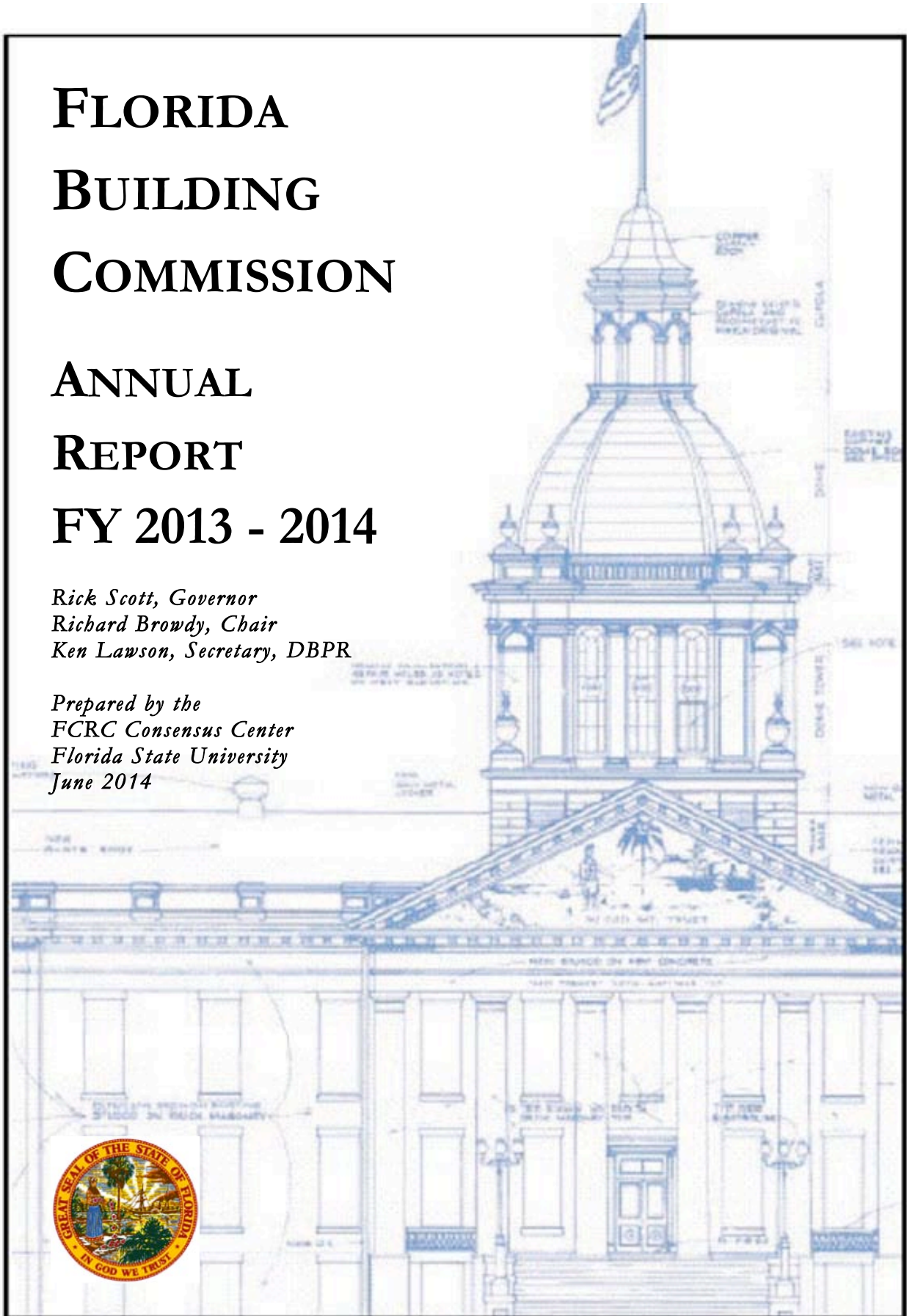


# FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

## ANNUAL REPORT FY 2013 - 2014

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FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2015 LEGISLATURE  
FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2014

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FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2015 LEGISLATURE

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**OVERVIEW.** The primary focus of the Florida Building Commission during the reporting period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 (fiscal year 2013 – 2014) was completing the development and adoption of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* and the *2014 Edition of the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction*, with a scheduled effective date of December 31, 2014. In addition to maintaining the efficiency increases of the Florida Energy Code and its merger with the format of the national model energy code, major components of the 2013 Code Update process include enhancements to the wind, water intrusion and hurricane protection provisions of the Florida Building Code. The Commission has received eighteen new members since 2012, and retains only 7 members who have served for more than two years. As a result, the Commission has conducted and will continue to conduct orientation and training of the new members to ensure they have the support they need to function effectively in their roles as commissioners. Of particular interest, is that the Commission has reached a stable point in its evolution, and has transitioned from primarily development of new initiatives to maintenance of existing processes and programs, while continuing to work with stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of the Florida Building Code System.

**PROCESS.** During the reporting period the Commission once again focused on consensus-building efforts regarding the implementation of Commission policy, with extensive input from building construction industry stakeholders and interests affected by Commission policy. Chairman Richard Browdy, encouraged and led the Commission’s consensus-building efforts supported by DBPR.

**RESEARCH—SCIENCE BASED HURRICANE AND CODE PROTECTIONS.** The Florida Building Commission has continuously assessed building systems and component failures identified after major storms since its inception in 1998, and in response has funded research to strengthen the Code’s effectiveness against wind and water intrusion based on these assessments. Assessments subsequent to the implementation of the Florida Building Code indicate that the research based design wind speeds required by the Code’s enhancements were adequate, and buildings built to the new Florida Building Code did not experience nearly as severe damage as older buildings.

The Code establishes minimum requirements to protect buildings from wind, rain, flood and storm surge based on well-researched and continually-evolving engineering standards for buildings and the products that go into their construction. In addition to conducting research, developing state of the art hurricane resistance standards and integrating those standards in the Code at each revision cycle, the Commission seeks to be up-to-date with current national engineering and product standards within the Code. As with each subsequent version, the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* maintains this commitment.

During the reporting period the Commission expanded its focus from funding primarily storm damage investigations and research into a broader scope of funding research for other Code related topical areas to ensure the development of code amendments related to making Florida's structures, and the products that comprise them, more resistant. The Commission selected projects based on recommendations from the chairs of the Commission's eleven technical advisory committees (TACs) and two program oversight committees (POCs). As a result, the Commission sponsored important research projects including: accessibility, corrosion resistance of fasteners, opening protection fastening, wind load testing of aluminum screen enclosures, in-home storm shelters, fire protection in attics, humidity control in homes, ventilation and airtightness in homes, and mechanical system duct sealing for equipment replacement.

