



National Institute of
BUILDING SCIENCES

*An Authoritative Source of Innovative Solutions
for the Built Environment*



nbi new buildings
institute

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

REPRESENTATIVE HEARING ON:
DATA NEEDS TO ACHIEVE HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

I. Introduction

In Spring 2011, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced that the 2007 edition of the Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey would not be released due to statistical errors and that the 2011 edition is suspended due to lack of funding. Meanwhile, the building industry also needs building benchmark data on other high-performance building attributes, including safety and security, accessibility, cost effectiveness, water use, and indoor environmental quality. It has become apparent that metrics and the associated data must be developed and collected by the building community for its own use. In lieu of individual collection efforts for individual attributes, a collective approach will produce better data at a lower cost with the added benefit of built-in interoperability.

To begin identifying the needed data and potential sources, the National Institute of Building Sciences has scheduled a hearing to collect input from various sectors of the building community on data needs and existing data sources.

II. Representative Hearing Procedures

A representative hearing is scheduled for July 18, 2011 beginning at 9:00 am at the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. Presiding over the hearing will be Gordon Holness, past president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); Ron Skaggs, past president of the American Institute of Architects (AIA); and Henry L. Green, Institute President. The exact location is to be determined based on expressions of interest. At the hearing, interested parties are invited to provide up to 10 minutes of testimony. While actual content of such testimony is up to the participant, each is encouraged to address the issues identified in section IV. In addition to oral testimony, participants are encouraged to provide written testimony as identified in section III(b).

Participants will be grouped into sessions by the building community sectors they represent. The actual times of sessions will be determined by number of requests to present before the Institute. Initial sectors identified are listed below, but others may be added based on input received:

1. Building Owners/Facility Managers/Commissioning
2. Government (Policy/Regulatory/Voluntary)

3. Architects/Engineers/Contractors/Specifiers
4. Insurance & Finance
5. Codes & Standards/Rating Systems
6. Software Vendors and Manufacturers
7. Data Managers/Collectors/Reporters/Statisticians/Researchers
8. Other

To provide oral testimony, interested parties should send a notice of intent to speak to Holly Velez via e-mail (hvelez@nibs.org) by July 11, 2011 at 5:00 pm Eastern time. Such a notice shall include the following:

1. Name of person testifying
2. Complete contact information
3. Organization representing (if applicable)
4. Most appropriate building sector session

After the deadline for notices of intent to speak, requesters will be notified of the time and place for their particular session. The entire representative hearing will be open to interested parties.

III. Testimony Requirements

In addition to presentations, speakers and others are encouraged to provide written comments to the Institute. While such comments are preferred in advance of the hearing, the record will remain open for 15 days following the hearing. The record closes at 5:00 pm eastern time on August 2, 2011.

a. Oral Testimony

At the hearing, participants will be allowed to utilize PowerPoint slides, which will then become part of the hearing record. Such presentations shall be submitted to Holly Velez (hvelez@nibs.org) at least 3 working days in advance of the hearing. The presentation should be clearly labeled with the name of the presenter in the title. The hearing itself is subject to audio or video recording. No provisions will be available for offsite participation in the hearing. In addition to any PowerPoint slides, presenters also are encouraged to provide written testimony.

b. Written Testimony

All interested parties are encouraged to provide written testimony to the Institute. While such testimony is preferred in advance of the hearing, the record will remain open for 15 days following the hearing. The record closes at 5:00 pm eastern time on August 2, 2011. All written testimony shall be submitted to Holly Velez (hvelez@nibs.org) and include:

1. Name of person providing testimony
2. Complete contact information
3. Organization representing (if applicable)
4. Most appropriate building sector

IV. Topics of Interest

While the actual content of written and oral testimony is up to the participant, the Institute requests that participants address the following issues:

1. Given your areas of interest and expertise, what building related data is most critical? Such data (or similar data) may already exist so please provide information on the availability of such data or why similar data does not fit your needs. Where possible, prioritize your data needs and provide information on other sectors who may need similar data types.
2. Provide a summary of data sets you or your organization currently collect and the availability of such data (freely available, for purchase, confidential, etc.). To the extent possible, include information on the sample size, collection methods, data included, schedule, and primary users.
3. Identify potential sources and collection processes for building-related data including survey mechanisms, sensors and other technologies, building personnel, and others. Where such sources and processes already exist, provide information on how they work, their utility, their cost, and potential expansions.
4. Recommendations on how the Institute and the building community may proceed in identifying, collecting, funding, compiling and disseminating the desired building related data.

V. About Hearing Sponsors

Established in 1971, the **National Environmental Balancing Bureau (NEBB)** is the premier international certification association for firms that deliver high performance building systems. Our members perform testing, adjusting and balancing (TAB) of heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems, commission and retro-commission building systems, execute sound and vibration testing, and test and certify laboratory fume hoods and electronic and biological cleanrooms.

Building owners, engineers and contractors seeking ways to cut costs through the proper design, installation and optimal performance of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems, benefit from working with NEBB certified professionals, who are required to complete extensive training and testing programs in order to attain certification status.

NEBB exists to help architects, engineers, building owners, and contractors produce high performance buildings with HVAC systems that perform as they were visualized and designed. Each discipline uses a NEBB Procedural Standard that provides guidelines for work to be performed. NEBB has also created technical manuals, training materials, and seminars to enhance and support each discipline. NEBB certifies firms that meet specified criteria, ensuring strict conformance to its high standards and procedures. See www.nebb.org.

New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a nonprofit organization working to improve the energy performance of commercial buildings. We work collaboratively with commercial building market players—governments, utilities, energy efficiency advocates and building professionals—to remove barriers to energy efficiency, including promoting advanced design practices, improved technologies, public policies and programs that improve energy efficiency. We also develop and offer guidance to individuals and organizations on designing and constructing energy-efficient buildings through our Advanced Buildings® suite of tools and resources.

While NBI is working to achieve net-zero energy buildings—those that meet all power needs through renewable resources—we recognize that they are not easily attainable today. The good news is that buildings with significantly better performance than current standards are possible. NBI’s current efforts are working to provide the policy and program direction and promote design practices and technologies that will result in buildings that are better for people and the environment.

NBI works nationally with offices located in Washington State—White Salmon and Vancouver. See www.newbuildings.org.

The **National Institute of Building Sciences** was authorized by the U.S. Congress in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383. In establishing the Institute, Congress recognized the need for an organization that could serve as an interface between government and the private sector. The Institute's public interest mission is to serve the Nation by supporting advances in building science and technology to improve the built environment.

Through the Institute, Congress established a public/private partnership to enable findings on technical, building-related matters to be used effectively to improve government, commerce and industry.

The Institute is a non-profit, non-governmental organization bringing together representatives of government, the professions, industry, labor and consumer interests to focus on the identification and resolution of problems and potential problems that hamper the construction of safe, affordable structures for housing, commerce and industry throughout the United States. The Institute provides an authoritative source of advice for both the private and public sector of the economy with respect to the use of building science and technology. Congress recognized that the lack of such an authoritative voice was a burden on all those who plan, design, procure, construct, use, operate, maintain and retire physical facilities, and that this burden frequently resulted from failure to take full advantage of new useful technology that could improve our living environment. See www.nibs.org.

VI. Contacts

For information on the data collection initiative and the representative hearing, contact Ryan M. Colker, Director, Consultative Council/Presidential Advisor, National Institute of Building Sciences, 1090 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005, 202-289-7800x133, rcolker@nibs.org.