

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
JULY 25, 2014 – REPORT #17

OHBA MEETS WITH OEPA ON WETLAND RULE PACKAGE

Earlier in the week, OHBA met with the Deputy Director, and numerous OEPA Staff. Following initial written comments OHBA submitted on draft wetland antideg rules as part of the Common Sense Initiative Process (CSI), the OEPA requested a follow up meeting with OHBA to discuss the draft language. Vince Messerly attended also being invited to provide valuable expertise on a variety of issues with the draft rule. OHBA and Vince Messerly requested several changes explaining how modifications would make the rules more clear and predictable. Additionally, OHBA pointed out areas where no federal mandate exists and questioned the need to adopt a more stringent standard for Ohio. The agency seemed receptive to a few of the suggestions for this rule filing, and Karl Gebhardt, Deputy Director of Water Resources, made sure to emphasize his open door policy that he initially explained at his Summer OHBA Board Meeting presentation. OHBA is looking for feedback from engineers, developers who may have additional comments to share with Karl and his staff. This was a very productive meeting, which OHBA is working to ensure takes place even earlier in the rule making process.

Please contact OHBA with any questions or concerns.

RCAC CONTINUES TO ISSUE INTERPRETATIONS

Unlike the Board of Building Standards, the Residential Construction Advisory Committee has the statutory authority to issue official binding interpretations of the Residential Code of Ohio (RCO). Without having to wait until the next code change, the Committee has been able to clarify several issues brought to its attention and get interpretations issued to resolve confusion in the field. Interpretations recommended by the RCAC and adopted by the BBS include questions on residential swimming pools and clarifications of requirements found in 502.14. BBS Memos have also been issued on raised heel truss, roof replacement, protection of engineered light frame construction, blower door testing and others. The full list of RCAC interpretations and BBS Memos can be found and printed at the following link.

<http://www.com.ohio.gov/dico/bbs/memos.aspx>

A request for an interpretation can be submitted to the RCAC at any time. Please contact OHBA with any questions or concerns.