3100, Fax: (202) 566–1392.

Bryan Whitener,

Director of Communications and Clearinghouse, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. 2015–08567 Filed 4–13–15; 8:45 am]

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ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Procedural Manual for the Election Assistance Commission's Voting System Testing and Certification Program, Version 2.0

AGENCY: United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

ACTION: Notice; publication of Voting System Testing and Certification Manual, Version 2.0, for 30 day public comment period on EAC Web site.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is publishing a procedural manual for its Voting System Testing and Certification Program. This manual sets the administrative procedures for obtaining an EAC Certification for voting systems. Participation in the program is strictly voluntary. The program is mandated by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) at 42 U.S.C. 15371.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background. HAVA requires that the EAC certify and decertify voting systems. Section 231(a)(1) of HAVA (42 U.S.C. 15371) specifically requires the EAC to “. . . provide for the testing, certification, decertification and recertification of voting system hardware and software by accredited laboratories.” To meet this obligation, the EAC has created a voluntary program to test voting systems to Federal voting system standards. The Voting System Testing and Certification Manual, published below, will set the procedures for this program.

EAC is required to submit the Testing and Certification Manual for approval in accordance with Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requirements. The Testing and Certification Division has updated sections of the manual to reflect proposed changes in certification procedures.

Comments. This notice is published in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, to request comments regarding the burden of responding to the information collection activities of the proposed manual; please refer to the EAC's Web site, www.eac.gov, for further information about the submission of comments regarding burden.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on this draft procedural manual on or before 5:00 p.m. EDT on May 14, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments via email to VotingSystemGuidelines@eac.gov; via mail to Jessica Myers, Certification Program Specialist, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300, Silver Spring, MD,

20910; or via fax to 202–566–1392. An electronic copy of the proposed manual may be found on the EAC's Web site <http://www.eac.gov/open/comment.aspx>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian Hancock, Director, Voting System Certification, Washington, DC, (202) 566–3100, Fax: (202) 566–1392.

Bryan Whitener,

Director of Communications and Clearinghouse, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. 2015–08534 Filed 4–13–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

[Docket No. EERE–2015–BT–BC–0002]

DOE Participation in Development of the International Energy Conservation Code

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) participates in the public process administered by the International Code Council (ICC), which produces the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). DOE develops and publishes code change proposals for the IECC, prior to submitting them to the ICC, to allow interested parties an opportunity to suggest revisions, enhancements and comments. This notice outlines the process by which DOE produces its code change proposals for the IECC, and otherwise participates in the ICC code development process. This process will be used when DOE participates in the development of the 2018 IECC and other codes developed by the ICC.

DATES: DOE is requesting written comments on the proposed process by which DOE will develop code change proposals for submission to the ICC by May 14, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Any comments submitted must identify the Notice for DOE Participation in Development of the International Energy Conservation Code, and provide docket number EERE–2015–BT–BC–0002. Comments may be submitted by using either of the following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=EERE-2015-BT-BC-0002>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

2. Email: IECC2015BC0002@ee.doe.gov. Include EERE–2015–BT–BC–0002 in the subject line of the message.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name (U.S. DOE) and docket number. Additional information is included in the following sections.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeremiah Williams; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies Office, EE–5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; Telephone: (202) 287–1941; Email: jeremiah.williams@ee.doe.gov.

For legal issues:

Kavita Vaidyanathan; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel, Forrestal Building, GC–33, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; Telephone: (202) 586–0669; Email: kavita.vaidyanathan@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) supports the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) by participating in the code development processes administered by the International Code Council (ICC). As a participant in this process, DOE considers and evaluates concepts to be submitted as proposed changes to the IECC (“code”). This Notice outlines the process by which DOE produces code change proposals and participates in the ICC code development process, including the 2018 IECC, as well as other codes published by the ICC.

