

Were Concerns With the Green Building Standard Resolved?

Recently the topic of ASHRAE Standard 189.1 came up in our office and I recalled the AISC objection to some of the provisions regarding recycled content.

After briefly reviewing the standard, I see there was a representative from AISC listed as a member of the Standard Project Committee and in reviewing the provisions concerning recycled content it appears that the concerns expressed by AISC have been addressed. Is this an accurate assessment?

Nathan Johnson, LEED AP

John Cross, P.E., of AISC replies:

I want to thank you for your question and interest in ASHRAE 189.1. You are correct that AISC had some serious issues with the first two drafts of the 189.1 standard. We did file numerous comments on the second draft including several that included the names of several hundred AISC members that wished their names

added to our comments.

Following the comment period for the second draft, the ASHRAE board recognized that the 189.1 committee needed to broaden its membership in order to develop a balanced and consensus-based standard. The committee was expanded and work began on a third draft in early 2009. During that committee expansion I was invited to participate as voting member of the committee along with representatives of the wood and concrete industries. The committee approved significant changes to the materials section that were published in the third draft of the standard. Those changes reflect a much more balanced approach to building materials. AISC actively supported those changes. The third draft did generate other comments that the committee evaluated. Some of those comments resulted in changes that were published in fourth draft that went out for public review in the fall of 2009. After evaluating comments on the fourth draft, the committee voted that the standard be recommended for publication. The boards of the three sponsoring organi-

zations (ASHRAE, USGBC and IES) also voted for publication and the standard was published in January of 2010.

AISC applauds the efforts of ASHRAE to develop and publish Standard 189.1, *Standard for the Design of High-Performance, Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, as the first code-intended consensus-based commercial green building standard in the United States and encourages local jurisdictions to consider adopting 189.1 into their local building codes. This standard provides the foundation for those who strive to design, build and operate green buildings and covers issues from site location to energy use to recycling. The energy savings accomplished by following the provisions of 189.1 compared to ASHRAE Standard 90.1 are substantial and will significantly move us forward in the design and construction of sustainable structures, a goal strongly supported by the structural steel industry.