HPBA Homepage

HPBExpo

HPB Education Foundation

Pellet Fuels Institute

NFI

Wood Stove Changeout

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DOE Regulatory Review

On January 18, 2011, President Obama signed Executive Order (EO) 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review." Under the EO, federal agencies are required to determine whether existing regulations should be modified or repealed to make the agency's regulatory program more effective and less burdensome in achieving its regulatory goals.

The Department of Energy (DOE) solicited public comment by publishing its Reducing Regulatory Burden request for information (76 Fed. Reg. 6123) on February 3, 2011. HPBA submitted comments to DOE regarding their proposed ban on decorative vented gas fireplaces. In our comments, HPBA noted that DOE did not give notice or opportunity for comment before inclusion of the ban in the final rule, did not give consideration to the impact that the ban would have on the industry, did not have any data on decorative gas fireplaces, and did not consider the effect the ban would have on overall energy consumption.

The current regulatory review movement may prove a valuable opportunity for the hearth industry. Given the newly-rekindled concerns about the safety of nuclear power and legislative pressure to lessen the regulatory burden imposed by some agencies, HPBA plans to use this time to properly educate legislators and regulators on the benefits of our products for heating purposes in residential, commercial and industrial heating and power generation applications. This is the time to ensure, from decorative vented gas fireplaces to biomass boilers, that government does not regulate us out of business.

DOE Challenge Report

On March 15, another meeting was held in Washington, DC, between HPBA members, staff and legal counsel, and the staff and counsel from the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and Earthjustice. This was another negotiation meeting held to create language that will satisfy both HPBA (by removing the effective ban on decorative fireplaces), and DOE, DOJ, NRDC, ACEEE and Earthjustice. The negotiation discussions were promising, but not conclusive. HPBA is waiting to review comments from DOE and DOJ on several questions that were raised at the meeting before determining the next steps.

California NetZero Homes Process Begins

HPBA-Pacific Board members, representatives of HPBA manufacturers, including Jerry Scott from R H Peterson and Eric Adair from M&S DuraVent, and John Crouch recently met with the California Energy Commission staff regarding

NetZero homes. This was the second of several meetings on the program to develop an action plan on this concept, which could potentially become effective in 2020. As of now, the hearth industry's products are not explicitly included, however, the Pacific HPBA affiliate wants to be ready with a defense when NetZero actually becomes a reality. For more information, HPBA-Pacific members should contact Kaity Van Amersfort, kaity@hpbapacfic.org and manufacturers should contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

2011 Government Affairs Academy - Space Available

There is still space available for this year's Government Affairs Academy (GAA), to be held May 15-18 in Washington, DC. The program will begin on Sunday, May 15, and end with a "day on Capitol Hill" on Wednesday, May 18. HPBA members from across the U.S. and Canada will participate in this highly popular "boot camp" program to prepare industry leaders and spokespersons. The intense workshop program includes grassroots organizing, media training and how bills become law. For more information on the program and space availability, please contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

Pellet Fuel Standards Report

At HPBExpo in Salt Lake City, U.S. EPA officials voiced their support for the Pellet Fuels Institute's (PFI) Standards Program. They indicated that EPA plans to use the program as the reference standard under its revised New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Residential Wood Heaters, provided that the pellet industry demonstrates its support of the program.

When the program's components are finalized, PFI will begin the process of enrolling companies. Until that time, the association has created a Standards Pledge that pellet fuel manufacturers can sign and show their intent to participate. This is a non-binding pledge and does not preliminarily enroll companies in the program; however, it signifies to EPA that the pellet fuel industry is supportive of the PFI Standards Program.

Currently, eighteen fuel manufacturers have signed and pledged their support of the program. For information on the standards program, go to www.pelletheat.org/pfi-standards.

PFI Annual Conference: Call for Speakers

PFI has issued a call for speakers for its 2011 Annual Conference to be held July 24-26 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Anyone interested in speaking at the conference is invited to submit an abstract for the following categories: Pellet Plant Optimization and Efficiency; International Market Development; Pellet Plant Safety; Fire Prevention at Pellet Mills; Managing Combustible Dust at Pellet Mills; or any other suggested topic.

The deadline to submit an abstract is April 22nd. For more information, visit the PFI website.

