



# NCSEA Provides Input to ICC on Long Range Plans



Ronald O. Hamburger, SE, Vice President, NCSEA

The International Code Council (ICC) is undertaking a long range planning exercise, called *Blueprint for the Future*. As part of this process ICC is soliciting direct input, in the form of a survey as to how ICC can improve its service to the industry in the future. As part of this process, NCSEA's delegate to ICC's Industry Advisory Committee was asked to participate in a meeting that will focus on this issue. The NCSEA delegate, in turn, asked the Board to provide input. Below are several of the questions asked by ICC and the suggested responses I developed for consideration by the NCSEA Board and our delegate to the Code Advisory Committee.

**1. In your estimation, what is the International Code Council doing currently, that the organization should continue doing in the future?**

The most important benefit to the industry from the formation of ICC was that it provided the practicing professional an active voice in the code development process and the replacement of the former 3 codes with a single nationally applicable document. The ICC should continue to develop and publish an integrated set of model building codes that provide a basis for uniform building regulation around the United States of America. In addition to publication of the model building codes, ICC should continue to develop and support a national product evaluation service to qualify the conformance and appropriate use of proprietary products and materials so that design professionals can accept these items as meeting the intent of the code requirements.

**2. In your estimation, what is the International Code Council not doing currently, that the organization should do in the future?**

Much of the benefit that the industry obtained through the formation of ICC and the publication of a single set of coordinated building codes was lost when NFPA elected to publish a competing set of codes. While the actions of NFPA are clearly beyond the control of ICC, the greatest service that ICC could provide the building construction industry would be to find some way to cooperate with NFPA in the publication of model codes and together with NFPA, truly provide the United States with a single set of coordinated model codes.

Even if ICC is successful in developing a cooperative relationship with NFPA and brings a single coordinated set of codes to the United States, the fact is that building design practice is becoming increasingly global in scope. ICC should seek ways to work with the international community to try to standardize the building design practices in a more global manner.

No matter how elegant our building codes are, and how coordinated, the safety of our building construction will only be as good as the competence of the people who implement and enforce the codes on actual construction projects. ICC should undertake and proliferate professional training and certification programs for building regulators to improve their competence and professionalism.

**3. What is the International Code Council doing, that perhaps if done differently, would be more beneficial to your organization?**

Currently ICC publishes a revised set of building codes every three years. This is too often. It places a burden on the design professional, who must learn the requirements of a new, rapidly changing code every three years. It places a burden on industry who must support the code development process in an almost constant cycle of change. It places a burden on the building official, who must work with his community to adopt a new code too frequently. It would be very beneficial to all parties if the ICC would lengthen the code cycle from 3 years to 5 or perhaps 6 years. This would both reduce costs and improve the competence of practice.

**4. What goals could the International Code Council set for the next three years that would work to strengthen the relationship between our organizations?**

The ICC has done an outstanding job of working with the various professional associations, including NCSEA, in seeking the input of the practicing design professional in the development of the building codes. The ICC has also effectively partnered with the professional associations in the development and publication of educational and training materials related to the implementation of the codes. ICC should continue to actively seek the input of the practicing professionals in the development of building codes and should continue to partner with NCSEA and other organizations in the development and publication of educational materials that facilitate competent use of the codes and in training the practicing professional to use the codes properly.

If you would like to provide ICC with your own opinion, you can respond to the survey on-line. Visit <http://www.iccsafe.org/blueprint/survey-form.html> to participate.



**National Council of Structural Engineers Associations**  
**Twelfth Annual Conference • New Orleans, Louisiana • September 23 - 25, 2004**

**Designing for the Coastal Environment**  
**Preliminary Program Highlights**

**Technical Presentations**

**A History of Driven Piles in New Orleans**

Lloyd A. Held, Jr., PE  
 This presentation will highlight the foundation designs of several New Orleans area buildings, particularly how the design approaches have evolved from the mid-1800's to the present.

**Designing Buildings for Floodplains: Recent Developments in Codes and Standards**

Christopher P. Jones, PE  
 This presentation will focus on flood-resistant design and construction in coastal and river flood hazard areas. Mr. Jones will discuss the applicable provisions of ASCE 7, ASCE 24, the flood provisions of the IBC and the IRC. The newly revised FEMA Coastal Construction Manual and the new Corp of Engineers Coastal Engineering Manual will also be discussed.

**Calculating Wind Loads using the Simplified Method of ASCE 7-02**

James M. Delahay, PE  
 Mr. Delahay, a member of the ASCE 7 committee, will explain the origins and applications of Method 1 - Simplified Provisions of the Wind Load section of ASCE 7-02. This method is applicable to a large family of buildings and reduces the solution time to a matter of minutes instead of hours.

**Hurricane Engineering**

Marc L. Levitan, PhD  
 Dr. Levitan is an expert in hurricane engineering and wind effects on structures. This presentation will provide insight regarding the meteorological aspects of hurricanes, their formation, and how they affect structures in the built environment.

**Marine Structures on Inland Waterways**

Clovis L. Morrison, PE  
 In his over 30 years of design experience, Mr. Morrison worked on design projects for a large number of the port and harbor facilities along the Mississippi River in Louisiana. This presentation will give a general overview of the design considerations for docks, piers, wharfs, bulkheads, and dolphins on inland waterways.

**Preservation of Structural Elements**

Ian R. Chin, PE, SE  
 Mr. Chin, the author of numerous publications on building claddings, will present a summary of the methods an engineer can use to protect structural members and systems in corrosive climates. Protection of steel and concrete will be discussed, and several case studies from Mr. Chin's experience will be presented.

Discounted airfares are available for travel to and from New Orleans on United or United Express between September 18 and September 29, 2004. To receive these special fares, you or your travel agent must call the United Airlines Meeting Reservations Center at 800-521-4041 and refer to Meeting ID 524AF.

*Hotel Monteleone*

214 Rue Royal, New Orleans, LA 70130-2201  
**Reservations:** Call the Hotel Monteleone at 1-800-217-2033 or (504) 523-3341. Single or Double Room Rate: \$149  
*This room rate is guaranteed only through September 1, 2004.*

**Exhibitor and sponsor opportunities are available. Contact Emile Troup at 781-828-9408 or steelstruk@aol.com.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Companion \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delegate from \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member Organization \_\_\_\_\_

- Member Registration - \$495 per person**  
 Registration fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Professional Program, Trade Exhibits, breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks on Friday and Saturday, Friday evening dinner at the Musee Conti Wax Museum and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.
- Companion Registration - \$225 per person**  
 Companion fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Friday continental breakfast, Friday evening dinner at the Musee Conti Wax Museum, Saturday continental breakfast, and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.

**Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

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 NCSEA • Suite 2010 • 203 North Wabash Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60601.  
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**LAST CALL!**

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 Entries due July 9 • [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com)

