

INDIANA FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission's Exploratory Committee for Code Updates

Video/Teleconference Cisco WebEx Format

Friday, July 23, 2021

1. The Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission's (the Commission) Exploratory Committee for Code Updates (the Committee) was called to order by Committee Chairman Michael Popich at 9:01 a.m. EDT on Friday, July 23, 2021.

- a. Committee Members Present:

Michael Popich,	Committee Chairman, City of Indianapolis (local building official) and Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Vice Chairman
Christina Collester,	RTM Consultants, Inc. (code consultant)
Donald Corson,	American Structurepoint, Inc. (licensed engineer)
Doug Elmore,	Gene B. Glick Company Inc. (Indiana Apartment Association representative)
Joshua Frost,	Zionsville Fire Department (local fire official)
Gregory Furnish,	Upright Builders, LLC (Indiana Builders Association representative) and Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission member
Scott Pannicke,	RATIO Architects (licensed architect) and Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Member

- b. Committee Members Absent:

None

- c. Committee Staff Present:

Douglas Boyle,	Director of the Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission and Committee Secretary (IDHS)
Justin Guedel,	Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Deputy General Counsel
Bryston Sprecher,	Administrative Assistant to the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission (IDHS)

2. Roll Call/Attendance – Committee Staff

Secretary Boyle conducted roll call, noting that quorum was met with six (6) voting members in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. Christina Collester was counted as present shortly after resolving some technical issues, bringing the total number of members present up to all seven (7) members.

3. Committee Staff Updates/Announcements

- a. Update regarding State of Indiana’s Declaration of a Public Health Disaster Emergency – Douglas Boyle, Director of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission

Secretary Boyle advised that Governor Holcomb extended the state’s emergency declaration on July 31, 2021. Though it is unclear whether the declaration will be renewed through August, Chairman Popich recommended that staff reserve an in-person meeting space, as the Governor intends to hold a gala next month, which seems to point towards his intention to terminate the declaration. Director Boyle stated that staff has always reserved a physical meeting space prior to each meeting to err on the side of caution and will continue to do so moving forward.

4. Committee Review and Action on Meeting Minutes

- a. Thursday, June 10, 2021

Secretary Boyle called for corrections to the meeting minutes. There were none. Joshua Frost motioned to approve. Greg Furnish made the second. It was voted on and carried.

	Yes	No
Michael Popich	X	
Christina Collester	X	
Don Corson	X	
Doug Elmore	X	
Joshua Frost	X	
Greg Furnish	X	
Scott Pannicke	X	

The Thursday, June 10, 2021 meeting minutes were **approved as submitted**, with a vote of 7-0.

5. Committee Review and Discussion on Public Comments submitted as of Friday, July 15, 2021

The Committee reviewed and discussed code proposals on behalf of Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEAA) and the Eaton Corporation, regarding the need to revise the Electrical and Residential Codes. These proposals are included at the end of this document for the public’s viewing.

6. Committee Discussion on Code Update (Rulemaking) Recommendations Report for the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission – **see Item #2 (Duties of the Committee) in the Committee’s Bylaws:**
<https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Exploratory-Committee-Code-Updates-Membership-Bylaws-Approved-1-5-21.pdf>

After some discussion, it was decided that a framework would be needed before a final report could be written. As such, Chairman Popich delegated the responsibility of generating a rough draft of each code section’s report to the various members, which will then be considered by a Steering Committee. The Shepherds of each code section are as follows:

- Josh Frost – Fire Code
- Scott Pannicke – Energy Conservation Code
- Brenda Dant/Michael Popich – Fuel Gas Code and Plumbing Code
- Don Corson – Building Code
- Tim McClintock/Doug Boyle – Electrical Code
- Christina Collester – Swimming Pool Code/Residential Code

7. Other Business/Other Considerations

If the Public Health Emergency Disaster Declaration is indeed extended, the Committee will hold a brief, informal meeting via Teams on Tuesday, August 6, 2021 to communicate the progress made by each Shepherd. Keep in mind no action or substantive discussion will take place during this call. If in-person, this information will be sent to Secretary Boyle via email, and he will compile these findings along with the Committee’s typical meeting materials prior to its next meeting.

