The [New] Code is coming! The [New] Code is coming!

Written by Paul Eckler, CCM – December 22, 2015

The Massachusetts State Board of Building Regulations and Standards has announced that in the 1st half of 2016 the Massachusetts Building Community will see the 9th edition of the State Building Code. The Code, not issued anew since 2009, is the product of a year-long effort by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) that concluded with its approving in November 2015 the draft 9th Edition of the MA State Building Code.

After a further internal review, a public hearing will be held to allow final comments by interested parties, which may lead to further, final adjustments to the draft code language. This is all expected to complete in the first half of 2016, when the new code will become effective.

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security suggests that “building owners, designers and contractors should consider changes in the 9th edition that may affect projects scheduled for permit application during the first quarter of next year.” This is especially important because... there’s no concurrency period this time.

In the past, developers could choose to proceed under either code during this concurrency period. This time, the 9th version becomes immediately effective. No choice this time! However, if you filed prior to the 9th edition’s effective date, you can proceed under the guidance of the 8th edition as long as you ‘keep it moving.’ That’s a challenge for new applications when the window of effective date is as broad as ‘the first half of 2016.’ A summary of the changes in the 9th edition can be found at the following hyperlink:


More detailed information can be found at the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Public Safety and Security website.