

BIG CHANGES IN CODES AND STANDARDS

1. Changes in Construction Codes (from *Living Witness*, a Philadelphia Yearly Meeting publication about care of Quaker meetinghouses)

Prior to April 9, 2004 every township, borough, and city within Pennsylvania had the power to decide which construction code would be used in its municipality, resulting in a variety of codes throughout the state. However, on April 9th the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania implemented the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), establishing the same minimum standards for new construction and remodeling throughout the state. Although local governments are intended to be the primary enforcement agents of this code, they may decline to administer and enforce it, thereby leaving enforcement to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (in the case of commercial construction) or to a certified third-party agency (in the case of residential permits and inspections). Municipalities are required to make their decision to opt-in to enforcement or to opt-out by no later than August 7, 2004.

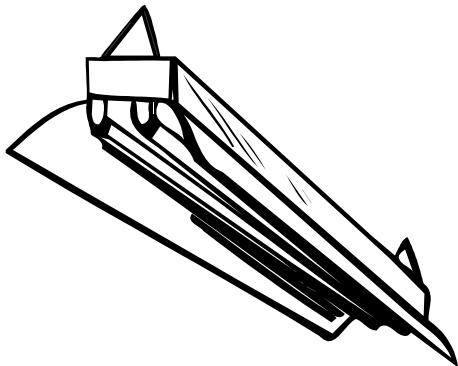
The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry's <http://www.dli.state.pa.us> (click on "FAQs" and then "Construction Code"). The code adopted for energy is the Conservation Code 2003. With regard to applicability of the Uniform Construction Code states: "The BOCA [Building Officials and Code Administrators National Building Code, Fourteenth Edition, relating to alteration, addition, restoration and movement of to existing buildings and structures, or new buildings intended for residential use on historic sites, that are by the Federal, State or local government authority as historic buildings or sites where such buildings and structures are judged by the code official to be safe and in the interest of public health, safety and welfare." The 2003 editions of the codes have now been adopted.



web-site, click on "Uniform International Energy of the law, Section 902 provisions of the 1999 International, Inc.] the construction, repair, structures shall not apply and structures not identified and classified

Given these new codes and, in many municipalities, the new ways in which they will be enforced, monthly meeting Property Committees will want to be sure to select knowledgeable design professionals to guide them through any building project, and they will want to budget plenty of time for the entire process.

2. Electromagnetic Ballasts are Being Phased Out



For the past few years, ICE has recommended T8 (1-inch) fluorescent tubes with electronic ballasts because they use fewer watts and can have much more pleasant light than the old T12 (1½ inch) tubes with electromagnetic ballasts. Effective April 1, 2005, ballast manufacturers must meet new minimum ballast efficacy requirements (BEF's), which means that you will be seeing more and more T8s with electronic ballasts, which your congregation should have been buying anyway.

After July 1, 2005 ballast manufacturers will not be able to sell them to light fixture manufacturers that do not meet the new standards. The manufacture of ballasts not meeting the new BEF values, but still meeting the old BEF values, however, is allowed for replacement use only until June 30, 2010. After July 1, 2010 ballasts, including replacements, can no longer be manufactured unless they meet the new BEF guidelines.

3. Residential Air Conditioner Efficiency Increases

In January 2006, the seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) for new residential air conditioning systems will increase from 10 to 13. After three years of legal battles, the Department of Energy and manufacturers have agreed to this improvement.

4. New Fluorescent Lamp Disposal Regulations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued their "Universal Waste" rule regarding the disposal of lamps containing mercury, effective on January 6, 2000. Now, lamps with a mercury content at or above a specific level (lamps which do not pass the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure [TCLP] test) are to be handled as a universal (non-hazardous) waste provided that they are delivered intact (unbroken) directly to a properly qualified lamp disposal company. The lamps cannot be included with other non-hazardous construction waste, nor can the lamps be intentionally crushed, which releases the toxic material to the atmosphere, and could lead to serious penalties from state and /or federal authorities.

Residences can dispose of small quantities of lamps with their everyday municipal waste. In adopting its version of the rules, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) effectively mandates lamp recycling at all sites (except residential) in Pennsylvania. That means that nearly all non-TCLP-compliant lamps must be properly disposed of virtually every time they are removed from service. The intent of the DEP is that all mercury-containing lamps be recycled. For more information concerning mercury-containing lamps, search for the keyword 'Mercury' at the PADEP's website <http://www.dgp.state.pa.us/>. If you are not in PA, consult your state's DEP for their requirements.

The costs of recycling can range from 10 to 15 cents per foot of lamp for linear fluorescent lamps, \$0.50 to \$1.00 per lamp for compact fluorescent (CF) lamps, and \$1.00 to \$2.00 each for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps (due, in part, to their more unique material content and complexity). HID lamps include mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium and neon. For more information visit the lamp industry website: <http://www.lamprecycle.org/>, or the Association of Lamp and Mercury Recyclers (ALMR) at their website: <http://www.almr.org>.

