

**Agenda
Item
IV.A.**

State of Oregon

Board memo

Building Codes Division

February 23, 2010

To: Construction Industry Energy Board

From: Chris Huntington, Manager, Policy and Technical Services

Subject: Board Background and Responsibilities

Action requested:

None

Background:

House Bill 2950, signed by the governor on June 25, 2009, created the Construction Industry Energy Board (CIEB). The board is part of an effort to streamline processes surrounding adoption of energy efficiency provisions. The CIEB's charge is to advise the division and provide recommendations on energy efficiency and conservation standards across various specialty codes. The director may act upon the recommendations, through rule, allowing energy-saving code changes to be quickly adopted by the state.

The CIEB consists of seven members: Two members from the Electrical and Elevator Board; two members from the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board; two members from the Building Codes Structures Board; and one representative from the Oregon Department of Energy. Approval by five or more board members is required to recommend adoption of a standard. However, where a standard relates to a provision of a specialty code, there must be unanimous agreement from representatives of that particular specialty code to make a recommendation for adoption. For instance, both Electrical and Elevator Board members would need to be among the five board members voting to recommend a standard affecting the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code.

Responsibilities:

The CIEB will convene no less than twice a year and may convene for additional meetings, as needed, to hear and make recommendations on energy efficiency matters. In particular, the board's authority includes:

- Evaluation and recommendations approving or disapproving proposed building code standards relating to energy use and energy efficiency aspects of the electrical, structural, low-rise residential, and pre-fabricated dwelling specialty codes;
- Evaluation and recommendations approving or disapproving standards regarding energy-conserving technology, and construction standards;
- Evaluation and recommendations approving or disapproving energy-conserving products and materials;
- Approval of the technical and scientific facts for statewide alternate methods regarding energy use and energy efficiency; and
- Hearing appeals related to the energy code.

Possible items for future board action:

The division anticipates bringing a number of energy use and energy efficiency items before the board in the next year. The division is in the process of drafting a Solar Installation Code with provisions that span the Structural and Low-Rise Residential codes. Because of the intersection between various specialty codes, the division anticipates bringing the solar code to the CIEB for approval.

The division is also in the early stages of drafting an Oregon Reach Code as directed by Senate Bill 79. The “reach” or “aspirational” code will be an optional code containing more stringent construction standards than the existing statewide mandatory code. The Oregon Reach Code will provide both prescriptive and performance options for building sustainable more energy efficient structures. Provisions will encompass both commercial and residential construction.

SB 79 requires the Director of Department of Consumer & Business Services to work in consultation with its advisory boards to develop a schedule for the periodic review of energy efficiency standards and also establish goals and a schedule for continually increasing the level of energy conservation in both the state building code and the Oregon Reach Code. The division anticipates working with the CIEB to set the goals and schedule for reducing energy consumption and to set tighter construction standards.