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ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT FORM
FOR PROPOSED CODE CHANGES
(This form must be submitted electronically)

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Proposed Code Change - Language

~~**Sub-membrane preparation.** A layer of gas-permeable material shall be placed directly under the soil-gas membrane that directly contacts the ground and is within the walls of the conditioned spaces of the building.~~

Sub-membrane preparation. A gas permeable material shall be placed on the prepared subgrade under all concrete floors or other floor systems within dwellings when the concrete floor or other floor system is constructed at, on, or below grade.

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

It is necessary that the code provide clear and concise direction that is accurate and understandable. This language is intended to provide direction on what is to be installed under the soil gas membrane. The current language is not clear. The section states: “A layer of gas-permeable material shall be placed directly under the soil-gas membrane that directly contacts the ground...” What it seems to be saying is that you first put a soil-gas membrane in contact with the ground. Then, you remove that membrane and install a layer of gas-permeable material. That is a very clumsy way of putting it. Because, once you put the gas-permeable material in place, the membrane is no longer in contact with the ground. And, if the membrane is in direct contact with the ground, there is no room for a 4 inch layer of rock or any other material. It is therefore necessary to revise the text so that it is understandable.

The language proposed is taken in part from IRC Section R506.2.2 that deals with placement of aggregate materials below a floor slab.

R506.2.2 Base. A 4-inch-thick (102 mm) base course consisting of clean graded sand, gravel, crushed stone or crushed blast-furnace slag passing a 2-inch (51 mm) sieve shall be placed on the prepared subgrade when the slab is below *grade*.

The second portion of the sentence, referring to placement of the gas permeable material within the walls of the conditioned spaces of the building, assumes that floors are never installed in unconditioned spaces. It is not prohibited and not uncommon that floors are installed in unconditioned space. It is therefore necessary to delete the language referencing conditioned space and let the rule apply whenever a floor exists which is a reasonable assumption.

The proposal also contains the words “within dwellings” to exclude garages or any other accessory use that may be constructed.

The proposed text is reasonable because it gives direction on placement of the gas permeable material in the same order as would occur when a basement or other under floor space is prepared for a floor.

Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis

This proposal will have no impact on the cost of construction.

Other Factors to Consider Related to Proposed Code Change

1. Is this proposed code change meant to:

change language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

change language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).
Radon rules

delete language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

delete language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

neither; this language will be new language, not found in the code book or in Minnesota Rule.

2. Is this proposed code change required by a Minnesota Statute or new legislation? If so, please provide the citation to the Statute or legislation.

No

3. Will this proposed code change impact other sections of a published code book or of an amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, please list the affected sections or rule parts.

No

4. Will this proposed code change impact other parts of the Minnesota State Building Code? If so, please list the affected parts of the Minnesota State Building Code.

No

5. Who are the parties affected or segments of industry affected by this proposed code change?

Code officials, building designers, contractors, building owners

6. Can you think of other means or methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed code change? If so, please explain what they are and why your proposed change is the preferred method or means to achieve the desired result.

No

7. Are you aware of any federal requirement or regulation related to this proposed code change? If so, please list the regulation or requirement.

No