



Mayor Martin J. Chávez

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mayor's Office

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

May 16, 2007

TO: Debbie O'Malley, President, City Council
FROM: Martin J. Chávez, Mayor
SUBJECT: Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code

The Administration respectfully requests approval of the attached legislation, which replaces the currently adopted 2003 New Mexico Energy Conservation Code with the 2007 Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code – Volumes I and II. The purpose of this new code is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring new buildings, and existing buildings undergoing alterations, to be more energy efficient.

In June 2006, Mayor Chavez, together with mayors from Chicago, Seattle, and Miami, submitted Resolution No. 50 which urged the United States Conference of Mayors to adopt the *2030 Challenge*. The *2030 Challenge* calls for an immediate reduction in fossil fuel energy consumption by new and renovated buildings and a complete elimination of the use of fossil fuels to operate new buildings by the year 2030.

The attached legislation is a first step towards achieving the goals of the *2030 Challenge*. Volume I requires that new commercial and multi-family residential buildings be 30% more energy efficient than in the past. Volume II substantially increases the amount of insulation and the efficiency of the heating, ventilating, air conditioning, water heating, and lighting systems required in single-family dwellings. Volume II also adopts, and amends, the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code. Both volumes include a requirement for Thermal Bypass Inspections, as developed by the *Energy Star* program. These inspections will insure that insulation is installed correctly and will result in “tighter” buildings with much less air leakage.

The major provisions of this legislation were developed, by consensus, in a series of meetings between City staff and the Mayor's Green Ribbon Task Force that included representatives from virtually every aspect of Albuquerque's building industry.

A summary of the major components of Volumes I and II of the 2007 Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code has been included with this package as has a copy of the *Energy Star* Thermal Bypass Inspection checklist.

Recommended:

Bruce J. Perlman, Ph.D
Chief Administrative Officer

Recommended:

Richard Dineen, Director
Planning Department

Approved as to Legal Form:

Robert M. White
City Attorney

Recommended:

Ed Adams
Chief Operations Division

Cover Analysis

1. What is it?

The Ordinance repeals the existing Uniform Administrative Code and adopts a new Uniform Administrative Code, which in turn adopts by reference the 2007 Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code – Volumes I and II.

2. What will this piece of legislation do?

This piece of legislation will replace the, currently adopted, 2003 New Mexico Energy Conservation Code with 2007 Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code – Volumes I and II as a first step in achieving the goals of the *2030 Challenge*.

Volume I requires new commercial and multi-family residential construction to be 30% more energy efficient than a *baseline building*. The *baseline building* is a hypothetical building, of the same size and use as the proposed building, that meets the minimum energy efficiency standards of ASHRAE 90.1 – 1999. Compliance will be verified by comparative energy calculations included with submittals for a building permit.

In recognition of the embodied energy in existing buildings, a 20% increase in energy efficiency will be allowed for existing commercial and multi-family residential buildings undergoing alterations.

Volume II requires substantial increases in the amount of insulation and the efficiency of the heating, ventilating, air conditioning, water heating, and lighting systems required in single-family dwellings. Volume II also adopts, and amends, the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code.

Both volumes include a requirement for *Thermal Bypass Inspections* which will greatly increase the “tightness” of new construction and reduce air leakage.

Buildings certified as *LEED Silver* or greater, *Build Green New Mexico Silver* or greater, buildings that use no fossil fuels, or electricity produced by fossil fuels, and historic buildings are exempt from the requirements of the 2007 Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code. Building systems that use energy primarily for industrial, manufacturing, or commercial processes are not covered by the 2007 Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code.

3. Why is this legislation needed?

This legislation is needed to achieve effective use of energy and to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases generated by buildings. It is estimated that buildings are the cause of 48% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

4. How much will it cost and what is the funding source?

A Fiscal Impact Analysis is attached that indicates, “No measurable fiscal impact is anticipated.”

5. What will happen if the legislation is not approved?

If the legislation is not approved, the City will continue to operate under the current 2003 New Mexico Energy Conservation Code.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE(S)