**CODE UPDATE.** Florida law required the Commission to update the Florida Building Code every three years, and the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* represents the fourth update of the Code. The update process is based on the code development cycle of the national model building codes, which serve as the "foundation" codes for the Florida Building Code. The 2013 Code Update process (development of the Fifth Edition of the Florida Building Code) started in 2012 with the Commission selecting the 2012 International Codes as the foundation codes for the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)*. The Commission completed the development process during 2013, adopting an effective date for the Code of December 31, 2014. During the 2013 Code Update process the Commission focused on reviewing Florida specific requirements to the Code, achieving the goal of minimum variation from the foundation codes.

The update process included integration of the Florida Energy and Conservation Code (FECC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) maintaining the efficiencies of the FECC. The Commission certified that the provisions of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* meet or exceed the efficiency thresholds established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The *Fifth Edition* also incorporates the 2012 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction implementing the most recent construction requirements of Federal law coupled with enhancements directed by Florida Statute.

On a related note, the Commission adopted a fee of \$250.00 per application for Accessibility Code waivers per the statutory requirements of Section 553.512 (1), F.S. The Commission delayed implementation until July 1, 2014, to allow time for development of needed BCIS revisions, which includes an electronic waiver application form.

Finally, through legislation approved by the 2014 Florida Legislature, the Commission now has the authority to interpret the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction (FACBC) consistent with the Commission's ability to interpret all of the other sections of the Florida Building Code. This authority will be implemented in fiscal year 2014-2015.

**PRODUCT APPROVAL.** The product approval system is an internet-based system operated and administered by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. During the reporting period the Commission voted to charge DBPR staff with assuming administration of the Product Approval System, initially working with the current staffing levels, beginning January 1, 2014, and to amend Rule 61G20-3.007 to revise fees as needed to correlate with approved changes in the administration of the Product Approval System. Stakeholders report a high level of satisfaction with DBPR staff's administration of the Product Approval System.

The Product Approval system efficiently processes hundreds of applications monthly. The Commission's Product Approval Program Oversight Committee (POC) convenes prior to every Commission meeting to review product and entity applications, address petitions for declaratory statements and consider enhancements to the product approval system.

During the reporting period the Commission amended Product Approval Rules 61G20-3.001 (Scope), 3.002 (Definitions), and 3.007 (Product Approval by the Commission), to adopt changes to the Product Approval System necessary to implement 2013 statutory changes. Specifically the Commission created a new category of products for Statewide Product Approval titled: "impact protective systems." Additionally, products submitted for approval by a product evaluation entity (Method 1(c) and Method 2(a)) are now approved by DBPR using the 10-business day expedited approval process (.007, Product Approval by the Commission). Finally, the Commission recognized FRSA/TRI 07320-5 as equivalent to FRSA/TRI Fifth Edition for determining Code compliance, and ANSI/DASMA 108-2012 as equivalent to ANSI/DASMA 108-2005 for determining Code compliance.

**EDUCATION.** Education is one of the cornerstones of the Building Code System, and the effectiveness of the Building Code depends on the knowledge of professionals who design and construct buildings. The Commission continues to work with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and representatives of the licensing boards to establish a cooperative system for approving building code courses and integrating building code continuing education into licensing requirements. In collaboration with the System Administrator and stakeholders, the Commission is working to ensure the accountability and efficacy of the Education System. During the reporting period the Commission continued to efficiently review and approve course and accreditor applications. In addition the Commission revised the Education Rule to clarify the following: the deadline (23 days prior to the next FBC meeting) for course submission and accreditation; the definition of a self-affirmed course; the process of a self-affirmed course reverting to a revised course; when courses can be submitted/accredited/approved, specifically when the building code is approved versus adopted; the requirement of the code edition inclusion in the title of an advanced course; and the process for course revisions related to laws and rules changes versus building code changes.

**RECOMMENDATIONS.** Monitoring the building code system and determining refinements that will make it function better is a primary responsibility of the Commission, and consequently the Commission is continually effecting refinements to the building code system by administrative rule amendment(s) where the statutes provide authority. However, the building code system is established in law, requiring that some refinements must be implemented through changes to law. The Commission's recommendations for 2015 legislative actions designed to improve the system's effectiveness are summarized below:

**THE FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM'S EFFECTIVENESS ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:**

**For Commission Consideration at the June 20, 2014 Meeting**

**Possible Recommendation to the 2015 Florida Legislature:**

The binding interpretation process adopted in Section 553.775 (3.) (c), F.S., and as it must be lawfully implemented by the Commission, is unworkable due to the fact that the Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) is unwilling to subject itself to all of the restrictions and conditions that must be imposed. Unless a stakeholder group proposes statutory changes to resolve BOAF's concerns, the Commission recommends that this authority be repealed.

## II. INTRODUCTION

In 1974, Florida adopted a state minimum building code law requiring all local governments to adopt and enforce a building code. The system provided four separate model codes that local governments could consider and adopt to establish minimum standards of health and life safety for the public. In that system, the state's role was limited to adopting all or relevant parts of new editions of the four model codes. Local governments could amend and enforce their local codes as they saw fit.

Hurricane Andrew demonstrated in 1992 that this system of local codes did not provide the level of public protection that was necessary. The South Florida Building Code, which was the local code universally acknowledged to set the strongest standard for hurricane protection, essentially failed. The resulting problems had impacts well beyond southern Miami-Dade County. The state filled the property insurer void left by failed and fleeing private insurance companies, and the federal government poured billions of dollars of aid into the disaster area. It became starkly apparent the state had a significant interest in the effectiveness of building codes.

After Hurricane Andrew, Miami-Dade County conducted an exhaustive review of its building code and made significant changes to both the code and support systems for code enforcement. In other areas of the state the Florida Board of Building Codes and Standards (the predecessor to the Florida Building Commission) adopted significant upgrades to the wind resistance standards of the model state minimum code that was used by the majority of other local governments. The state also began licensing local governments' building code enforcement personnel. These steps proved critical in leading to the building codes that produced improved building performance in the 2004 hurricane season.

Like Miami-Dade County, the State went beyond modernizing the minimum building codes. In 1996 a study commission was appointed to review the system of local codes created by the 1974 law and to make recommendations for modernizing the entire system. The 1998 Legislature adopted the study commission's recommendations for a single state building code and an enhanced oversight role for the state in local code enforcement. The same legislation created the Florida Building Commission to develop and maintain the Florida Building Code and related programs and processes. The 2000 Legislature authorized implementation of the Florida Building Code, and the first edition replaced all local codes on March 1, 2002.



### III. COMMISSION REPRESENTATION AND PROCESS

**COMMISSION REPRESENTATION.** The Florida Building Commission is a 27\* member representative stakeholder group who successfully created, implemented, and maintains the new statewide Florida Building Code. The Commission is comprised of the Chair, and 26 members appointed to represent specific stakeholder groups. They are as follows: four code officials, two state government representatives, a local government representative, a representative of persons with disability, a structural engineer, a mechanical engineer, representatives of fire protection technology, the building management industry, and the insurance industry, a general contractor, residential contractor, mechanical contractor, plumbing contractor, electrical contractor, roofing/sheet metal/air conditioning contractor, a manufactured building representative, a building product manufacturer, a swimming pool contractor, a representative of the green building industry, a natural gas system distribution representative, and a member representing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Energy.