8. Plan Forward

- a. Set Meeting Date for September 2021

With the formation of a Steering Committee, the Exploratory Committee’s next scheduled meeting was set for Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

- b. Set Agenda for September 2021 Meeting

The members will work on putting together stakeholder groups’ data and information regarding the necessity of the code updates (per the requirements of Section 2(d) of the Committee’s bylaws), which will be included in the Committee’s final report for the Commission. Preliminary “shepherding” reports will be due no later than Friday, September 17, 2021.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m. EDT.

APPROVED: _____
Michael J. Popich, Chairman

From: noreply@formstack.com
To: [Fire Prevention and Building and Safety Commission](#)
Subject: Code Comments, Proposals and Advice
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:22:17 PM

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Formstack Submission For: **4202**

Submitted at 07/15/21 2:22 PM

Name:	Karin Gredvig
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Indiana Code You Are Commenting On:	MEEA Comments on IECC and IRC
Comment or Proposal:	
File:	View File

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July 15, 2021

Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Exploratory Committee for Code Updates
302 W. Washington Street, Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Public Comments on the Commission's Code Update Priority

Dear Chairman Popich and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for opportunity to comment on Indiana's review of current statewide codes and recommending proposals for the next statewide codes. The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) is a member-based non-profit organization promoting energy efficiency to optimize energy generation, reduce consumption, create jobs and decrease carbon emissions in all Midwest communities. MEEA has previously worked in Indiana on energy codes and provided technical assistance to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in previous energy code adoption cycles.

This letter is a supplement to our comments submitted at the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Exploratory Committee for Code Updates, where we expressed our support for adopting the energy conservation requirements found in the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential and commercial buildings. MEEA urges the Committee to prioritize the statewide energy code with the family of core codes¹ to ensure the people of Indiana receive the wide-ranging benefits of the new model building codes.

The Exploratory Committee has a unique opportunity to prioritize updated codes for all buildings for the state of Indiana. Updating all statewide building codes following the release of the updated national model codes sets consistent expectations that builders and code officials can rely on. The IECC is the most widely adopted model energy code for residential and commercial construction and has been adopted in nearly every state that has a statewide energy code. The IECC has improved in efficiency with every new edition, providing straightforward energy and cost savings for the building owners and occupants and is an important policy tool for state and local governments to reduce consumption and meet carbon reduction goals.

The energy code, like all model building codes, is a life-safety code reinforcing the health and integrity of homes and buildings.² Outdated or unenforced energy codes can lead to buildings with poor indoor air quality, dangerous mold growth and rotting structural members. Adequate indoor air quality, moisture management and building

¹ The June 10, 2021 meeting of the Exploratory Committee identified the family of core codes to include the International Building, Fire, Fuel Gas, Mechanical and Plumbing Codes.

² See Energy Codes are Life-Safety Codes: https://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/meea-research/meea_codes_life_safety.pdf

resiliency are critical to ensuring occupants remain healthy and comfortable whether they are at their workplace or home. The Committee should prioritize the 2021 IECC because it integrates electrical, heating, cooling, ventilation and building envelope components, which work together to optimize the safety and energy costs for building occupants and communities.

While Indiana recently made an update to the energy provisions in the statewide residential code, 2018 IRC with amendments for residential buildings, it missed significant opportunities to improve energy efficiency, occupant comfort, and indoor air quality in residential buildings. Postponing the adoption of the residential energy code would result in these provisions to be out of sync with the other adopted building codes. Building codes are inextricably linked, with codes in the same model year often referencing key sections from one code to another. Failure to adopt the full suite of codes could cause confusion during implementation since older residential and commercial energy provisions are not designed to communicate with the 2021 codes.

