

Obstacles for Energy Service Providers in providing DOE ARRA WX Services

2010

Issues	• Why	• Review at April 27 Meeting
100% Blower Door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just having to do 100% blower door testing • If the test is done and the house is too tight- than only water measures can be installed (this creates another problem of client dissatisfaction of a program that is already not doing well) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to remove for MUDS
Mechanical Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate training/ Lack of detailed training • IS there going t be field training? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Problems than solutions • Many clients are refusing the mechanical ventilation altogether
Training requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant NEW training requirements causes delays in rolling out WX work • The requirement that no staff can do anything on the job sites until they have completed all the training slows down production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing long time constraints need a way to expedite if at all possible
Amount of Trips per Dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessor cannot perform work, Workers cannot assess, workers cannot post inspect, post inspectors cannot perform work – requires three trips per dwelling • Assessment, HVAC Work, then crew production, and possible additional returns to finish work, requires a MINIMUM of THREE trips per dwelling if not more • With the 100% blower door requirement three trips to a dwelling to assess, work and post for only showerheads, aerators, CFLs and a CO detector can be an inefficient use of time- previously this could have been completed in one trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHPO will cause a major hindrance and add more trips as well as leaving a file open longer than usual
NEAT Energy Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current (New) Version is much more complicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two areas need field testing

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Glass Repair and Replacement

- With DBA wages applying to sub contractors there is a unique challenge to agencies that use weatherization subcontractors. If they hire a Glass shop to replace broken glass their time on the job is subject to DBA wages and certified payroll requirements. So the Glass shop would have to provide DBA certified payroll to our weatherization contractors who would pass the certified payroll on to us with their invoice along with their certified payroll. Lots of time spent keeping track of who is doing what.
- With the DB requirement many subs cannot afford to pay DB wages.
- Possible solution from Santa Barbara was to take the window to the repair shop if it needs new glass- as DB wages only apply “when on the job site” instead of replacing the glass on-site
- If subs do not enter site than DB wages need not apply

Door Repair

- While door weather-stripping is now considered a GHW measure. The repair of a door threshold and door shoe is not. If a home does not meet MVR we can install weather-stripping as a GHW measure to repair damaged weather-stripping but not a threshold or door shoe. Threshold and door shoe should be considered GHW measures along with weather-stripping.
- Threshold and door shoes are infiltration measures

Reporting

- A Five day Reporting time frame (the due date of the 5th) is not enough time to collect and enter the information in the system for some to report all activity for the month
- The Fear of making any mistakes
- Change the cut-off date
- The current date creates problems with other programs
- Supporting documents are a problem due to different cut-off dates
- Most of the time not all of the other costs are in
- Three agencies have the problem of having to adjust reports each month and the smaller agencies post everything at the same time

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<p>ServTraq LITE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging - and since it wasn't possible to leverage March files, how to now go back and make adjustments to each of those 41 files so they show up in the Data Processing side of ServTraq when making adjustments isn't adequately covered in the ServTraqLITE manual. (nor has the help I requested from CSD...but I understand they've been busy) • ServTraqLITE and its lack of an operable search function. • ServTraqLITE and its lack of 'hot key' functionality 	<p>as they do not have separate accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many agencies had to add new staff just for reporting • Leveraging is now updated in ServTraq • CCEs call help line 831-761-1747 • The number of adjustments can't be printed on a report. This makes it hard to transfer adjustments to EARS, at this time. • Each agency must manually transfer to EARS • Unable to find incomplete applications – there is no report for this and is needed • The Hot Key function must be turned on in order to work, please call help line for help on this
<p>Capacity of CSD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need timely responses and better communication from CSD • CSD seems to be over worked and under staffed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSD Needs a timely turn-around especially in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiver request ○ SHPO Requests (once that gets started) ○ The return of contracts (for all programs) • Survey's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The monkey Surveys cause problems especially when they are sent to one person and most often times not the correct person ○ CSD needs to update their email lists
<p>Tracking of Time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still confusion on how to interpret tracking crew time • How to track it all correctly • If you interpret tracking crew time on the job as by the measure it creates real challenges. If you interpret 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to be done by the minute by the measure • Task definitions • Inspection's time for travel tracked on 2 line areas- (why is this the case?) • Drive time for inspections should

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tracking crew time by “task” as the contract states and interpret “task” to mean by DBA job classification it is much easier.
WHAT IS CORRECT?

be removed.

- Survey for accounting software
- Timesheets per job
- Google addresses for time travel
- Laptop per crew to track time
- There is a new device that tracks time per measure- Job Clock by Exaktime

Invoicing Requirements

- One other issue which came up was the change from an approved hourly rate for all employees to a system of separate rates of reimbursement for each crew member. That change required a completely new field level invoicing program to be written to be able to capture the precise man hours being spent at each housing unit and turn it into something which can be entered into ServTraQ LITE by a data entry clerk.
- It would be most helpful if CSD/DOE made no further major changes in the invoicing requirements. (with the exception of the introduction of any currently excluded Wx measures)

Requirements of Program

- The constant dribble of new rulings, requirements, DOE and now EPA reporting changes, and methodologies is slowing down the process and making future planning an unnecessarily difficult exercise.
- Direction of what to do and how to do it constantly changing at all levels of government

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EPA Renovator Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is only one test kit approved by the EPA at the moment and it is the Lead Check test kits by Hybrivet. They are so overwhelmed right now that they shut down their website and there is a several week backorder.• Currently Renovator training facilities are getting order priority• Keep in mind this is not just California, this is the entire U.S.A. (so again lack of capacity of others hinders the performance of energy service providers.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renovator Rule<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Test kits are available• If EPA doesn't inspect DOE will
WIS Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The tardiness of the new WIS manual• The new manual will change the priority of Blower Door/Duct Blaster to Duct Blaster/Blower Door.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some rules modify the contract
Heightened Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The risk associated with ARRA funding seems/is much greater than with our traditional programs.• The LIMITED amount of admin that is allowed for a tremendous administrative work load increase.• Reimbursement for measures that may put the task in the red.• Risk of ramping up and having nowhere to go, meaning that direction continues to change and we know clearly that CA is at high risk of losing overall funding, what does that mean to us as energy service providers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCD inspection on Mobile Homes is now at a six month wait in the northern CA area
Lack of WILLING Subcontractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surprisingly but true – not everyone is jumping at the chance to do this programs and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

here is why

- Licensed contractors are on the edge and many are not jumping at the chance to **pay prevailing wage, certify weekly payroll and take on what can be a hassle of federal work.**
- Finding willing and able subcontractors to handle and pull off the work as well as go through the required training mandated before one can do WX services has been hard especially in smaller areas throughout the state

*This List is Subject To Change