*\* The 2014 Legislature amended Section 553.74 (1) F.S., to add a 27<sup>th</sup> member representing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Energy, effective July 1, 2014.*

**CONSENSUS PROCESS.** The Florida Building Commission (FBC) seeks to develop consensus decisions on its recommendations and policy decisions. General consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, the members strive for agreements which all of the members can accept, support, live with or agree not to oppose. In instances where, after vigorously exploring possible ways to enhance the members' support for the final decision on substantive decisions, and the Commission finds that 100 percent acceptance or support is not achievable, final decisions require at least 75 percent favorable vote of all members present and voting. This super majority decision rule underscores the importance of actively developing consensus throughout the process on substantive issues with the participation of all members and which all can live with and support.

The Commission's consensus process is conducted as an open public process with multiple opportunities for the public to provide input to the Commission on substantive issues. At each Commission meeting, the public is welcome to speak during the public comment period provided for each substantive issue under consideration, as well as general public comment periods provided at the end of each day's meeting. In addition to these opportunities for public input, most complex substantive issues before the Commission go through a consensus process where recommendations are developed by appointed representative stakeholder groups.

Since its formation in July of 1998, the Commission has demonstrated a commitment to working with affected interests to build consensus on complex issues. The adoption of the first edition of the Florida Building Code (2001 Edition), developed from September 1998 through January of 2001, involved 27 Commission meetings, dozens of facilitated public workshops and hundreds of TAC meetings. The Commission has consistently worked with all affected interests to build the best possible consensus-based decisions for the citizens of Florida. Through its committees and workgroups comprised of experts, the Commission has always developed its decisions based on the results of the best engineering and science available. Since 1999 the Commission has convened 58 special issue stakeholder workgroups to develop broad based consensus recommendations on issues of concern to stakeholders. Although the Code is by law a minimum building code, the Florida Building Code is the strongest consensus and science based building code in the country.

## IV. LEGISLATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

The Florida Legislature through the passage of legislation during the 2013 session charged the Commission with an assignment effecting the Building Code. In response, the Commission worked with stakeholders and affected interests to address the legislative assignment through facilitated processes yielding consensus-based recommendations and Commission decisions. The Commission's actions are detailed in the following section of this report.

### 2013 LEGISLATIVE CODE ASSIGNMENTS STATUS

**Statewide Product Approval System Revisions.** The 2013 Florida Legislature through passage of HB 269 amended Section 553.842, F.S., Product Evaluation and Approval, to require the Commission to initiate rulemaking to include a new category of product for Statewide Product Approval. In addition, products submitted for approval by Method 3 (product evaluation entities) are required to be approved by DBPR using the 10 business day expedited approval process.

*Action Required:* The Commission was required to initiate rulemaking to implement this statutory requirement.

*Status:* The Commission amended Product Approval Rules 61G20-3.001 (Scope), 3.002 (Definitions), and 3.007 (Product Approval by the Commission), to adopt changes to the Product Approval System necessary to implement the 2013 statutory changes to Section 553.842, F.S., Product Evaluation and Approval, requiring the Commission to initiate rulemaking to create a new category of products for Statewide Product Approval titled: "impact protective systems" (.001 Scope, and .002 Definitions). In addition, products submitted for approval by a product evaluation entity (Method 1(c) and Method 2(a)) are now approved by DBPR using the 10-business day expedited approval process (.007, Product Approval by the Commission).

### 2014 LEGISLATIVE CODE ASSIGNMENTS STATUS

The 2014 Florida Legislature through the passage of HB 7147 charged the Commission with assignments effecting the Building Code. The Commission will implement each assignment through appropriate actions. Following are the assignments from the 2014 Legislature:

An amendment to Section 553.73 (15), F.S., requires the Commission to amend the Code to clarify that existing mechanical equipment located on or above the surface of a roof be installed in compliance with the requirements of the Florida Building Code, except when the equipment is being required to be removed or replaced or moved during reroofing and is not in compliance with the provisions of the Florida Building Code relating to roof-mounted mechanical units.

An amendment to Section 553.73 (18), F.S. requires the Commission to amend the Code to provide that in single-family dwellings make up air is not required for range hood exhaust systems of a specified size and capacity.

A new Section 553.883, F.S. requires the Commission to amend the Code to provide that for one-family and two-family dwellings and townhomes undergoing a repair, or a level 1 alteration as defined in the Florida Building Code, it is permissible to use smoke alarms powered by 10-year nonremovable, nonreplaceable batteries in lieu of retrofitting such dwelling with smoke alarms powered by the dwelling's electrical system. Also, effective January 1, 2015, a battery-powered smoke alarm that is newly installed or replaces an existing battery-powered smoke alarm must be powered by a nonremovable, nonreplaceable battery that powers the alarm for at least 10 years.

An amendment to Section 553.37, F.S. requires the Commission to amend the Code to provide for specific inspection criteria for construction of manufactured buildings or modules.

An amendment to Section 553.77, F.S. requires the Commission to amend the Code to require building officials to recognize and enforce variance orders issued by the Department of Health with regard to the provisions of the Florida Building Code specifically pertaining to public swimming pools and bathing places as authorized by Section 514.0115, Florida Statutes.

An amendment to Section 553.79, F.S. requires the Commission to amend the code to prohibit a local enforcing agency from issuing a building permit for a public swimming pool without proof of application for an operating permit before a certificate of completion of occupancy or occupancy is issued.

## V. The FLORIDA BUILDING CODE

The Commission is required by law to update the Florida Building Code (FBC) every three years, and the Fifth Edition represents the fourth update of the Code. Completing the triennial code update process for the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* (2013 Code Update process) was a major focus of the Commission during the reporting period. The Commission conducted the 2013 Code Update process during 2012 and 2013 and the new Code is scheduled to become effective on December 31, 2014. The code update process is based on the code development cycle of the national model building codes, which serve as the “foundation” codes for the Florida Building Code, and 2012 represented the second time the Commission adopted the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as the foundation for the 2013 Florida Energy Code. National model building codes and most engineering standards are updated every three years and the intent is to keep the Code up-to-date with evolving national standards of health, safety and welfare of the public.

The 2013 Update process was initiated with selection of the 2012 I Codes as foundation for the 2013 Florida Building Code. The 2013 Code Update marked the first time that modifications to the foundation code remain effective only until the effective date of a new edition of the Florida Building Code every third year per Section 553.73(7)(g). With the exception that modifications related to state agency regulations, and wind-resistance design of buildings and structures within the high-velocity hurricane zone of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties which are adopted to an edition of the Florida Building Code do not expire and shall be carried forward into the next edition of the code. In addition, provisions of the foundation codes, including those contained in referenced standards and criteria, relating to wind resistance or the prevention of water intrusion may not be modified to diminish those construction requirements. Based on technical staff’s recommendations the Commission’s technical advisory committees conducted the preliminary review and developed recommendations for which to retain based on statutory requirements. In addition, the Fire TAC reviewed and developed recommendations regarding overlaps and correlation issues between the Florida Fire Prevention Code and the Florida Building Code.