Updating the Indiana residential and commercial Energy Codes to the 2021 would place Indiana at the forefront of build efficiency. As a result, the 2021 IECC will make buildings more resilient, reduce costs for owners and occupants, help promote local job creation, and improve the state's building infrastructure for generations to come. The adoption of the 2021 IECC also ensures that Indiana is supporting the installation of the latest technological advances and construction best practices in their buildings.

The adoption of the unamended 2021 IECC is a cost-effective way to improve building energy efficiency and reduce operating costs of buildings in Indiana. While there may be modest increases to the cost of construction associated with the improved provisions in the 2021 IECC, the numerous health, resilience, and economic benefits to occupants and the community are undeniable and ensure long-term affordability and livability to Indiana residents. Considering many new homes and buildings constructed today will be in active use for the next 50+ years, it is critical that these long-lasting measures be installed when it is most cost effective to do so – during initial construction. Delaying the adoption of potential efficiency improvements in the energy code will have long-lasting consequences. Prioritizing an update to the residential and commercial energy code assures those benefits are captured for current residents and future generations.

MEEA supports adopting new building energy codes for commercial and residential buildings in the state. Updating these codes would not add additional regulatory burden to construction professionals in the state, but instead modifies existing regulations in order to increase improvements in building energy efficiency. The adoption of new codes is necessary for Indiana keep up with changes in construction best practices throughout the region, reduce the operating costs of homes and buildings, and improve public health and wellness.



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We urge the council to prioritize the adoption of the unamended 2021 IECC for residential and commercial buildings in Indiana. Doing so will reduce the energy use and cost for residents, create more comfortable and healthier indoor environments, and aid the economic recovery of the energy efficiency workforce. If you have any additional questions, please contact MEEA's Building Policy Manager, Nicole Westfall at nwestfall@mwalliance.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacey Paradis
Executive Director

From: noreply@formstack.com
To: [Fire Prevention and Building and Safety Commission](#)
Subject: Code Comments, Proposals and Advice
Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:01:20 PM

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Formstack Submission For: **4202**

Submitted at 06/16/21 1:01 PM

Name:	David Smith
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Address:	Eaton Corporation 1000 Cherrington Parkway Moon Township, PA 15108
Indiana Code You Are Commenting On:	Indiana Electrical Code
Comment or Proposal:	Please find the attached document as written public comment pertaining to the update of the Indiana Electrical Code to the 2020 edition of the National Electrical Code® as administered by the Indiana DHS. This document will also be submitted via the DHS email address.
File:	View File

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Powering Business Worldwide

Indiana Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
302 W. Washington St. Room E208
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buildingcommission@dhs.in.gov

June 15th, 2021

RE: Public Comments on the Commission's Current Rules and Recommendations of Code Updates

On behalf of Eaton, we encourage the Indiana Department of Homeland (DHS) and the Indiana Exploratory Committee for Code Updates to move forward with the full adoption of the 2020 edition of the National Electrical Code® (NEC®) without amendment as the first and highest priority of the Committee.

Each edition of the NEC® is the culmination of a three-year process by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) under which each article is administered by technical experts representing all parties of the electrical industry. All stakeholders, including homebuilders, inspectors, installers, manufacturers, nationally recognized testing laboratories, and many others, provide input throughout the process. A two-thirds majority is required for language to be included in or omitted from the code. Any change to the latest edition of the NEC® by the NFPA constitutes a national best practice consensus and minimum safety requirement.

For many years, Eaton team members have called communities across Indiana home. Eaton currently employs over 130 associates at three facilities in the state. Continuing to keep the code intact will ensure these communities continue to provide an acceptable level of public safety while supporting the latest technological advancements. Current codes promote a uniform and up-to-date standard that protects the safety of all occupants in the built environment and produces safer and more economically prosperous communities.

As such, Eaton urges the Committee to move forward with the full adoption of the 2020 edition of the NEC® without amendment as the first and highest priority of the Committee. We volunteer to be a resource to the DHS for any technical or code questions that may arise during the Rules process.

Sincerely,

David A. Smith
Codes & Standards Specialist
Eaton Commercial & Residential Distribution Solutions
Electrical Sector, Americas