

## SELACACI Program Features Enforcement of New Energy & Mechanical Code



Mark Roberts (ICC), Mike Wich (South Central Planning), Dave Morere (St. Tammany), Dusty Goforth (SELACACI President), James Medus (Kenner), Brian Medus (New Orleans), Harold Logarde (Jefferson Parish), Charley Leumont (SELACACI co-founder)

In Louisiana, the 2012 Mechanical & 2009 Energy Codes took effect January 1, 2015. Louisiana's Code Council amended the national version – and the summary (& full legal language) is posted at SELACACI.org under Resources.

### GEARING UP:

In anticipation of the Energy Code's duct testing requirements, many area contractors have pursued training such as the Building Performance Institute's (BPI's) Infiltration & Duct Leakage (IDL) certification or online certification directly from duct test equipment manufacturers in order to



Brian Medus, Mike Wich, Harold Logarde, Dave Morere, James Medus (at microphone)

be able to perform the newly required duct leakage tests themselves, for new construc-

tion & major renovations. In addition, LSU AgCenter (La-House) is offering a series of

Southface Energy Institute's Duct & Envelope Test (DET) certification classes, geared for HVAC contractors. In addition, there are now quite a few RESNET- and BPI-certified professionals in the field offering testing services, either independently &/or through City or State energy efficiency incentive programs. Distributors have hosted educational opportunities along with equipment purchase offers.

Prior to its April 7 forum on Code Enforcement, SELACACI sent a list of specific questions to various local code officials in the Greater New Orleans area, which the officials were asked to address. At the meeting, Mark Roberts, regional International Code Council (ICC) representative, summarized the new Energy & Mechanical rules. Then the following code officials appeared to address questions on how

their jurisdiction planned to implement the new codes: Orleans – Brian Medus; Jefferson – Harold Logarde; St. Tammany – Dave Morere; South Central Planning – Michael Wich; Kenner – James Mohamad.

### IMPLEMENTING:

Each jurisdiction has slightly different enforcement priorities, with South Central Planning (SCP) ahead of the rest time-wise and not reporting any push-back from

contractors on duct testing. SCP's focus now is on enforcing the requirement for Manual J, D, & S reports that reflect reasonable accuracy. Given the fact that Manual S databases tend to not be fully up-to-date, SCP (& some other jurisdictions) are accepting AHRI reports instead.

Orleans has stepped up to the plate with a May 1 implementation date for its enforcement efforts. Like SCP, Orleans has informed

every contractor working in its jurisdiction of the requirements. These and other local jurisdictions' codification of the new rules (& various relevant Powerpoint presentations)

Continued on page 11

are posted at SELACACI.org/Resources.

St. Tammany, unlike the other Parishes represented at the program, is allowing contractors to submit an affidavit of compliance with the Manual J, D, & S provisions – which relieves the Parish of the burden of review, but does not allow the contractor off the hook in terms of liability.

To date, Jefferson Parish has yet to specify its compliance plans in writing – but that action is expected, & the Parish's Chief Inspector spoke specifically to the new rules, with the implication that that it would be imminent.

126 contractors attended this program, and SELACACI provided CEU credits to a total of 20 home inspectors and

code officials (including some from as far away as Alexandria, LA). Vendors with tables were: Vent Cap Systems (Austin-based, grille covers for duct testing), Coburn's (Retrotec duct test equipment), Heyden Stanley Group (various flex duct products), and Joval Manufacturing (insulated P.I. boxes).

### YET TO COME:

Check next month's HVAC Insider for a report on SELACACI's May 7 program on "Mini-Splits & Variable Speed Units" presented by Dr. Allison Bailes of Energy Vanguard in Atlanta – who will be in New Orleans for the Affordable Comfort Institute's national conference that week.

SELACACI welcomes

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Brian Medus of the City of New Orleans, explaining the New Code Guidance recently released for Contractors

input on topics for future programs through its ever-evolving membership survey, posted at SELACACI.org. Johnstone provided the door prize for the code enforcement program.

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Barry Couvillion, Lightning Service asking about Q Code Program