

Letter From The President

J. David Odom – remember that name. Mr. Odom was employed 30 years with CH2MHill who is a leading authority on mildew and moisture in buildings. In fact, we sell a manual by CH2MHill which has many answers about moisture, the effects and how to solve the some of these building problems. Mr. Odom spoke at one of our conventions on this subject.

As time passes, many things change and we now find ourselves concentrating on our environment to make our planet more livable for generations to come. As you are aware, our answer to this is GREEN – many companies and corporations are building their business on this.

I'm not sure all that is done or advertised in the name of GREEN is actually GREEN. I don't know the answer to this question. One item I wonder about is the new light bulbs that saves us so much energy. I use them at home but I also understand they contain a lot of mercury and I wonder if disposal of these units do more harm more than they actually help the environment. I do realize if properly disposed of by everyone, there would not be any danger, but until we reach that point we will have problems in the future. Is the disposal costs more than our energy savings? Our planet is extremely sensitive, therefore, we have to be diligent and take care of it and it will continue to take care of us.

Back to my original topic, we are building GREEN buildings that can be LEED® certified. Our current building methods create other problems especially with our old problem of mold and mildew. These must be addressed before we start building.

Mr. Odom and his associates have started a new corporation, Liberty Building Forensics Group in Zellwood, Florida, that holds seminars across the US. Some of the problems they address are:

Checklists, Modeling and Guidelines That Can Predict Future Problems and Prevent Green Building Failures

Identifying the Most Like Mistakes That Will Virtually Guarantee Catastrophic Moisture Problems in Your Green Building – How to Avoid Them

Recommendations for Alternative Approaches That Reduce Risk – Even for High-Risk Green Practices

Specific Details on What a Successful Green Building Must Include in Warm, Humid Climates

The HMEA does not endorse Mr. Odom or Liberty Building Forensics Group but we do feel that the problems we must face with building GREEN will happen and from reading their material they certainly have answers to a lot of situations present and future. I spoke with Mr. Odom in June and they are holding a seminar in New York in July and they have an unprecedented number of attendees signed up – somewhere in the area of 200. For more information on upcoming seminars, dates and locations please refer to their website at www.libertybuilding.com.

Since the unemployment numbers continue to climb and our economy is not moving forward, HMEA is offering our ***Certified Chief Engineer training course for \$219.00*** (regular price for members was \$425.00 and \$525.00 to non-members). This price won't last long since it is below our cost, so be a "Make It Happen Person" and get certified today.

Harold Hogue
President