For the 2013 Code Update process proposed Code modifications to the Florida Building Code were reviewed by the Commission’s TACs in meetings conducted in October 2012. The TAC’s recommendations regarding proposed Code modifications were posted to the Commission’s website for a minimum of 45 days and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the TACs’ recommendations during this time-frame (second 45-day review period). The TACs met in January 2013 to review the public comments, and provided TAC comments to the Commission regarding whether the submitted public comments addressed TAC concerns relative to their original recommendations on proposed Code modifications (TAC feedback on public comments to the Commission). During the February 2013 meeting the Commission considered the TACs’ recommendations and comments on public comments regarding proposed modifications for the 2013 Florida Building Code. Once the Commission made decisions on all of the proposed Code modifications and local technical amendments submitted for statewide approval, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the Commission’s package of recommendations of approved Code modifications for the 2013 Code Update, and to proceed with rule making.

For the 2013 Code Update the Commission integrated the 2013 Code Update and the Glitch amendment process into a single rule development initiative eliminating the need for a supplement to the Code and resulting in a fully integrated set of the nine volumes comprising the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)*.

In August of 2013 the Commission conducted a rule development workshop pertaining to Rule 61G20-1.001(1), Florida Building Code to consider changes to the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* regarding 2013 Building Code “*Glitch*” fixes proposed pursuant to the statutory criteria allowing adoption without Code development processes, using Chapter 120 rulemaking procedures only. The proposed changes can only be approved if they meet the statutory requirements for “*Glitch*” Amendments pursuant to Section 553.73 (8), Florida Building Code. In August of 2013 the Commission voted unanimously to adopt approved Glitch modifications, the “Supplement” and approved comments, and to proceed with rule adoption for Rule 61G20-1.001(1), Florida Building Code.

Highlights of *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* enhancements include: incorporating IRC high wind area requirements, Florida specific wind resistance water infiltration requirements for Building and Residential codes, Flood requirements integration, swimming pool energy standards inclusion, roofing provisions, wind load provisions, and integration of windows and doors testing and labeling requirements into the Code.

Finally, the Commission voted to make the effective date of the 2013 Florida Building Code midnight December 31, 2014, and to name the Updated Code: *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)*. In order to comply with Section 553.73 (1)(c) requiring that the Florida Fire Prevention Code and the Life Safety Code shall be referenced in the Florida Building Code, this required the Commission to coordinate with the updated version of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, which is being developed with a planned effective date of midnight December 31, 2014. The Commission is required to publish the adopted Code six months prior to the effective date pursuant to Section 553.73 (7)(e), F.S., and as a result the effective date of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* is contingent on the completed adoption of the Florida Fire Prevention Code being at least six months prior to the Florida Building Code’s implementation date.

#### **INTEGRATION OF FLORIDA ACCESSIBILITY LAW INTO THE NEW ADAAG ADOPTED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

As previously reported, Florida’s Accessibility Code was ready for certification concurrent with the effective date of the new ADA Standards for Accessible Design (SAD), and it is currently under review for certification by the DOJ. DOJ reported that the FACBC is in the final stages of review and only has to be reviewed by the Access Board before certification from DOJ. It should be noted that Florida’s Accessibility Code is the first code in the Nation submitted for certification to the new SAD.

## VI. ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES AND CODE CHANGES

During the development of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* the Commission incorporated the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as the foundation code for the *Florida Energy Efficiency Code for Building Construction* while maintaining existing Florida efficiencies. Also consistent with 2013 changes to Section 553.901, F.S., the Commission adopted the Florida Building Code–Energy Conservation as a volume of the Code consistent with other the Code sections and based on the International Building Code. Previously the Commission adopted the Florida Energy Efficiency Code for Building Construction within the Florida Building Code.

During the reporting period the Commission certified to the Department of Energy (DOE) that the 2010 Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation meets or exceeds the residential provisions of the 2009 Edition of the International Energy Conservation Code; and the residential building provisions of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014), Energy Conservation*, will meet or exceed the 2012 edition of the *International Energy Conservation Code* for low-rise residential buildings; and the approved *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014), Energy Conservation*, meet or exceed the 2010 edition of the *Energy Standard for Buildings, Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)/ Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Standard 90.1-2010 for commercial, and the 2012 *International Energy Conservation Code*, for buildings other than low-rise residential buildings. During the previous reporting period the Commission also certified that the *2010 Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation*, meets or exceeds ASHRAE 90.1-2007 and authorized the Chair to send a letter with supporting documentation to the Department of Energy regarding the Commission’s certification. A technical analysis conducted by the University of Central Florida’s Florida Solar Energy Center verified that Florida’s Energy Code exceeds the Federal energy requirements.

## VII. RESEARCH INITIATIVES—HURRICANE RESPONSE AND CODE CHANGES

**Overview.** The Florida Building Code establishes minimum requirements to protect buildings and their occupants from wind, rain, flood and storm surge based on well-researched and continually-evolving engineering standards for buildings and the products that go into their construction. In addition to conducting research, developing state of the art hurricane resistance standards and integrating those standards in the Code at each revision cycle, the Commission seeks to maintain the Code to be up-to-date with the national engineering and product standards. As with each subsequent version, the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* maintains this commitment.

**Hurricane Research.** The Commission has determined that research is a key to effectively and efficiently preventing or minimizing hurricane damage to buildings. The Commission convened the Hurricane Research Advisory Committee in response to Florida's 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons to support code development and identification of studies to address wind-borne debris risks, water intrusion, wind resistance of roof systems, and other construction systems and practices that effect the hurricane resistance of buildings.

The Florida Building Commission's Hurricane Research Advisory Committee (HRAC) continues to meet on an as needed basis to review research and make recommendations to the Commission regarding proposed code enhancements and research needs. The Committee is charged with considering enhancements to the Florida Building Code based on sound science and will continue to meet when needed to review research project updates, provide recommendations on needed research projects and funding for same, and provide recommendations regarding proposed code amendments relevant to hurricane and storm protection enhancements.

During the reporting period the Commission received final reports pertaining to existing hurricane related research projects conducted by the University of Florida and partially funded by the Commission including wind and wind-driven rain resistance of residential soffit panel systems, wind resistance of green and vegetative roofs and development of a wind test protocol for hurricane rain and wind conditions, and wind resistance of clay and concrete roofing tiles research.

