

**Technical Codes Study and Advisory Committee**  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
**9:00 AM**  
**8181 Independence Blvd**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Chair welcomed all present and **called the meeting to order at 9:04 am**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: Steve Boudreaux; Bobby Byrd; Bren Kramer; Foy Gadberry; Phil Hoffman;  
Al Courouleau; Mike Metcalf; David Thibodeaux; Scott Wallace

Members Absent: Chris Brown; Jake Causey; Jerry Hebert

Notice of Absence: Chris Brown; Jake Causey; Jerry Hebert

9 members present and 3 members absent constitute a Quorum.

The Chair brought the meeting to order. Mr. Boudreaux reminded the committee that the purpose for the meeting was to prepare an emergency rule for two concerns regarding safety – (1) access and pathways for fire fighters IBC structures and (2) de-energizing of solar power panels for safety of fire fighters during firefighting emergencies, IRC and IBC structures. He requested that the committee keep that as their primary focus.

The Chair requested to address New Business first. There was no objection to this request.

**New Business:**

(1) Review recommendations from 2014 NEC Review Committee concerning Article 690 (Steve Boudreaux/Mark Joiner)

The Chair read the notes from the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting of the NEC Review Committee. An updated copy of the meeting notes were provided to the committee members for review. (Copy of NEC meeting review on file in Tech Code meeting file for Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015)

Fire Marshal Butch Browning was requested to speak to the committee to share his concerns with safety issues with of fighting fires where rooftop solar panels are involved and the need to keep the fire fighters safe. The Chair asked if there was anything specific that fire fighters look for in the attic space or what fire fighters look for in order to shut down the power to a building in order to provide against electrical shock. What is the maximum amount of disconnect needed

to provide for shock safety and to de-energize a building. The Chair asked Mr. Crouch, legal representation, if the LSUCCC would be overreaching by adopting Section 690 as a whole. Discussion continued with both committee members and public in attendance concerning break away systems and location of disconnects to shut down power to prevent shock.

Mr. Larry Manuel Building Official from Lafayette spoke to the committee concerning what permits he requires in his area and how they are addressing the concern in their area. Mr. Wich noted that the major concern is the stored power still in the line even when the power may be shut down or covered. Section 690 addresses rapid shut down and therefore getting the stored power out of the line to protect from electric shock. Mr. Crouch, legal representation, noted after the emergency rule was addressed that there would have to be public meetings concerning the matter for discussion of concerns by the solar panel industry and those concerns with the issue.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Hoffman to adopt NFPA 70 Section 690 of the 2014 NEC in its entirety. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Thibodeaux. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 9 yes and 0 no. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Old Business:**

The Chair opened the floor for discussion to address the committee's concern with access and pathways provisions. Mr. Mark Roberts provided printouts for the committee to review 2015 IBC provisions and also towards the end the handout the 2015 IFC provisions. The Chair opened the floor for discussion of R3 structures and those being addressed in the motion of pathways and access.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Hoffman to adopt the language of 2015 IFC 605.11 with the exception of Sections 605.11.2 and 605.11.1.3.3. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Byrd. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 9 yes and 0 no. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Mark Roberts stated that the 2015 IBC 1607.12.5.2 addresses proof of structural integrity of a roof to handle the added load of items added to a roof.

Committee members discussed structural concerns of existing buildings and load capabilities of roofs. Concerns included whether existing roof structures are able to handle the added load of these solar systems to existing roof structure.

Mr. Boudreaux noted the difference in accounting for dead loads versus live loads in roof stability. He further noted that solar panels should be considered a dead load condition and not

be allowed to diminish the live load capacity of the roof. Mr. Gadberry continued the discussion by noting that existing roof structures do not include the calculations of the added weight of installation of solar panels. Several members of the public and committee discussed concerns with knowing whether or not an existing building is structurally sound with the added weight of the solar panels.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Gadberry that the installer shall provide structural analysis of the solar panel components loading, on existing and new roofs, from a design professional. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Byrd. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 9 yes and 0 no. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Mr. Hoffman confirmed the time frame of the emergency rule. The language of the emergency rule will be in effect for 120 days from the date of adoption. Request was made that the emergency rule be written and reviewed for signing. Discussion continued on the time frame of the drafting of the emergency rule.

With no other items on the agenda and no motion to accept other business, a **motion** was made by Mr. Metcalf and seconded by Mr. Hoffman to adjourn. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

END OF MINUTES