July 9, 2013

ATTN: Building Energy Codes Program
Building Technologies Program Manager
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop EE-2J
Washington, DC 20585-0121

RE: State Certification of Residential and Commercial Building Energy Codes

Dear Sir or Madam:

The State of Colorado provides the following information to certify compliance with Title III of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (ECPA) of 1976, as amended. As the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recognizes, the State of Colorado, as a long-term “home-rule” state has no statewide jurisdiction for the adoption and compliance with the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 at the local jurisdiction level. However, the State of Colorado, based on the demonstrated adoption and enforcement of the IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 at the local jurisdiction level, fully meets the intent of the compliance requirements of the ECPA concerning energy codes.

In order to demonstrate compliance with the ECPA, the State of Colorado developed the Colorado Energy Codes Support Partnership (ECSP) in 2010 that includes representatives of local jurisdictions, the Colorado Chapter of the International Code Council, local government trade associations, building trades, code consultants and State staff. The goal of the Colorado ECSP is to advance the adoption/compliance of the 2009 IECC for all low-rise residential buildings, along with the ASHRAE 90.1-2007 for commercial buildings at the local jurisdiction level in Colorado.

The Colorado Energy Code Support Partnership provided localized, energy code adoption and compliance support to the over 330 local jurisdictions in Colorado that directly adopt their own building codes. The support from the ECSP to date has resulted in the adoption of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code by local jurisdictions that account for over 95% of current construction activity in Colorado.
The high rate of local jurisdiction adoption of the 2009 IECC and above is a result of the use of funding from the U.S. Department of Energy that allowed the State of Colorado to provide individualized technical assistance to the local jurisdictions. In addition to DOE funding provided to the State through the American Resource and Recovery Act (ARRA), the State of Colorado also received additional grants and technical assistance in support of our adoption/compliance process from the Building Codes Assistance Project. These types of resources are critical for on-going implementation efforts concerning the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code in Colorado and for the adoption 2012 IECC. It is our hope that support from DOE will continue to ensure demonstrated compliance with the code in the State of Colorado, and encourage future updates to the code.

There are several current energy code activities in Colorado that are designed to support on-going code compliance and newer code adoption activities, including; the creation of the Energy Code Compliance Collaborative to assist with compliance activities, the piloting of a utility-funded energy code support program, the continued review of local jurisdiction adoption and compliance activity, and State staff participation in the 2015 IECC proposed code change process.

In addition, the State of Colorado, within its jurisdictional authority, has adopted the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (2012) for low-rise residential buildings, as well as ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2010 for nonresidential buildings. Enclosed please find a copy Schedule B of State of Colorado Resolutions 34, 35, and 36 dated November 13, 2012 that includes the adoption of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code. The code was advertised and a public hearing was held. The code became effective on January 1, 2013.

If anything further is required as evidence of Colorado’s compliance with the requirements of Title III of ECPA, please contact Mr. Rick Hanger at the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing at 303.866.4656.

Sincerely,

Rick Hanger,
Housing Standards and Technology Section Manager
Colorado Division of Housing

Cc: Ms. Kym Carey, U.S. Department of Energy