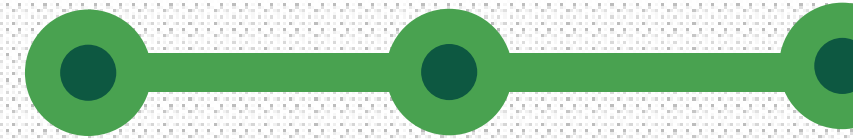




# The Process in Progress



By Nick Reiher

After two years of planning, membership input and software development, cdpACCESS has had a notable debut. The response to how the long-awaited cdpACCESS system performed during its rollout for the 2014 Code Cycle has been positive overall. No major glitches and it's functioning as promised.

Initially, what developed into cdpACCESS was once referred to as "remote voting," a system that would allow ICC Governmental Member Voting Representatives to vote on code changes even if they were unable to attend code hearings. But the system turned out to be much more than that. It's also a way for more Members, non-members and other interested parties in all areas of expertise to get involved by submitting code changes more efficiently than before.

Beginning Nov. 15, anyone interested in participating in the 2014 Cycle was able to submit code changes through cdpACCESS, a cloud-based tool built exclusively for ICC's code development process (cdp). Jan. 10 was the deadline for interested parties and stakeholders to submit changes to the 2012 *International Green Construction Code*® (IgCC)

"Now the ball is in staff's court," said Mike Pfeiffer, ICC's Deputy Senior Vice President for Technical Services. They

now are gathering the proposals submitted through cdpACCESS, and vetting them for format, content and intent. The next step is a monograph of all the code change proposals, due to be posted for review March 10.

Once referred to as "remote voting"—a system that would allow ICC Members to vote on code changes even if they were unable to attend code hearings—cdpACCESS has developed into so much more.

Code changes in the past were submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF attachment to an ICC email address and reviewed by staff once the deadline had passed, Pfeiffer said. Instead of processing a Word version of the proposal, staff is processing the proposals online via cdpACCESS. Now code change proponents who log on to the cdpACCESS system are able to access the database of 2012 IgCC text and collaborate with others who may want to see the proposals by forwarding a copy to them. The system also allows collaborators to provide comments to the proponent and suggest changes to the proposal before it is submitted online to ICC.

"I like it," said Gardner, who was involved in the cdpACCESS test group. "It pretty much worked the way I expected it to. It takes the previous system of submitting code changes one step further and allows many more people to get involved, from Day 1 on."

Starting with a single code with a relatively narrow focus—the IgCC—has allowed ICC technical staff to evaluate the new system without possibly overloading it, Pfeiffer said. One thing that didn't change with cdpACCESS is most of the proposals still were submitted on the day they were due, many during the evening of January 10.

Starting with the IgCC also attracted potential users who, like Strausbaugh, likely are more familiar with changes in computer technology, said Michael Gardner, Executive Director of the Hyattsville, Md.-based Gypsum Association. Regardless, he added, the system was very easy to use.

A self-described "code geek," Shawn Strausbaugh, Construction Plan Examiner for Arlington County, Va., couldn't wait to start tinkering with the sys-

tem. For one, he knew he wanted to submit a couple of changes to make sure the IgCC was in line with the *International Plumbing Code*®. For another, through a combination of collaboration where he was invited to view other proposals as well as view those proposals that were identified by the proponent as "public" within the cdpACCESS system, he got a chance to see some 40 other proposals prior to the code change deadline.

Pfeiffer said they also were able to tell that a few hundred individuals active in code development experimented with the system, developing test proposals and generally becoming familiar with the system even though they did not submit an IgCC proposal. ICC had encouraged participants to do so, offering webinars to guide those first steps.

Pfeiffer said cdpACCESS also made available the most updated version of the 2012 IgCC. That's key to making relevant changes. And when they access the code change monograph once the code changes are posted, he added, they'll be able to compile their own monograph of select code change proposals in addition to the customary posting where the code changes are posted by committee, as well as the entire monograph

The monograph is expected to be out March 10, so interested parties will be able to review the proposed

changes from then through the Committee Action Hearings, April 27 – May 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

Changes resulting from cdpACCESS will occur at the hearings as well. For example, participants no longer need to make 20 copies of modifications to be considered at the hearings. Modifications to proposed changes will be submitted electronically and still be viewed on the screens in the hearing room.

