

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Bill Lilly <bill.lilly@califiving.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:12 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Cc: Jeff Ruth; Josh Cook
Subject: 12-HERS-1 HERS OII Comments

California Energy Commission

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TN # 75435

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To: California Energy Commission

12-HERS-1

Re. Comments and suggestions regarding OII Webinar FV/DT.

I will not go into detail on most of the issues discussed because better writers than I have done a better job. However, I will try to shine a different light from my point of view that would hopefully bring some clarity to the issue. Lastly, I might be able to help by supporting a good idea.

Mentoring

1. Providers should set up a mentoring system. Very few of newly certified raters are ready to hit the floor running. After passing the requirements to become a rater the individual should be required to test a certain number of measures after successful completion of the Provider training program. Obviously, the easiest way to accomplish mentoring is for the individual to seek employment with another rater company. At CLE, we require a prospective rater to spend one month riding with our senior raters before we set up the classes to become certified. If a rater decides to forge ahead on their own without working for a rater company, chances are poor that they will still be in business 6 months later. For the sake of the industry a mentoring program should be required and developed by the providers and CEC.

Subcontractor training

2. I believe one of the most important things we can do if we really want to save energy is to confirm measures are installed correctly and they pass QA. Currently, all providers are doing a decent job of QA with one exception, HQI at frame. Frame inspections is where most honest raters are threatened they will be kicked off of the job, next is duct testing. 45 days ago CLE lost two subdivisions because the builder said "we do not work with them" but there is another rater who will work with them. CLE tried to refer the builder to the Standards and how important they are, the builder did not want to listen. As of the writing of this email houses are being passed based on a kumbaya moment.

In order to help remedy this problem, all insulation and HVAC installers should be required to attend and pass 2 days of training on how to install all measures correctly. This is only one remedy, the other remedy will be explained in #3. CEC could provide incentives for the installers to take the class. Such as, a rater can be given more leeway to pass at frame inspection if the installers could display a card verifying they gone through the 2 day class. Over a period of time a sense of trust can develop between the installer and rater and builder. Energy Star v3 requires a certification process for the installers why not CEC.

For example, I have known Mike Bashand for long time and I trust him. If he was a superintendent on a subdivision and I was the rater that failed three items installed at frame and Mike told me he would make sure the corrections were made I personally would ok the walls for sheetrock. Raters are professionals, CEC needs to let them be professionals.

Scheduling QA at frame.

3. One of the reasons I was told by providers they are having problems with inspecting QA at frame is the frame is covered to quickly to do a QA. I believe that is a barrier to inspecting HQI at frame. With a little organization and initiative the timing problem can be remedied. For example, there are over 30 insulation contractors in and around Sacramento. The provider's QA needs to check their registry to list the insulators that are in their system. Once that is accomplished they or their office will need to call all contractors (depending on time and logistics) to find out which subcontractor is installing at frame and/or final, then randomly choose what inspections they have based on time and area. QA could arrive before the Hers inspector or after the Hers inspection is complete. In both cases they can have an idea how the rater is doing their job. In some cases they will arrive while sheetrock is being installed, if that happens, the person doing the QA could at least inspect the walls since sheet rockers start with the lids. This could be a valuable teaching time.

Conflict of Interest

4. I do not believe the commissioners understand how envious our colleagues and contemporaries in other states are regarding CEC wisdom in developing the conflict of interest clause. Many colleagues have expressed to me how they would love to have what the CEC did. At least up to three years ago (last time I checked) the largest insulation company in the country ceased having their own raters. This was based on a hearing involving the conflict of interest clause held at the CEC several years ago. Bret Dillon, a Resnet board member used the information from the hearing to help his case in Texas. Using that as a background, I hope the CEC will strengthen the conflict of interest clause and not weaken. In my opinion, this is something the

CEC should take pride in.

Ideas we would support:

Providers should be allowed to participate in one segment of the market.

Providers need to provide QA within 45 days.

Training certified by the CEC for a provider should be required to be accepted by another provider. This would reduce the cost of training especially for new raters.

Sincerely

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"A person should never seek friendship first, seek respect first. If respect is there, true friendship can grow. If you seek friendship first, you will soon have neither."

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