**Building Code System Research.** During the reporting period the Commission discussed whether research funded by the Commission should be broader in scope than hurricane and associated wind related topics. Following a discussion and an opportunity for public comment the Commission voted to evaluate expanding research projects considered for Commission funding based on recommendations from the Commission's TACs and POCs. Following a vote of support for expanding research topics in concept, Chairman Browdy requested staff convene each of the eleven technical advisory committees (TACs) and two program oversight committees (POCs) for a discussion of possible research topics for Commission funding. After the TACs and POCs met and developed recommendations Chairman Browdy convened a meeting of the TAC/POC chairs to discuss the TACs' and POCs' recommendations prior to submittal of a recommendation to the Commission. The TAC chairs met twice and developed recommendations to the Commission to fund a broad scope of Building Code System related research projects.

As a result, the Commission expanded the funding of important research projects to include: accessibility, corrosion resistance of fasteners, opening protection fastening, wind load testing of aluminum screen enclosures, in-home storm shelters, fire protection in attics, humidity control in homes, ventilation and airtightness in homes, and mechanical system duct sealing for equipment replacement.

Chairman Browdy has determined that the TAC/POC chairs will meet periodically to review the status of existing research projects and to make recommendations to the Commission going forward regarding appropriate research topics and projects for funding.



## VIII. PRODUCT APPROVAL

The Florida Building Code establishes standards for products integrated into buildings in addition to standards for the design of buildings themselves. Unlike prescriptive standards in the Code that can be easily verified by building officials, how well products such as windows perform cannot be determined by review of drawings or inspection of the product alone. Yet compliance of the individual products is fundamental to compliance of the overall building. To determine whether products and building systems comply, the building official must rely on engineers and testing laboratories to evaluate performance then rely on the manufacturers to maintain quality control of production to ensure that production products perform like the ones tested. The product approval system framed in law and implemented through rule requires accreditation of the product evaluators and quality assurance monitors and standardizes the information that must be provided to demonstrate code compliance.

The Commission directed a major part of its efforts since its inception in 1998 to developing a standardized system for public regulation from the many combinations of product evaluation and quality control monitoring services provided by private companies. The diversity of approaches used in different industries for product evaluation and quality control monitoring make standardization particularly difficult, and a considerable amount of time and effort have been dedicated to this task. Patience and hard work characterize the contributions of all parties.

Working in collaboration with stakeholders the Commission continues to monitor and fine tune the Product Approval System ensuring that the System is functioning more efficiently and user friendly, and user satisfaction, as determined by System user surveys, is very high.

During the reporting period the Commission reviewed and approved products and product approval entities, and considered complaints filed against products. Through product revocation, the Commission is authorized to revoke product approvals for products that no longer comply with the requirements of their product approvals, providing a key tool for maintaining the efficacy of the Product Approval System and providing protection for Florida consumers.

The Product Approval system is processing hundreds of applications monthly with efficiency and the satisfaction of the product manufacturers who use the system. The Commission's Product Approval Program Oversight Committee (POC) convenes prior to every Commission meeting, and met six times during the reporting period to review product and entity applications, address petitions for declaratory statements and consider enhancements to the product approval system. Since the system went into effect in October 2003, the Commission has approved 18,886 product applications and 83,217 products for statewide use within limitations established by the approvals, and has approved or revised 274 product approval entities under the 2010 Code.

During the reporting period the Commission voted to charge DBPR staff with assuming administration of the Product Approval System, initially working with the current staffing levels, beginning January 1, 2014, and to amend Rule 61G20-3.007 to revise the payment screen as needed to correlate with approved changes in the administration of the Product Approval System. The change in administration is working well and stakeholders report satisfaction with the process.

During the reporting period the Commission also amended Product Approval Rules 61G20-3.001 (Scope), 3.002 (Definitions), and 3.007 (Product Approval by the Commission), to adopt changes to the Product Approval System necessary to implement 2013 statutory changes to Section 553.842, F.S., Product Evaluation and Approval, requiring the Commission to initiate rulemaking to create a new category of products for Statewide Product Approval titled: “impact protective systems” (.001 Scope, and .002 Definitions). The Commission implemented these requirements by rule, and also adopted the Product Approval POC’s recommendation not to include a definition for “impact protective systems” in Rule 61G20-3.002 (Definitions). As directed, products submitted for approval by a product evaluation entity (Method 1(c) and Method 2(a)) are now approved by DBPR using the 10-business day expedited approval process (.007, Product Approval by the Commission). Finally, the Commission amended Rule 61G20.3015, Equivalence of Standards, to recognize that FRSA/TRI 07320-5 is recognized as equivalent to FRSA/TRI Fifth Edition for determining Code compliance, and ANSI/DASMA 108-2012 is recognized as equivalent to ANSI/DASMA 108-2005 for determining Code compliance.

Finally, the Commission approved 27,981 products, 6,034 product applications, 13 accreditation bodies, 43 certification agencies, 6 evaluation entities, 81 quality assurance entities, 167 testing laboratories, and 57 validation entities (new and renewed/revised) under the 2010 Florida Building Code. Following are relevant product approval system statistics on product approvals:

**PRODUCT APPROVAL STATISTICS UPDATE**

CODE VERSION	2004		2007		2010	
	Applications	Products	Applications	Products	Applications	Products
Approved	5,593	22,575	5,767	27,529	5,312	24,565
Applied For	31	39	103	433	75	383
Denied	154	482	11	26	5	16
Validated	15	28	50	184	27	132
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	0
Re-Apply	3	3	19	282	12	62
Pending FBC Approval	1	1	76	244	112	583
Revoked	6	17	1	1	0	0
Archived	528	1828	675	2582	450	2,000
Over 180 Days Old and Not Approved, Denied, Validated, or Pending Status	3	7	32	207	41	240
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,334</b>	<b>24,980</b>	<b>6,734</b>	<b>31,488</b>	<b>6,034</b>	<b>27,981</b>

## **IX. BUILDING CODE TRAINING PROGRAM**

Education is one of the cornerstones of the Building Code System, and the effectiveness of the Building Code depends on the knowledge of professionals who design and construct buildings. The Commission continues to work with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and representatives of the licensing boards to establish a cooperative system for approving building code courses and integrating building code continuing education into licensing requirements.

The state building code system, first established in 1974, was overhauled in 1998 to improve its effectiveness. The Legislature recognized that the effectiveness of the Florida Building Code depended on the various participants' knowledge of the codes. The Building Code Training Program was intended to improve compliance and enforcement by providing a focus for code-related education through coordination of existing training resources, including those of universities, community colleges, vocational technical schools, private construction schools and industry and professional associations. As specified in law, the Commission's role is limited to the approval of code related courses, which are developed and submitted by private sector education and training providers to the Commission for approval. The Commission has no authority to determine the number of hours or courses for code related education and training. The licensing board for the respective category of affected licensee makes this determination.

During the reporting period, the Commission, based on recommendations developed by the Commission's Education Program Oversight Committee (POC) in collaboration with the program administrator and other entities, implemented education and outreach initiatives designed to ensure that Florida construction and design industries licensees are informed about Florida Building Code requirements and related specific duties.