Department Activities

Codes & Standards

ICC 700 (National Association of Home Builders, Green Building Standard) met in Washington, DC on March 29-30. This was the first face-to-face meeting for the 2012 Update of the National Green Building Standard (ICC 700). HPBA's Tom Stroud attended the

- meeting and also submitted a number of proposals for this update.
- International Green Construction Code (IgCC) Draft 2 is available for review by going to the ICC website. The public meeting will take place May 16-22 in Dallas.
- NFPA 211 revision cycle for fall 2012 is currently accepting proposals for changes to the existing standard. The deadline for proposals is May 23, 2011. Information can be found on the NFPA website and clicking on the "Next Edition" tab.
- HPBA Government Affairs staff is assisting in the creation of a new caucus for alcohol/gel fireplaces. If you are interested in participating in a formative teleconference, please contact Tom Stroud, <u>stroud@hpba.org</u>. One of the first discussions will be UL 1370, Article of Investigation, that is moving towards becoming a UL standard.

Communications

HPBA Communications is gearing up for May is National Barbecue Month to kick off the summer outdoor cooking season. Watch for emails this month for our promotion, "Summertime and the Grilling is Easy" and our new Facebook and Twitter barbecue platforms. And, new recipes are welcome for our new Facebook and Twitter followers. Please send your favorites to Leslie Wheeler, wheeler@hpba.org, and we'll give you the credit.

Government Affairs

Two presentations by EPA that were given at the highly popular Government Affairs Briefing for manufacturers at Expo are now posted on the HPBA website. For Gil Wood's presentation, please click here and Larry Brockman's can be viewed here.

HPB Education Foundation/NFI

Spring and summer seasons provide great opportunities for training employees and many HPBA affiliates, manufacturers and distributors offer superb training courses. Don't miss the opportunity to stay up on the latest changes in the hearth industry. If you can't attend a regional meeting, consider HE@RTH Online Training. The online catalog now has over 110 different courses available.

This is also a great time to finally get NFI Certified. The combination of regional events and online training make getting certified more convenient than ever. The current list of NFI exam locations can be found on the NFI website. If there are no events in your area or the dates are not convenient, you can take the NFI exam at one of the PSI/LaserGrade sites around the country. Be sure you select "National Fireplace Institute" as the sponsor.

Membership

Effective April 1, HPBA reorganized its membership department and sales capabilities. The position of Director of Membership Development and Affiliate Relations has been eliminated, and Don Kaiser, who held that position, has left HPBA. Two new positions will be created: a new sales person who will work under Meetings Director Kelly VanDermark and a senior manager for membership and affiliates. Any questions on membership status should be directed to lan Glowacki, iglowacki@hpba.org and on HPBA's reorganization to Jack Goldman, goldman@hpba.org.

Statistics

- HPBA's 2010 top-of-the-line hearth industry shipments for the U.S. and Canada are posted on the <u>HPBA</u> <u>website</u>. The Q1 Quarterly Industry has been distributed; please respond as quickly as possible.
- At the direction of the HPBA Statistics Committee, the

Manufacturers' Rep survey has been discontinued due to its declining participation.

HPBExpo Report Innovations & Ideas for Indoor-Outdoor Living Atlanta, Georgia · February 29 – March 3, 2012 www.hpbexpo.com

HPBExpo 2012 website is live! Bookmark the Expo's website, www.hpbexpo.com, for information on HPBExpo 2012 being held February 29 - March 3 in Atlanta. More show information and updates are coming soon. If you would like to relive HPBExpo 2011, including the Friday Night Fever party, check out the Photo Gallery.

Attention Expo Attendees. Be on the look out for an email from BuyerConnect with the list of exhibit booths you visited during the HPBExpo 2011. This is a great reminder on booths and products you saw while in Salt Lake City. For questions, please contact buyerconnect@compusystems.com.

Reserve Your HPBExpo 2012 Booth Space Now.

Attention prospective exhibitors: Atlanta holds the record for the highest Expo attendance, and prime booth space will go quickly. Join industry leaders such as, Monessen Hearth Systems, Weber, Napoleon, Kozy Heat, Masterbuilt and Onward Manufacturing, in Atlanta next year. The complete Expo 2012 Exhibitor Portfolio is available online at www.hpbexpo.com under "Apply to Exhibit." The website contains 2012 floor plans, booth contracts, rules and regulations and payment information (50% is due at space selection).

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PlayWIN - HPBExpo 2011 Winners. Congratulations!

- Winner of the ICC-RSF iPod Touch Log Your Steps: Richard DeGraw, Porters Mountain View Supply, Riverton, WY
- Winner of the HPBExpo 2012 Atlanta Package: Mark Brennan, Harmony Hearth & Home, Cheyenne, WY
- Winner of the Last Day Badge Drop: Wesley Dinsmore, Clappers Home & Hearth, Inc., Sudbury, MA
- Daily Prize Drawing Winners Steve Houpt, Fireplace Shanty, Mays Landing, NJ; Mark Profitt, Meco Corp., Greenville, TN; and Ron Munson, Western Outdoor Wholesale, Portland, OR

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