

Texas Energy Codes: SECO and the Legislature Working Together

Felix A. Lopez, P.E.

Senior Engineer

State Energy Conservation Office

Comptroller of Public Accounts

June 24, 2003

Overview

- Texas Energy Codes and Standards Experience
 - Texas Design Standard
 - Residential Energy Codes
- Senate Bill 5
- Senate Bill 365
- SECO: Energy Code Education and Outreach Program
- Summary

Texas Design Standard

- Chapter 447 of the Texas Government Code
“The State Energy Conservation Office shall adopt and publish energy conservation design standards, that all new state buildings and major renovation projects of state-supported institutions of higher education, are required to meet. The office shall define what constitutes a major renovation project under this section and shall review and update the standards biennially”

Texas Design Standard

- Following the Legislative mandate, SECO contracted with the Center for Energy Studies (CES) of the University of Texas at Austin to develop the Texas Design Standards

Texas Design Standard

- Based on an adaptation of ASHRAE 90.1-1989 by the CES of UT-Austin
- Adopted on June 1st, 1989
- Revised on May 10, 1990
- Revised on February 1st, 1993

Texas Design Standard

- Following the biennial mandate revision, SECO and UT-CES tried on 1995 and 1997 to update the 1993 version
- Because in 1995 ASHRAE went thru a lot of public comments process without consensus, SECO decided to wait for the revision
- SECO drafted the 1997 version and went thru the public comments process but was not adopted by GSC, the state agency where SECO was assigned

Texas Design Standard

- The Texas Legislators moved SECO to the Comptroller of Public Accounts on Sept 1, 1999
- New ASHRAE 90.1 adopted in 1999
- SECO adopted by rule ASHRAE 90.1-1999 as the Texas Design Standard and was published for review and comments
- Adopted on August 13, 2002 and took advantage of the 2001 update of ASHRAE 90.1.

Residential Energy Code

- Following Chapter 447 of the Texas Government Code, SECO adopts the 1993 CABO MEC for state-funded residential buildings on Feb 3, 1995.
- SECO responded to a DOE solicitation in 1995 titled: “Update State and Local Government Building Energy Codes”
- SECO responded with commercial and residential energy code proposals
- Only the residential part of the proposal was awarded by DOE (\$203,254.00)

Residential Energy Code SECO Proposals to DOE

- DOE Special Projects-1996
 - SECO awarded \$64,000
- DOE Special Projects-1997
 - SECO awarded \$74,000
- DOE Special Projects-1999
 - SECO awarded \$150,000
- DOE Special Projects-2001
 - SECO awarded \$190,000
- DOE Special Projects-2002
 - SECO received \$100,000

Residential Energy Code

- Training based on voluntary adoption of residential energy codes
- Minimum attendance of builders and city building officials
- SECO, using DOE Special Projects funds, provided more than 100 training sessions statewide

Residential Energy Code

- SECO adopted 2000 IECC for state-funded residential buildings on 2002

Texas Senate Bill 5

- Driven by environmental concerns by Texas Legislators
- Joint effort between state and federal agencies
- Introduced in the 76th Texas Legislature in 2001

Texas Senate Bill 5

- Establishes the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP):
 - a diesel emission reduction incentive program
 - a motor vehicle purchase or lease incentive program
 - a new technology research and development program
 - an energy efficiency grant program
 - building energy performance standards

Texas Senate Bill 5

Chapter 388

- The energy efficiency chapter of the IRC, as it existed on May 1, 2001, is adopted for single family residential construction.
- The 2000 IECC, as it existed on May 1, 2001, is adopted for all other residential, commercial and industrial construction.
- The 2001 Supplement to the International Codes is adopted by reference of the May 1, 2001 in the bill.
- Adopts by reference ASHRAE 90.1 Std for commercial buildings.

Texas Senate Bill 5 Chapter 388

- Code Adoption Effective Date: Sep. 1, 2001
- Local Administration and Code Enforcement Procedures in place by Sep. 1, 2002

Texas Senate Bill 365

- “To protect the public health, safety, and welfare, the IRC, as it existed on May 1, 2001, is adopted as a municipal residential building code in this state”
- Code Adoption Effective Date: Jan 1, 2002.

SECO: Energy Code Education and Outreach Program

- Texas Design Standard Trainings
- Residential Energy Code Trainings
- Commercial Energy Codes Trainings

SECO: Energy Code Education and Outreach Program

- Using DOE Special Projects Funds
- Oil-overcharged funds available with the Codes and Standards Program, as approved in the SEP
- Partnership with federal agencies, state agencies, institutions of higher education, and the private sector

SECO: Energy Code Education and Outreach

- Main Players
 - SECO
 - U.S. DOE
 - Texas Legislature
 - University of Texas
 - Texas A&M University
 - PNNL
 - BCAP
 - SLA
 - TAB

Summary

- The State needs a champion at the state energy office to promote energy code adoption.
- The State needs to have a champion at the Legislature to introduce legislation for energy code adoption
- Teamwork between state agencies, federal agencies and the private sector is the key to success

Texas Energy Codes: SECO and the Legislature Working Together

- Questions?

Thank you!

- Felix A. Lopez, P.E.
- Senior Engineer
- State Energy Conservation Office
- 111 E. 17th. St. LBJ Building Rm. 1114
- Austin, TX 78774
- (512) 463-1080
- felix.lopez@cpa.state.tx.us
- www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us.