The Commission amended the Education Rule, 61G20-6.002, Florida Administrative Code as follows:

- To clarify the deadline (23 days prior to the next FBC meeting) for course submission and accreditation;
- To clarify the definition of a self-affirmed course;
- To clarify the process of a self-affirmed course reverting to a revised course;
- To clarify when courses can be submitted/accredited/approved, specifically when the building code is approved versus adopted;
- To clarify the requirement of the code edition inclusion in the title of an advanced course; and
- To clarify the process for course revisions related to laws and rules changes versus building code changes.

Working with the education administrator and using the clearinghouse developed to bring together information on needs and availability of continuing education courses, process as well as underlying information, the Commission addressed specific education and outreach needs as follows:

- Developed and executed modifications to the Building Code Information System adding enhancement and usefulness to the system;
- Conducted 40 extensive training sessions (7 and 8-hour programs), training 2,649 building department personnel, design and construction licensees and home inspectors on hurricane mitigation design and construction, property insurance code requirements and issues, and manufactured housing;
- Conducted two education and training workgroup meetings to solicit input and recommendations from interested parties;
- Developed and delivered five informational flyers for use by industry personnel and consumers relating to fire/life safety, flood, wind, energy, and accessibility;
- Developed and delivered Florida Building Code-related education, training, and outreach specific to the Florida Building Code and mitigation and energy, including email and other messaging notifications, print and electronic media campaigns, website links between sites, development and preparation for seminars, as well as outreach promoting energy (Green Building Show) and mitigation (Hurricane Alley) zones at a Florida-based trade conference, Southeastern Builders Conference;
- Operated and enhanced a clearinghouse for the exchange of information for mitigation and repairs in the aftermath of a natural disaster;
- Provided 178 non-binding opinions relating to interpretations of building code provisions; and
- Administered six meetings and tasks of the Commission's Education and Outreach Program Oversight Committee, including conducting meetings; managing, review and approval of 38 course applications; handling 64 inquiries from licensees, providers and the public; and developing, refining, and modifying guidelines and information on course development and processing.

## X. FLORIDA BUILDING CODE SYSTEM UPDATES AND COMMISSION ACTIONS

### FLORIDA BUILDING CODE SYSTEM

Florida Statute, Chapter 553.77(1)(b), requires the Commission to make a continual study of the Florida Building Code System and related laws and on a triennial basis report findings and recommendations to the Legislature for provisions of law that should be changed. The Commission conducted the first assessment in 2005 and the second in 2012 for the purpose of evaluating the Florida Building Code System for its successes and deficiencies, and identifying and selecting options for improvement. The Commission will conduct the next assessment concurrent with the development of the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Florida Building Code.

The Florida Building Code System as envisioned by the Building Codes Study Commission and implemented by the Florida Legislature in 1998 is comprised of five key foundations. Known as the *Five Foundations for a Better Built Environment*, they are: the Code (Florida Building Code), the Commission (Florida Building Commission), Local Administration of the Code, Strengthening Compliance and Enforcement (Education), and Product Approval.

#### **FOUNDATION I—THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE AND THE CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.**

The Florida Building Code is a statewide code implemented in 2001 and updated every three years. The Florida Building Commission developed the first edition of the Florida Building Code from 1999 through 2001, and is responsible for maintaining the Code through annual interim amendments and a triennial foundation code update.

During the reporting period the Commission conducted the 2013 Code Update process with a focus on removing (unnecessary) and maintaining (needed) Florida Specific requirements to the Code, achieving the goal of minimum variation from the foundations codes. Of note, for the 2013 Code Update the Commission integrated the 2013 Code Update and the Glitch amendment process into a single rule development initiative eliminating the need for a supplement to the Code and resulting in a fully integrated set of the nine volumes comprising *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* with a scheduled effective date of December 31, 2014. The development of the 2013 Code involved special issue stakeholder workgroups, rule development workshops and rule adoption hearings, all providing extensive opportunity for public participation.

During the next fiscal year (FY 2014-2015), the Commission will be pursuing final adoption of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* based on the date of final adoption of the *Florida Fire Prevention Code 2013*. In addition, the Commission will be working to ensure a smooth transition to the updated Code, and implementation of 2014 Legislative Code amendment assignments.

**FOUNDATION II—THE COMMISSION.** The Commission is an appointed representative stakeholder body that develops, amends and updates the Code. The Commission is composed of members representing each of the key interests in the Building Code System. The Commission meets every eight weeks and, in addition to its code development responsibilities, regularly considers

petitions for declaratory statements, accessibility waiver requests, the approval of products and entities, and the approval of education courses and course accreditors. The Commission also monitors the Building Code System and reports to the Legislature annually with its recommendations for changes to statute and law.

During the past two years the Commission received 18 new members, and during the reporting period a key focus has been on integrating and educating the new members to ensure they have the support they need to function as effective commissioners.

During the next fiscal year, the Commission will maintain their focus on increasing the capacity of its new members, and working with building construction industry stakeholders to build consensus on relevant aspects of the Florida Building Code System.

**FOUNDATION III—LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE CODE.** Florida Law requires that the Code be administered and enforced by local government building and fire officials. The Commission has certain authorities in this respect such as the number and type of required inspections.

During the reporting period the Commission continued to work with local building officials to provide support as requested and as appropriate.

During the next fiscal year the Commission remains committed to enhancing communication and collaboration with local building and fire officials for the efficient and seamless functioning of the Florida Building Code System. In addition, the Commission is committed to working with stakeholders to identify and resolve any issues related to the administration and enforcement of the Florida Building Code System.

**FOUNDATION IV—STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT.** Compliance and enforcement of the Code is a critical component of the system, and the Commission's emphasis in this regard is on education and training. The Commission's Education Program Oversight Committee (POC), working with the program administrator and other entities, implemented initiatives collaboratively to ensure Florida construction and design industries licensees are informed about Florida Building Code requirements and aware of related specific duties.

During the reporting period, the Commission reviewed and approved education courses and course accreditors. In addition, the Commission, working in collaboration with stakeholders, implemented changes to enhance the efficacy of the Education System by revising the Education Rule to clarify the following: the deadline for course submission and accreditation; the definition of a self-affirmed course; the process of a self-affirmed course reverting to a revised course; when courses can be submitted/accredited/approved; the requirement of the code edition inclusion in the title of an advanced course; and the process for course revisions related to laws and rules changes versus building code changes.

For the next fiscal year, the Commission will continue to work with stakeholders to identify any issues, and implement any recommended enhancements to the Education System.

**FOUNDATION V—PRODUCT EVALUATION AND APPROVAL.** To promote innovation and new technologies, a product and evaluation system was determined to be the fifth cornerstone of an effective Building Code System. The product approval process should have specific criteria and strong steps to determine that a product or system is appropriately tested and complies with the Code. Quality control should be performed by independent agencies and testing laboratories that meet stated criteria and are periodically inspected. A quality assurance program was also deemed essential. The Commission adopted a Product Approval System by rule and currently approves products for state approval and product approval entities. Local product approval remains under the purview of local building officials as part of the building permit approval process.

