



Results of the ICC Public Hearings

By Ed Huston, Chairman, General Engineering Subcommittee of the NCSEA CAC

The public hearings to the 2006 IBC were held between September 20 and October 1, 2006 in Orlando, Florida. The four subcommittees of NCSEA's Code Advisory Committee (CAC) were in close communication and met prior to the public hearings to finalize their positions on the extensive number of proposed code changes. There were 157 proposed code changes for the structural section of the IBC alone! The CAC submitted 11 of those changes to the IBC.

Among these proposed code changes to the IBC were a set of proposals from the International Code Council Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism Resistant Buildings. This committee's proposed code changes were aimed at incorporating into the IBC some of the 30 recommendations from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) World Trade Center Report (Structure Editorial August 2005). Two of these proposals, S5-06/07 and G73-06/07, were heard by the ICC Structural Code Committee. G73-06/07 would have required that exit stair shaft enclosures be designed for 288 psf of lateral pressure (2 psi). S5-06/07 dealt with disproportionate collapse, an issue which surfaced previously in the 2006 code change cycle as S7-03/04 and was defeated.

The NCSEA CAC joined many other organizations in vigorously opposing these two code change proposals. We did so, not because we believe the IBC shouldn't address structural integrity, but because our analysis of these code change proposals indicated that they were fatally flawed (Structure NCSEA News July 2006). They would have put vague, contradictory and unenforceable provisions into the IBC, which would have been impossible for building design teams to implement and would have imposed serious liability risks for building design teams on almost all projects.

This joint organizational effort was successful in defeating the two proposals. We are currently working with the Joint Industry Committee on Structural Integrity, chaired by Ron Hamburger, to craft a code change proposal that addresses one or more of the NIST recommendations and that also results in changes to the IBC that are clear, consistent and enforceable. As a step in this process, the NCSEA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City had an afternoon working session on this issue. Many positive comments came from the attendees of the breakout sessions.

The following paragraphs highlight the specific activities of the three subcommittees of the NCSEA Code Advisory Committee that worked on the IBC.

Seismic Subcommittee

The Seismic Subcommittee reviewed numerous code change proposals and took positions that would help clarify the IBC and align it with the provisions of ASCE 7-05 and the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program. These positions were reached in consultation with interested member organizations, the Code Resource Support Committee of the Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC), and the NCSEA General Engineering and Special Inspection – Quality Assurance Subcommittees. Martin Johnson attended the hearings in Orlando on September 20-21 as Chair of the Seismic Subcommittee.

Special Inspection – Quality Assurance Subcommittee

The Special Inspection – Quality Assurance Subcommittee met in Chicago on August 17, 2006. Its main effort in the cur-

rent code development cycle was to review nineteen proposed code changes to IBC Chapter 17 submitted by others. In some cases, there were multiple code change proposals to the same section of Chapter 17, submitted by different individuals and in conflict with each other. The Special Inspection – Quality Assurance Subcommittee acted as an intermediary between these entities, to bring the best portions of each proposal to the floor and to help the amended proposals pass.

General Engineering Subcommittee

The General Engineering Subcommittee met in Chicago August 17 - 18, 2006. The subcommittee had previously submitted 9 code changes.

In Orlando, we asked that two of these be disapproved, based on the success of another code change which removed these particular provisions from the IBC because they had been incorporated into a standard. We will work with the standards writing organization to get those changes incorporated into that standard. One of our code change proposals was defeated, based on the testimony and concerns of others. We will work with those individuals to develop a public comment to address

their concerns. Our other six code change proposals will be incorporated into the IBC.

In the last code change cycle, the General Engineering Subcommittee worked with the Steel Joist Institute (SJI) and the Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) to incorporate consistent provisions for these two materials into the IBC. In this cycle, we worked with these organizations once again, to further improve those provisions and to protect them from changes that would have had a negative impact. Our mutual efforts were largely successful and have resulted in opening dialogues for further improvements to these provisions in the future.

In this code change cycle, we suggested editorial changes to the section of Chapter 18 dealing with micropiles. The Deep Foundation Association, which was the proponent of that section in the last code cycle, took exception to our code change; however, we were able to work out a mutually acceptable compromise which was adopted in Orlando.

We took positions on 55 other code change proposals as well. Of these, we prevailed on 42, six were withdrawn by the proponent, and we were unsuccessful on seven.

Finally, we took positions in opposition to two code change proposals that were made by prominent members of one of our member organizations. In both cases, we did so in accordance with our rules of operation, which state that we will not make or support changes to an ICC standard without first letting the standard writing organization attempt to address the issue. In one case, the proposal was defeated; but we understand that the standard writing organization already has a ballot out to address the proponent's concern. In the other case, the proposal was modified and approved.

The Code Advisory Committee activity is a major success for NCSEA. We, as Code users, are the ideal organization to bring an impartial voice to the process; and we have gained a great deal of respect and cooperation from other organizations for our efforts. If you notice a provision of the IBC or IRC that you believe needs to be addressed, or if you are developing a code change proposal and want us to help you with it, you are encouraged to contact one of the Subcommittee chairs at www.ncsea.com/code-advisory-committee.htm.

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Registration



Exhibitor Reception



Breakouts



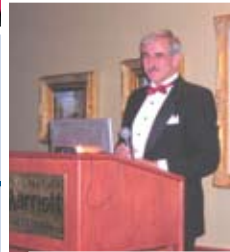
Sponsors



Banquet



Awards



Presidents Past & Present



Reports



Thank you, SEAU, for hosting a great NCSEA conference!