A. Statutory Authority

Title III of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, as amended (ECPA), establishes requirements related to energy conservation standards for new buildings. (42 U.S.C. 6831–6837) Section 307 (b) of ECPA directs DOE to support voluntary building energy codes by periodically reviewing the technical and economic basis of the voluntary building codes, recommending

amendments to such codes, seeking adoption of all technologically feasible and economically justified energy efficiency measures, and otherwise participate in any industry process for review and modification of such codes. (42 U.S.C. 6836(b))

B. Background

The DOE Building Energy Codes Program mission supports the development and implementation of model building energy codes and standards to achieve the maximum practicable and cost-effective improvements in energy efficiency, while providing safe, healthy buildings for occupants.¹ Part of this mission is directed at the IECC, which serves as a model energy code, and is adopted by many U.S. states, territories, the District of Columbia, and localities across the nation. The ICC administers development of the IECC through a public process, with revisions taking place every three years under the ICC governmental consensus process. As part of this process, any interested party can propose changes to the IECC, with proposed code changes subject to the bylaws, policies and procedures defined by the ICC.²

II. DOE Participation in the ICC Development Process

The Department seeks to advance energy efficiency by cost-effectively strengthening the code and clarifying provisions to be more easily understood, implemented and enforced. DOE is directed to participate in the development of model building energy codes, such as the IECC, for residential and commercial buildings. DOE participates in the ICC development process by:

- Conducting technical *analyses* to identify concepts for consideration;
- Developing and submitting *proposals* based on concepts deemed credible and cost-effective; and
- Supporting proposals through the ICC *public hearing* process.

A. Technical Analyses

In preparation for the development of code change proposals, DOE conducts analyses to ensure that its proposals are technologically feasible and economically justified. DOE analyses will identify anticipated energy and economic savings impact associated with its energy savings concepts. This ensures that DOE proposals are cost-

effective as defined by established, publicly reviewed DOE methodologies.³

Analyses performed by DOE or its contractors for the purposes of developing code change proposals are technical in nature. DOE is not obligated to conduct analyses for outside parties, but reserves the right to do so where it believes they will support DOE statutory obligations. In conducting such analyses, DOE does not represent or endorse particular individuals or organizations. DOE also cannot enter into joint code change proposals with the exception of proposals submitted jointly with another federal agency.

B. Proposal Development and Submission

Satisfactory concepts will be turned into draft code change proposals. To allow interested parties to comment, DOE will post these, along with supporting data and analyses, prior to submitting them to the ICC. DOE will modify its proposals as comments and new information become available; modified versions, with preceding versions of each proposal archived, and changes annotated between each version will also be posted. Final proposals will be clearly identified, and will be posted prior to submission to the ICC. All posted information will be available at <http://www.energycodes.gov/development>.

C. ICC Public Hearings

DOE maintains organizational membership with the ICC. As a Governmental Member, DOE intends to participate as defined by the guiding ICC rules and procedures, including participation in the ICC public hearings and exercising assigned voting privileges. At ICC hearings, DOE:

- Will present and defend its own proposals; and
- May present the results of technical analyses it has conducted, including analyses of other parties’ proposals when it believes the development process will be improved by providing such information.

The presentation of a DOE proposal or technical analysis does not constitute an endorsement of any particular proposal or product. DOE may alter its proposals based on the procedural events of the official ICC hearing process without seeking further public comment. DOE may also seek additional public comment, such as in cases when a particular proposal is significantly modified for resubmission, following the ICC Committee Action Hearings.

¹ See <http://www.energycodes.gov/about>.

² See <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/pages/default.aspx>.

³ See <http://www.energycodes.gov/development>.

III. Public Participation in the Development of DOE Proposals

A. Stakeholder Input

The public will have the following opportunities to provide DOE with input:

1. Comments on posted *proposals* and
2. Participation in *public meetings*.

Public Comment on DOE Proposals:

DOE intends to make information available to the general public as it comes available. As information will be updated continually throughout the process, interested parties are urged to closely monitor the DOE Building Energy Codes Program Web page and stakeholder mailing lists to remain current with DOE activities. As materials will be posted over an extended period of time, the Web site will provide additional instructions on submitting comments on DOE proposals, including associated comment deadlines.