During the reporting period the Commission turned over administration of the Product Approval System to DBPR staff, and amended the Product Approval Rule to implement legislative assignments including the creation a new category of products for Statewide Product Approval titled: “impact protective systems, and providing that products submitted for approval by a product evaluation entity (Method 1(c) and Method 2(a)) are now approved by DBPR using the 10-business day expedited approval process. The Commission is also implementing a Rule revision in collaboration with System stakeholders to provide for the equivalence of standards for demonstrating code compliance for certain specified standards.

During the next fiscal year the Commission will complete the adoption of Product Approval Rule revisions under development. In addition, the Commission will continue to work with stakeholders during the next fiscal year to enhance the Product Approval System including evaluating possible revisions to the Rule requested by industry stakeholders.

FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2015 LEGISLATURE

**XI. APPENDICES**

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**APPENDIX A**  
**KEY TO COMMON ACRONYMS**

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
ADA	Americans With Disabilities Act
ADAAG	ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
BCSA	Florida Building Code System Assessment
BOAF	Building Officials Association of Florida
DACS or FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
DBPR	Department of Business and Professional Regulations
DCA	Department of Community Affairs
DEP or FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DOH or FDoH	Florida Department of Health
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FACBC	Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction
FAW	Florida Administrative Weekly
FBC	Florida Building Code
FBC	Florida Building Commission
FECC	Florida Energy and Conservation Code
IBC	International Building Code
ICC	International Code Council
POC	Program Oversight Committee (Education, Product Approval)
SAD	ADA Standards for Accessibility Design
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee

## APPENDIX B

### COMMISSION MILESTONES FOR JULY 2013 – JUNE 2014

[http://consensus.fsu.edu/FBC/fbc\\_documents.html](http://consensus.fsu.edu/FBC/fbc_documents.html)

- JULY 2013** Commission votes to certify to the U.S. Department of Energy that the 2010 Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation, meets or exceeds the residential provisions of the 2009 Edition of the International Energy Conservation Code.
- AUGUST 2013** The Commission meets in Ft. Lauderdale and receives two new appointments and two reappointments. Commission conducts rule development workshop on Rule 61G20-1.001, Florida Building Code Adopted, to consider and decide on TAC recommendations regarding proposed “Glitch” amendments, and moves to proceed with rule adoption for the 2013 Florida Building Code. Commission votes to make the effective date of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* December 31, 2014. Commission certifies to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that that the approved residential building provisions of the 2013 *Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation*, will meet or exceed the 2012 edition of the *International Energy Conservation Code* for low-rise residential buildings; and the approved 2013 *Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation*, meet or exceed the 2010 edition of the *Energy Standard for Buildings, Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)/ Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Standard 90.1-2010 for commercial, and the 2012 *International Energy Conservation Code*, for buildings other than low-rise residential buildings. Commission votes to repeal Rule 61G20-5, Thermal Efficiency Standards. Commission conducts rule development workshop regarding Product Approval Rule 61G20-3.001 (Scope), 3.002 (Definitions), and 3.007 (Product Approval by the Commission), to adopt changes to the Product Approval System necessary to implement 2013 statutory changes to Section 553.842, F.S.. Commission votes to expand funding research initiatives beyond hurricane resistance research to additional topical code issues. Finally, the Commission approves a new Commission logo; and adopts resolutions of commendation for retired Commissioners.
- OCTOBER 2013** The Commission meets in Orlando and receives eight new appointments and one reappointment. Commission conducts a rule development workshop on Rule 61G20-6.002, FAC, pertaining to Building Code Education and votes to approve associated regulatory costs and to conduct a supplemental rule development workshop. Commission conducts a supplemental rule development workshop on Product Approval rules 61G20-3.001, 61G20-3.002 and 61G20-3.007 for the purpose of implementing changes to the

Product Approval System necessary to implement 2013 statutory changes to Section 553.842, F.S., Product Evaluation and Approval and approves associated regulatory costs, and proceeds with rule adoption for rules 61G20-3.001, 61G20-3.002. Commission votes to conduct a supplemental rule development workshop on Rule 61G20-3.007, for the purpose of revising the payment screen as needed to correlate with approved changes in administration of the Product Approval System. Commission approves funding proposed research projects based on funding estimates, and research and administrative oversight from University of Florida. Commission approves DBPR staff assuming administration of the Product Approval System starting January 1, 2014; receives an update regarding DOJ certification of the Florida Accessibility Code and receives briefings on relevant legal matters. Finally, the Commission adopts resolutions of commendation for retired Commissioners and DBPR staff.

**DECEMBER 2013**

The Commission meets in St. Pete Beach and discusses administration of the Binding and Non-Binding Interpretations of the Florida Building Code process deciding stakeholders should pursue statutory changes to address stakeholder concerns pertaining to the binding interpretation process; conducts a rule development workshop on Rule 61G20-6.002, FAC, pertaining to Building Code Education for the purpose of revising the rule to allow the approval of courses that are based on Commission approves changes to the Code that are not yet formally adopted by rule; conducts a rule development workshop on Product Approval Rule 61G20-3.007 for the purpose of revising the payment screen as needed to correlate with approved changes in administration of the Product Approval System; conducts a rule development workshop on Product Approval Rule 61G20-3.015, FAC, pertaining to Product Approval Equivalence of Standards, for the purpose of approving additional standards and associated regulatory costs; and, approves funding of additional proposed research projects based on funding estimates provided, and research and administrative oversight from the University of Florida.

**FEBRUARY 2014**

The Commission meets in St. Augustine and is briefed on relevant legislation pending for the 2014 Legislative Session. The Commission is briefed on DBPR's filing of a Notice of Correction to add language relating to legislative ratification to the Summary of Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs and Legislative Ratification pertaining to Product Approval Rules 61G20-3.001 (Scope) and Rule 3.002 (Definitions). Commission approves dates for 2014 Legislative teleconference Commission meetings.

**APRIL 2014**

The Commission meets in Kissimmee and is briefed on relevant legislation pending for the 2014 Legislative Session. The Commission is briefed on the adoption of the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Florida Building Code (2014); and a summary of issues and recommendations pertaining to the Commission's Annual Report (FY 2013-2014). The Commission approved the Education POC's recommendations for revisions to the Education Rule, voting to

**[DRAFT: FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL JUNE 20, 2014]**

proceed with rule adoption for Rule 61G20-6.002, Commission Approval and Accreditation of Advanced Building Code Training Courses, and to conduct a rule adoption hearing only if requested.

**JUNE 2014**

The Commission meets in St. Augustine and...

