

The FACTs: HUD's Manufactured Housing Newsletter

Office of Manufactured Housing Programs

February 2015

Volume 4, Issue 7

Welcome to the seventh edition of The FACTs: HUD's Manufactured Housing Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to connect to individuals who encompass the different aspects of manufactured housing – manufacturers, retailers, trade associations, state and local officials, lenders, and consumers. We also want to reach out to those who are curious about manufactured housing, HUD's role as a regulatory body, and the impact of rules and regulation on the industry.

If you would like to receive further issues of the FACTs newsletter, [click here](#) to be added to our database. In addition to information from HUD's Manufactured Housing program, a new feature will be implemented periodically.

This "spotlight" will feature a guest columnist from outside of the Department. The purpose of this new feature will be to relay items of interest to other manufactured housing stakeholders. If you are interested in submitting an article to the FACTs Newsletter, please send an email to mhs@hud.gov and include the words "Article Submission" in the subject line.

Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee

The Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC) held its first meeting in two years at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia from December 2 through 4, 2014.

Various issues were discussed during the three day meeting along with the resolution of pending proposed technical revisions to the Standards, including Southern Yellow Pine Design Values, the GAO October 2012 Ventilation Report, Attached Garages, Water Resistant Barrier, 2014 National Electric Code, Hallway Width, Hinged Roofs, and Supply Air Ducts.



Members of HUD's Manufactured Housing staff participate in a panel discussion at the MHCC meeting. The meeting was held in Arlington, Virginia from December 2 through 4, 2014.

In this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| MHCC Meeting | 1 |
| Arrivals and Departures with the MHCC | 2 |
| RV/MH Hall of Fame Inductee | 4 |
| Did you know?... | 5 |
| From the Desk of the Administrator | 6 |

continued on page 2

MHCC Meeting

The current exemption for RVs was vigorously debated before the MHCC with input from all interested parties. New language was proposed for the RV exemption to make a clearer distinction between manufactured homes and RVs, according to the Committee. The proposal, once a letter ballot is approved by the MHCC, will be submitted to HUD for consideration to change the Regulations.

The Department issued a memorandum on June 12, 2014 with a subsequent memorandum on November 10, 2014, clarifying the definition and scope of an add-on structure. The Office of Manufactured Housing Programs' memoranda requested that manufacturers should apply for an Alternative Construction letter if they intend on building homes with attached garages. The MHCC recommended that HUD consider

suspending enforcement of the memorandum regarding attached garages and other add-on structures pending rulemaking.

HUD and its monitoring contractor, IBTS, gave a joint presentation to the MHCC concerning the use of manufactured homes for multi-family purposes. The Office of Manufactured Housing Programs noted that the definition of dwelling unit in Section 3280.2 of the Standards states that a dwelling unit means one or more habitable rooms which are designed to be occupied by one family with facilities for living, sleeping, cooking and eating. The MHCC voted to refer this matter to its General Subcommittee for further consideration and recommendations. The General Subcommittee will meet on February 11, 2015 from 1 pm to 4 pm by teleconference.

The MHCC was briefed by an

official from the Department of Energy (DOE) concerning the manufactured housing energy standards being developed under the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. HUD will bring the DOE proposal before the MHCC for consideration and recommendations based on the Working Group's "Term Sheet," which is issued by DOE. The proposed draft rule will be prepared by late January or February 2015 according to DOE.

The meeting was very productive with the MHCC discussing and voting on 19 log items. The meeting successfully reestablished open lines of communication between the Department and the MHCC. Both parties agreed that they looked forward to working together for the betterment of all aspects of manufactured housing in the future.

MHCC member Arrival and Departures

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently notified six candidates of their appointment to serve on the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC) for 2015. Robin Roy, Chris Flannery, John W. Weldy, Joseph L. Anderson II, are new members to serve on the MHCC; Mark Mazz and James Demitrus were appointed a second term.

HUD expresses its appreciation to departing members, Michael Wade (Producer Category), Theresa Desfosses (Producer Category), Mark Luttich (General Interest / Public Official), and Frank Walter (General Interest / Public Official).

The biographies for the new and reappointed members of the MHCC are below. HUD looks forward to a strong and vital working relationship with the members of the MHCC.

