



# **Energy Code Presentation**

March 14, 2019

# PSD Authority to create/update Energy Code – Residential

- ▶ The Vermont Residential Building Energy Standard (RBES) – 30 V.S.A. § 51 affects all new homes built after July 1, 1998. It is the energy code for all residential buildings 3 stories or less above grade in Vermont. Last revised March 1, 2015
  - In 2013 this statute was amended in to include authority to create a residential stretch code. This is the presumptive standard for residential construction requiring an Act 250 permit to meet criterion 9(f).

# PSD Authority to create/update Energy Code – Commercial

- ▶ The Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standard (CBES) – 30 V.S.A. § 53 affects all new commercial buildings built after July 1, 2006 . It is the energy code for all commercial buildings and residential building 4 stories or greater above grade in Vermont. Last revised March 1, 2015
  - No authority has been granted to create a stretch code for commercial buildings. The NRB asked that the PSD develop ‘stretch guidelines’ to met the definition of “Best Available Technology’ required for the commercial Act 250 process. These ‘stretch guidelines’ were not adopted by the PSD through administrative rule.

# Certification Process for Buildings

- ▶ This is a self-certification process as required by the enabling statutes for RBES and CBES and compliance is required to be shown after construction not before.
  - For residential buildings certification may be issued by a builder, a licensed professional engineer, a licensed architect, or an accredited home energy rating organization.
  - For commercial buildings the design must be certified by the primary designer and the builder must certify that the building was constructed to the certified design.
- ▶ There is no current process required by statute that would require review of the design or inspection of the construction for compliance with the energy code.

# Certificate of Occupancy

- ▶ In 2013 Act 89 create a requirement for that towns and municipalities that issue certificates of occupancy must only do so once a completed energy code certificate has been entered into the land records.
- ▶ For public, multi-family and commercial buildings that require a certificate of occupancy from the Division of Fire Safety, no permanent certificate should be issued without the certificate being permanently displaced on or near the HVAC equipment or electrical panel.