## APPENDIX C

### COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY REPORTS FY 2013-2014

**August 22 - 23, 2013 Meeting.** At the August 22 - 23, 2013 meeting the Commission considered and decided on Chair's issues and recommendations, product and entity approvals, applications for accreditor and course approvals, petitions for declaratory statements, accessibility waivers, and recommendations from the Commission's various committees. Specific actions included: conducting a rule development workshop on Rule 61G20-1.001, Florida Building Code adopting approved Glitch modifications and proceeding with rule adoption; making the effective date of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)* December 31, 2014; certifying to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that the approved residential building provisions of the 2013 *Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation*, will meet or exceed the 2012 edition of the *International Energy Conservation Code* for low-rise residential buildings; and the approved 2013 *Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation*, meet or exceed the 2010 edition of the *Energy Standard for Buildings, Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)/ Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Standard 90.1-2010 for commercial, and the 2012 *International Energy Conservation Code*, for buildings other than low-rise residential buildings; and, voting to expand the funding of research initiatives beyond hurricane resistance research to additional topical code issues as recommended by the Commission's TACs. In addition, the Commission repealed the Energy Code Rule (Rule 61G20-5, Thermal Efficiency Standards); and, conducted a rule development workshop on Product Approval rules 61G20-3.001, 61G20-3.002 and 61G20-3.007 for the purpose of implementing changes to the Product Approval System necessary to implement 2013 statutory changes to Section 553.842, F.S., Product Evaluation and Approval. Finally, the Commission approved a new Commission logo; and adopted resolutions of commendation for retired Commissioners.

The full report is available on the BCIS (select meeting month Facilitator's Report) at the following URL: [http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/2013\\_Archive\\_Commission\\_Meetings.html](http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/2013_Archive_Commission_Meetings.html)

**October 18, 2013 Meeting.** At the October 18, 2013 meeting the Commission received eight new appointments and one reappointment. The Commission considered and decided on Chair's issues and recommendations, product and entity approvals, applications for accreditor and course approvals, petitions for declaratory statements, accessibility waivers, and recommendations from the Commission's various committees. In addition the Commission conducted an orientation session receiving an overview of the resources, processes and procedures applicable to service on the Florida Building Commission. Specific actions included: charging DBPR staff with assuming administration of the Product Approval System starting January 1, 2014; conducted a rule development workshop on Rule 61G20-6.002, FAC, pertaining to Building Code Education and approved associated regulatory costs, and conducting a supplemental rule development workshop; conducted a supplemental rule development workshop on Product Approval rules 61G20-3.001, 61G20-3.002 and 61G20-3.007 for the purpose of implementing changes to the Product Approval System necessary to implement 2013 statutory changes to Section 553.842, F.S., Product Evaluation and Approval, approved associated regulatory costs, adopted rule language and proceeded with rule adoption for 61G20-3.001, 61G20-3.002, and voted to conduct a supplemental rule development

workshop for 61G20-3.007 for the purpose of revising the payment screen as needed to correlate with approved changes in administration of the Product Approval System; and, approved funding of proposed research projects based on funding estimates provided, and research and administrative oversight from the University of Florida. Finally, the Commission received an update regarding progress of DOJ certification of the Florida Accessibility Code; received briefings on relevant legal matters; and, adopted resolutions of commendation for retired Commissioners and DBPR staff.

The full report is available on the BCIS (select meeting month Facilitator's Report) at the following URL: [http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/2013\\_Archive\\_Commission\\_Meetings.html](http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/2013_Archive_Commission_Meetings.html)

**December 13, 2013 Meeting.** At the December 13, 2013 meeting the Commission considered and decided on Chair's issues and recommendations, product and entity approvals, applications for accreditor and course approvals, petitions for declaratory statements, accessibility waivers, and recommendations from the Commission's various committees. Specific actions included: discussion of the administration of the Binding and Non-Binding Interpretations of the Florida Building Code processes deciding stakeholders should pursue statutory changes to address stakeholder concerns pertaining to the binding interpretation process; conducted a rule development workshop on Rule 61G20-6.002, FAC, pertaining to Building Code Education for the purpose of revising the rule to allow the approval of courses that are based on Commission approved changes to the Code that are not yet formally adopted by rule; conducted a rule development workshop on Product Approval Rule 61G20-3.007 for the purpose of revising the payment screen as needed to correlate with approved changes in administration of the Product Approval System; conducted a rule development workshop on Product Approval Rule 61G20-3.015, FAC, Pertaining to Product Approval Equivalence of Standards, for the purpose of approving additional equivalent standards (FRSA/TRI 07320-5 is recognized as equivalent to FRSA/TRI Fifth Edition, and ANSI/DASMA 108-2012 is recognized as equivalent to ANSI/DASMA 108-2005 for determining Code compliance) and associated regulatory costs; and, approved funding of additional proposed research projects based on funding estimates provided, and research and administrative oversight from the University of Florida.

The full report is available on the BCIS (select meeting month Facilitator's Report) at the following URL: [http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/2013\\_Archive\\_Commission\\_Meetings.html](http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/commission/2013_Archive_Commission_Meetings.html)

**February 21, 2014 Meeting.** At the February 21, 2014 meeting the Commission considered and decided on Chair's issues and recommendations, product and entity approvals, applications for accreditor and course approvals, petitions for declaratory statements, accessibility waivers, and recommendations from the Commission's various committees. The Commission received briefings on proposed legislation relevant to the Commission and the Florida Building Code; and JAPC requiring DBPR to file a Notice of Correction to add language relating to legislative ratification to the Summary of Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs and Legislative Ratification pertaining to Product Approval Rules 61G20-3.001 (Scope) and Rule 3.002 (Definitions). Specific actions included: approving dates for 2014 Legislative teleconference Commission meetings.

The full report is available on the BCIS by selecting the Facilitator's Report for the meeting month at the following URL: <http://www.myfloridalicenses.com/dbpr/bcs/buildingcomm.html>

**April 17, 2014 Meeting.** At the April 17, 2014 meeting the Commission considered and decided on Chair's issues and recommendations, product and entity approvals, applications for accreditor and course approvals, petitions for declaratory statements, accessibility waivers, and recommendations from the Commission's various committees. The Commission received briefings on proposed legislation relevant to the Commission and the Florida Building Code; adoption of the *Florida Building Code Fifth Edition (2014)*; and a summary of issues and recommendations pertaining to the Commission's Annual Report (FY 2013-2014). Specific actions included: approving the Education POC's recommendations for revisions to the Education Rule, proceeding with rule adoption for Rule 61G20-6.002, Commission Approval and Accreditation of Advanced Building Code Training Courses, conducting a rule adoption hearing only if requested.

The full report is available on the BCIS by selecting the Facilitator's Report for the meeting month at the following URL: <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/bcs/buildingcomm.html>

**June 20, 2014 Meeting.** At the June 20, 2014 meeting the Commission considered and decided on...

The full report is available on the BCIS by selecting the Facilitator's Report for the meeting month at the following URL: <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/bcs/buildingcomm.html>