Robin Roy, Ph.D. – General Interest – Public Official Category

Mr. Roy, currently employed with the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) has served as the director of Building Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Strategy since 2010. He has worked for three decades to help meet society's need for secure, economic, and environmentally sound energy. As a member of NRDC's energy and climate senior management

team, Mr. Roy, identifies and pursues new directions for federal energy policy for buildings to include federal efficiency standards and codes, as well as, strategies for clean energy development. Over the past year, Mr. Roy has immersed himself in the manufactured housing sector by working with the industry, consumers, utility and efficiency groups to understand their perspectives and build support for strong, workable, and affordable efficiency standards as required by federal regulations.

MHCC Members

Chris Flannery – General Interest – Public Official Category

Mr. Flannery currently serves as the Supervising Inspector for the State of Nevada Manufactured Housing Division (MHD). As the Supervising Inspector, Mr. Flannery collaborates with building officials, members of the public, and other staff members, as well as, represents the Division as the prime point of contact for inquiries from local jurisdictions. He is also the point of contact with HUD as the State's representative for the State Administrative Agency (SAA) program. Prior to serving as the Supervising Inspector, Mr. Flannery served as the state of Nevada's Building Official and Planning Director for eight years.

John W. Weldy, P.E. – Producer Category

Mr. Weldy, currently employed with Clayton Homes, Inc., has served as the Director of Engineering since October 2005. As the Director of Engineering, Mr. Weldy directs activities of the engineering department and coordinates projects from the design state through to successful construction by leading a team of approximately 30 professionals. Along with many other tasks, Mr. Weldy ensures

proper engineering procedures and principles are followed throughout CMH manufacturing facilities. Prior to Clayton Homes, Mr. Weldy served as the Director of Design Approval Plant Inspection Agency (DAPIA) Services at NTA, Inc. where he was responsible for all outgoing DAPIA approvals and DAPIA correspondence with states, HUD, and IBTS.

Joseph Lee “Jody” Anderson, II – Producer Category

Mr. Anderson, owner of Timberland Mobile Housing, LLC, has been a manufactured housing business owner for 28 years as a Texas licensee for manufactured housing retail. He is also a manufactured housing community owner. Mr. Anderson is an active member of the Texas Manufactured Housing Association (TMHA), which is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of a variety businesses involved with the manufactured housing industry.

Mark J. Mazz, AIA – User Category

Mr. Mazz has served on the MHCC as a member of the “User” category since 2010. Mr. Mazz is a licensed architect with significant knowledge

of accessibility design. He provides accessibility consulting to property owners, developers, construction managers, contractors, civil engineers, architects, other design professionals, HUD, DOJ, advocates, and attorneys. In 2005, Mr. Mazz assisted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with developing requirements for accessible emergency housing and co-wrote "Design Details for Accessible Disaster Relief Housing" published by HUD.

James Demitrus – User Category

Mr. Demitrus has served on the MHCC as a member of the “User” category since January 1, 2012. Mr. Demitrus is a manufactured home owner and resident of Ohio, where he currently serves as the Commissioner for the Ohio Manufactured Home Commission (OMHC). He is also the President of Lakeside Terrace Homeowners Association in Ohio. Mr. Demitrus retired from General Motors Corporation in Parma, Ohio and is currently self-employed as an electrician.



Additional information about the MHCC can be found at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/rmra/mhs/cc1

Rick Mendlen to be Inducted into RV/MH Hall of Fame



Mr. Rick Mendlen was recently selected for induction into the RV/MH Hall of Fame in Elkhart, Indiana and will be inducted on Monday, August 3, 2015.

Mr. Mendlen is a Senior Structural Engineer in the Office of Manufactured Housing Programs and has been with the Department for over 40 years.

He is dedicated to creating and promulgating manufactured housing standards that protect the quality, durability, safety, and affordability of manufactured homes and his knowledge of the history of the regulations is unparalleled.

Mr. Mendlen has participated in a number of key regulatory milestones including the development of enhanced wind safety design standards, and federal installation standards.

Most recently, he served as the Department's liaison on the Department of Energy's ASRAC Manufactured Housing Working Group. In that capacity, he helped to ensure fair and reasonable energy standards are proposed in the design and construction of manufactured homes.