All three major lamp manufacturers now offer a wide range of fluorescent, CF, and HID lamps that pass the TCLP test with (in most cases) no additional price premium.

Our thanks to professional engineer Carl Watson for the above lamp disposal information. ICE

OUR MISTAKE IN DEREGULATED ELECTRICITY RULES

In our last newsletter (#89) we wrote, "ElectricAmerica is once again offering lower cost, deregulated electricity to PECO Energy and Public Service Electric and Gas customers. Their call center in California offers a 5% reduction in generation and transmission cost, but even greater savings might be achieved by calling their New Jersey office at 888-817-8572. Ask for John Kittredge. Be sure to read their contract carefully before you sign. If you wish, we can send you comments about the contract from one ICE Advisory Board member. If you have ever purchased deregulated electricity before, start after your May meter reading to avoid penalties from PECO Energy." **Our mistake is that we should have written "before your May meter reading."** ICE

PGW INTERRUPTIBLE RATE IS NO BARGAIN

Up to 1994, congregations within Philadelphia's city limits could save money with Philadelphia Gas Works' interruptible rate called BPS, for "boiler plant service." In moderate weather during the heating season, congregations that could shift to an alternate fuel, such as #2 fuel oil, could burn PGW natural gas at a lower cost than oil. When the weather became cold, PGW could demand that congregations shift to the alternate fuel to free up capacity and limit purchases of more expensive gas. Then, in 1993 PGW stated they would require a minimum volume of gas to be on Rate BPS. The Interfaith Coalition on Energy intervened on behalf of Philadelphia's congregations to abolish any such volumetric limit. We lost.

Are the prices for interruptible gas still low? Absolutely not. For the month of May 2004, the cost per CCF of gas under the BPS rate that applies to congregations was \$1.202. The equivalent price for #2 fuel oil for the same amount of heating energy is about \$1.60 per gallon. Right now, it costs about \$1.24 for City congregations. ICE

ICE INTERVENES IN WATER RATE CASE

The Philadelphia Water Department is asking for \$313,000,000 more income from its customers within the Philadelphia city limits. Once again, ICE intends to intervene to minimize the increase in water costs for Philadelphia's congregations. We are joined by Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Apartment Association of Greater Philadelphia, the University of the Arts, Trigen of Philadelphia, Jefferson Health System and the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council. The hearings should happen within a few weeks. We'll let you know how they turn out. The last time we intervened, we shaved about \$3 million off their request. The Water Commission also ordered the PWD to make sure that congregations had the smallest practical water meters and were receiving their 25% Charitable Discount. ICE



VERY, VERY OLD HEATING SYSTEM BOOKS – YOURS FOR THE CLICKING



Dan Holohan is a remarkable man. He supports the heating industry by writing books, presenting very enjoyable seminars, holding gatherings of contractors and other interested folks, and operating a large and helpful website -- www.heatinghelp.com. In a section of that website called "The Wall," you can ask questions of contractors and other experts and get responses within a few minutes or hours. On May 7 2004, for example, the topics were replacing ornate radiators, heating sidewalks, Buderus boilers, monoflow fittings, cleaning copper and many more exciting threads of communication.

Now Dan is offering another service. He has scanned some of his very old heating books and put them on his website. What do you think is in the 1745 document from the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London entitled "A Proposal of Warming Rooms by the Steam of Boiler Water Conveyed in Pipes along the Walls"? Or how about a few pages from Thomas Tredgold's 1936 book about "The Origin of the British Thermal Unit." Yours for the click of a mouse. ICE

WHO NEEDS TO PAY FOR LIGHTS IN SODA MACHINES?

As we described in our newsletter number 84, your congregation can purchase a small, but very good, "Kill-a-Watt" electric meter to measure the electricity used by 110-volt appliances. When we survey the energy used by buildings, we install them on refrigerators, freezers, computers, electric water coolers and soda machines.

At the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, we spotted a coke machine with lights and immediately installed a Kill-a-Watt meter, recommending that they disconnect the ballasts for the lights to advertise soda. Not only do the lights cost money to run, they also heat up the refrigerated compartment a bit. They disconnected the ballasts, and we metered the machine without the lights. The congregation will save \$117 per year by keeping the lights off. ICE



DONATING TO THE INTERFAITH COALITION ON ENERGY



There are a number of reasons to give money to us:

- You may have extra money lying around, and you don't know what to do with it.
- Perhaps you want to support an energy conservation organization that solely represents the interests of people of faith.
- Maybe you like ICE; maybe one of our articles or a phone conversation saved your congregation money.

Whatever your reasons, please send ICE a check so that we may continue to serve.

ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027

Thanks. ICE