DOE will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** when its draft proposals and supporting materials begin to become available for public review. Note that DOE will not provide responses to individual public comments, but will consider all information received, and will incorporate all appropriate information into updated versions of its proposals. All DOE proposals and supporting documentation will be made available for review at <http://www.energycodes.gov/development>.

Participation in Public Meetings. DOE intends to convene one or more public meetings during each code cycle to present its proposals and supporting information, and to receive questions and feedback from interested and affected stakeholders. Such meetings will also be used to encourage and facilitate the free exchange of ideas, with the intent of improving proposals from all parties. DOE will both moderate and participate in these meetings. Note that DOE will not attempt to bring stakeholders to a consensus; rather DOE's role will be to increase understanding of the concepts discussed. These meetings will also be announced in the **Federal Register**.

B. Ex-Parte Guidance

DOE anticipates that it or its contractors may be contacted regarding code concepts, ideas or change proposals prior to and during the code hearings. While DOE code change proposals submitted to the ICC are not regulations, DOE will follow its ex parte communication policy for such communications prior to the code hearings. DOE guidance on ex parte

communications was published on January 21, 2009 (74 FR 4685).⁴ As described in the guidance, individuals or entities that communicate with DOE or its contractors prior to the code hearing must provide a memorandum summarizing the communication, which will be included in the public docket consistent with the ex parte guidance.

During each ICC hearing process, DOE will maintain a published Web site containing submitted DOE proposals, which will also contain a link directed to the Web site and materials maintained by the ICC. DOE recognizes that the code development and public hearing process is based on processes established by the ICC, which do not constitute ex parte communications, and therefore, any discussions of the process at code hearings do not need to follow the guidance.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 7, 2015.

David Cohan,

Manager, Building Energy Codes Program, Building Technologies Office, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 2015-08599 Filed 4-13-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

[Docket Number EERE-2015-BT-BC-0001]

Request for Information: Updating and Improving the DOE Methodology for Assessing the Cost-Effectiveness of Building Energy Codes

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking input on how it may update and improve its methodology for assessing the cost-effectiveness (which includes an energy savings assessment) of residential and commercial building energy codes. DOE is directed by statute to provide technical assistance to states to support the implementation of model building energy codes. As part of this role, DOE conducts national and state-level analysis to assess the cost-effectiveness of building energy codes and proposed changes. DOE is interested in feedback on its analysis methodology, preferred sources of cost data, and parameter assumptions surrounding its cost-

effectiveness assessment. In addition, DOE is seeking information on the general costs, benefits, and economic impacts associated with building energy codes. This notice identifies several areas where interested parties may provide suggestions, comments, and other information.

DATES: Written comments and information are requested by May 14, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments must identify the docket number EERE-2015-BT-BC-0001 and may be submitted using any of the following methods:

1. *Regulations.gov:* <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=EERE-2015-BT-BC-0001>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

2. *Email:* BCMethology2015@ee.doe.gov. Include EERE-2015-BT-BC-0001 in the subject line of the message.

3. *Postal Mail:* Ms. Brenda Edwards; U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office EE-5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; Phone: (202) 586-2945. Please submit one signed paper original.

Further instructions, including the use of topic identifiers, are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice. Comments submitted in response to this notice will become a matter of public records and will be made publicly available.

Public Docket: The docket, which includes notices published in the **Federal Register** and public comments received, is available for review at [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). All documents in the docket are listed in the [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) index. However, some documents listed in the index, such as those containing information exempt from public disclosure, may not be publicly available.

A link to the docket Web page can be found under *Public Participation* at: <http://www.energycodes.gov/events>. This Web page will also contain a link to the docket for this notice on [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site will contain instructions on how to access all documents, including public comments, in the docket.

For further information on how to submit a comment, review comments received, or otherwise participate in the public comment process, contact Ms. Brenda Edwards by phone at (202) 586-2945 or email: Brenda.Edwards@ee.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeremiah Williams; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building

⁴ See <http://energy.gov/gc/downloads/guidance-ex-parte-communications>.