New to this cycle, assembly floor motions made at the Committee Action Hearing will not be voted on at the hearings. Votes will be cast online after the hearings. The motions will be compiled and a ballot created which will be available about a week or so after the hearings conclude. The ballot will include the action and reason for the action taken by the committee, the assembly motion itself and the video of the hearing discussion on the subject code change. As in the past, successful assembly motions become an automatic public comment to be considered at the Public Comment Hearing in the fall.

"So, instead of 300 to 500 people voting on the assembly motion to a code change, we could potentially have the entire ICC membership," Pfeiffer said.

Only participants who attend the hearings will be able to suggest modifications from the floor and make

assembly motions, Pfeiffer cautioned. So, even with increased online participation, he said, there is still incentive to attend the hearings and participate in shaping the outcome.

Amanda Hickman, Manager of Regulatory Affairs for Intercode Inc., was glad to hear ICC still is encouraging the personal touch, especially at code hearings. The Del Ray Beach, Fla.-based code consultants also had some clients who wondered if they would still be able to have that personal contact at hearings.

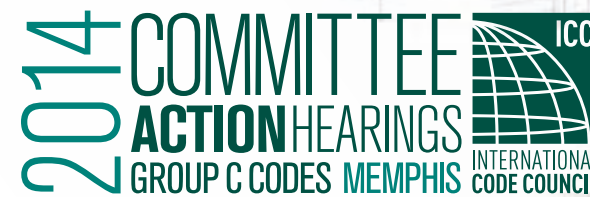
Although they'll have to wait until the end of April to network and lobby at the Committee Action Hearings in Memphis, Hickman said the initial cdpACCESS process was great. "It was very user-friendly," she said. "I just went to the drop-down and pulled up the part of the Code I needed."

Initially, Hickman said she had a little trouble finding the changes she submitted. But once she got the hang of the system, they were pretty easy to find. She said she can't wait to find more opportunities for the collaboration feature, to be able to seek out some new ideas and offer some as well.

And she's glad more participants will have input into the changes.

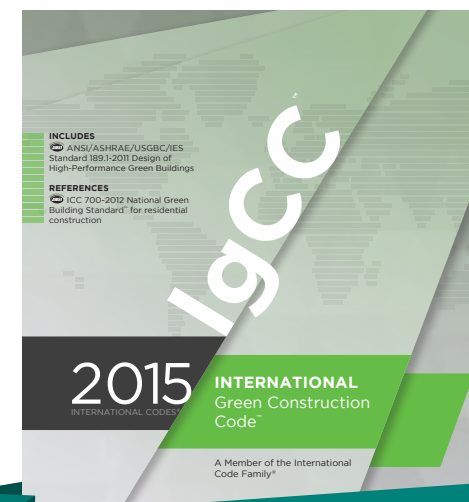
Just like the codes themselves, cdpACCESS will be a continuous improvement process. [You can email ICC with your feedback](#) to help make the process better. Webinars also are available, as is a list of frequently-asked questions.

Hearing participants are not required to be ICC Members to attend the hearings or participate in the code development process. The hearings are free to attend. ICC Primary Representatives are encouraged to review and verify the credentials of their Voting Members before the Memphis hearings.



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**April 27 – May 4 in Memphis, Tennessee**

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**WHEN**  
April 27 – May 4

**WHERE**  
Memphis, Tennessee

**COST**  
None, *FREE* to attend

**LIVE**  
**cdpACCESS™**

This new online cloud-based tool built exclusively for ICC's code development process (cdp), offers Code Council Members the opportunity to collaborate, review, submit and vote (if eligible)\* on code change proposals and public comments. To learn more, visit [cdpACCESS.com](http://cdpACCESS.com)

\*To ensure ICC Member Voter designation changes and validation of voter credentials are current, [click here](#). Membership must be current by March 28, 2014 to vote at the hearings.

**REGISTER NOW!**

ICC Members as well as Governmental Members need to be in the system 30 days prior to a committee action hearing to vote on assembly motions. Voter designation changes and validation of voter credentials for 2014 can be made now. The deadline is March 28. For questions, email [Members@iccsafe.org](mailto:Members@iccsafe.org).

Meanwhile, Strausbaugh and the others can't wait to see how the code changes they planted come to fruition through the process.

"I'm looking forward to the next step," he said. "I can't wait to see how it all comes out." **bsj**

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