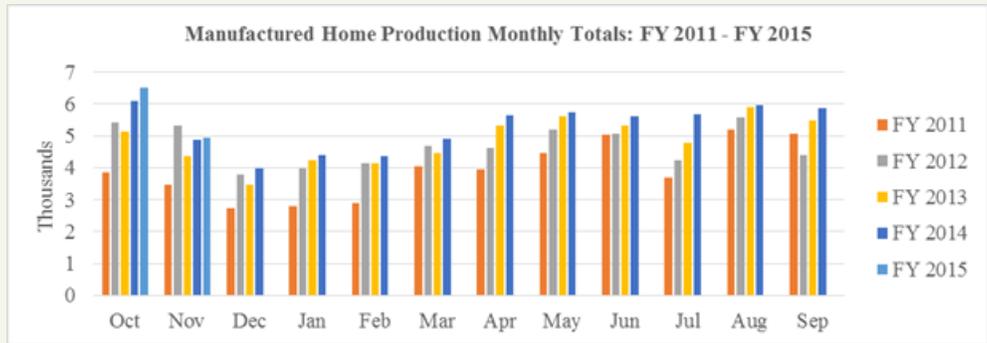
Mr. Mendlen has been with the Manufactured Housing program since its inception and continues to serve as a leader and mentor to new employees.

Congratulations Rick...a well deserved honor!



Did you know?...

Manufactured Housing production levels are up. Below are graphics that show floor and home production data provided by the Institute for Building Technology and Safety.



| FY14 | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Floors | Homes |
| 9,412 | 6,078 |
| 7,509 | 4,870 |
| 6,262 | 3,985 |
| 6,959 | 4,405 |
| 6,729 | 4,361 |
| 7,530 | 4,899 |
| 8,707 | 5,653 |
| 8,914 | 5,733 |
| 8,779 | 5,624 |
| 8,538 | 5,675 |
| 9,132 | 5,955 |
| 9,103 | 5,862 |
| 97,574 | 63,100 |

Overall, FY13 to FY14 saw the following changes:

| | FY13 | FY14 | % Change |
|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Homes | 58,267 | 63,100 | 8.3% increase |
| Floors | 89,855 | 97,574 | 8.6% increase |

From the desk of the Administrator...

It is time to let you know how we wrapped up 2014 and to wish you all a very happy and successful 2015.

As we discussed in this newsletter, we held a very productive MHCC meeting the first week of December. As a follow-up to that meeting on Wednesday, February 11th from 1 to 4 pm EST, we will be holding a General Subcommittee teleconference to discuss the multifamily manufactured housing item that was referred to this Subcommittee from the MHCC. In addition, the letter ballot with the MHCC recommendations coming forth from the December meeting will be finalized this month and reported to the MHCC.

The terms of 6 of our MHCC members expired on December 31st. Therefore, we want to express our appreciation for the wonderful service of our departing members: Michael Wade (Producer Category), Theresa Desfosses (Producer Category), Mark Luttich (Public Official Category), and Frank Walter (General Interest Category). On February 28th the following were appointed to serve 3 year terms: Robin Roy, Chris Flannery, John W. Weldy, and Joseph L. Anderson II as new members and Mark Mazz and James Demitrus were reappointed. Elsewhere in this newsletter, we have provided additional biographical information. I look forward to working with each of them in the upcoming months. We are planning to hold another full in-person meeting sometime this summer.

As a follow-up to the MHCC meeting and based on the recommendation of the MHCC, on January 20, 2015, I issued a memorandum that extends the enforcement deadline of the October 1, 2014, "RV Exemption under Manufactured Housing Act" memorandum issued by my office until the publication of a final rule concerning the RV exemption.

Hopefully, most of you have heard that we are working on plans to hold an SAA and PIA meeting with members of the public also invited tentatively scheduled for the week of April 6th here in the DC area. We have asked the SAAs to forward suggested agenda items to us. Demetress Stringfield and Pat McDuffie of my staff are currently working on arrangements with BLH Technologies for this meeting.

I am very pleased to inform you that we have two new staff members with us in the Office of Manufactured Housing Programs. They are Demetress Stringfield, who comes to us from HUD's Office of Procurement and has worked with us on our contracts prior to coming to our staff, and Leo Huott, who comes to us from the U.S. Coast Guard with an engineering degree background.

We look forward to working with you all for a very productive 2015.



Pamela Beck Danner, Administrator



We're on the web!
www.hud.gov/mhs

Office of Manufactured Housing Programs
451 7th Street, SW, Room 9168
Washington, DC 20410-8000
Phone: 202-708-6423
Fax: 202-708-4213
Email: mhs@hud.gov