

For immediate release:
December 15, 1998

For more information:
Steve Corson, 503-947-7868
Steven.J.Corson@state.or.us

STATE, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SEEK TO STREAMLINE REGULATORY PROCESSES

(Salem) In an effort to reduce delays and overlap in the building regulatory process, 75 Oregon county, municipal, and state building regulatory officials, architects, engineers and home builders met earlier this fall in three, day-long workshops. Participants plan a follow-up meeting in Salem on December 21.

“Our goal is to support any attempt to streamline regulatory processes,” said Joe Brewer, administrator of the Oregon Building Codes Division. “We want to simplify whatever we can – forms, fees, procedures – while providing consistent statewide standards to protect the public and support a healthy building industry.”

The fall workshops – *Streamlined Building Permit Review and Inspection Processes for Oregon* – featured model streamlined building permit and other regulatory processes that have been successfully adopted and administered in jurisdictions in Oregon and other states across the nation.

The workshops were held in Portland, Bend, and Eugene as part of an on-going state effort to enhance governmental efficiency, and in connection with the *Streamlining the Nation's Building Regulatory Process* project. This is a national initiative supported by 55 public and private sector organizations, including the National Association of Counties, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Governors' Association, National Association of Home Builders, and the American Institute of Architects. A consortium of 12 public and private sector state associations hosted the workshops in Oregon, which were conducted by the International Academy for Professional Code Administration (IAPCA).

The three sessions resulted in a commitment among attendees to continue to work cooperatively to adapt streamlined models and to find other ways to initiate private-public sector cooperation to enhance the building regulatory process.

Co-sponsors for the Oregon workshops included: Architects Council of Oregon; Associated General Contractors, Oregon-Columbia Chapter; Association of Oregon Counties; Building & Construction Trades Council; League of Oregon Cities; National Electrical Contractors Association; Oregon Building Codes Division; Oregon Building

(more)

Industry Association; Oregon Building Officials Association; Oregon Remodelers Association/NARI; and Oregon Association of Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling Contractors.

Each of the three workshops ended in a plan of action and a commitment to reconvene in December to develop a work plan and implementation schedule. The Salem meeting on December 21 is open to the public. Another meeting is planned at a later date, to be determined, in Bend. The IAPCA and Oregon co-sponsors will also hold a follow-up work session to coordinate other cooperative streamlining actions, including the possible development of a strategic plan for streamlining the building regulatory processes within participating communities across the state. To facilitate state and local governments' consideration and adoption of streamlined processes, a two-day workshop for elected officials and leaders in the construction community is being scheduled in Salem and Bend in April 1999.

For additional information about the national streamlining project please contact Carolyn Fitch at 703-437-0100 or cfitch@ncsbcs.org, or visit the NCSBCS Web site at www.ncsbcs.org. For information about the Oregon Building Codes Division, visit its Web site at www.cbs.state.or.us/bcd.

####