

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AWARD APPLICATION

COVER PAGE

Society Year 2005 - 2006

1. Chapter Name: Puerto Rico Chapter #110, ASHRAE Region XII
2. Location (include state[s], Province[s], principal city [ies] or counties)
Puerto Rico
3. Member in Charge of Chapter Government Activities
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4. Number of Years the Member in Charge has served on this Chapter Committee: 1
5. Number of Chapter Members : 139
6. Number of Members Involved in Government Activities Program: 2

Ricardo L. Esbri Amador
Chapter President (Please type name)
Ricardo L. Esbri Amador 5/10/06
Signature Date

Submit to Regional Vice Chair for Chapter Technology Transfer Committee

I. Executive Summary

The island of Puerto Rico is a Commonwealth (a non incorporated territory) of the United States. The government in the island is divided in three levels. These are the Municipalities (which are similar to a local government in the United States), the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (which is similar to a state government in the United States) and the United States Federal Government.

Puerto Rico has seventy-eight (78) municipalities. Each one has Executive Branch directed by an elected Mayor and Legislative Branch with elected Municipal Legislator (similar to a councilperson in the United States). The Mayor runs the day to day business of the municipality thru its departments and Municipal Legislators approved ordinances and the municipal budget. Two key departments in these municipalities are Public Works and Permits Departments.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is divided in three branches. These are the executive, legislative and judiciary branches. The Executive Branch is directed by an elected governor. This branch is divided in about 140 departments, agencies, administrations and public corporations. These provide services to the citizen and are responsible of executing the laws. The Legislative Branch is responsible for development of the laws. It also has the power to investigate over any matter on the island. This branch is divided in two houses. These are the Senate and the House of Representative. The Senate has the power of confirmation of main government officials appointed by the governor. The House has the power to approve the Commonwealth yearly budget.

The Executive Branch of the Federal maintains offices in the island, which enforce federal laws and provide services to the citizens. Puerto Rico has an elected official which represents the island in Congress. This is an elected position and is known as Resident Commissioner. This elected official has the right to speak in the Federal House of Representatives, but does not have the right to vote.

This general information about how is the government in Puerto Rico is the base of our government activity plan. This provides us with the direction required to come of with methods for implementing the plan and what activities to pursue.

The main goal is the adaptation of ASHRAE 90.1 as the island energy code. Currently the Energy Code is dated and most consulting engineers are unable to apply it since it does not consider the weather and methods of construction used in Puerto Rico. Description of the activities done for this and other secondary goals are presented below. The Chapter acknowledges the help provided by Lee Burgett (ASHRAE President), Robert Risley (Director and Regional Chair, Region XII), Benjamin Cole (Regional Vice Chair Chapter Technology Transfer, Region XII) and Ronald Jarnagin (ASHRAE Vice President) during this Society Year on our efforts in government affairs.

II. Government Activities Plan

A. Methods for Achieving Identification of Government Entity Personnel

Our effort will be directed to the Executive Branch agencies in charge of the Puerto Rico Building Code and the public policy related to energy use and conservation. The Executive Branch of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico maintains a web site which includes a list of all its government entities with the names of their main government official, main office address, phone/fax numbers, web site address and main purpose of the entity. This web site address is www.gobierno.pr. Another source of information is the phone book.

If our effort fails on the Executive Branch, we will proceed in contacting the Legislative Branch. Each Houses of the Legislative Branch of the Government of Puerto Rico maintain their own web site in which include the information of the elected official. Their web site addresses are www.senado.pr and www.camaradeputados.pr. Another source of information is the phone book.

B. Methods for Achieving Contacts with Government Entities/Other Groups

A phrase that applies on how business in Puerto Rico is done is "Is not who you are, but who you know". With this in mind, one method to take an advantage of this is to prepare a survey to be distributed to our chapter member during one of our monthly meetings, in which they can provide the Chapter information on government officials and their contact information. Also, we will use the information found on the websites already mentioned. We will seek help from other professional societies such as the Professional College of Engineers and Land Surveyors (CIAPR acronym in Spanish) and its Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IIM acronym in Spanish) with the purpose of getting contacts with government entities.

C. Methods of Achieving Presentations to Government Groups

The best method for achieving presentations to government officials is requesting meetings thru the telephone. Principal government official have assigned executive secretaries which keep their meeting schedule. This is the person for requesting meetings and sometimes feedback from the principal government official. Meetings should be scheduled at least one month in advance, with follow up calls two weeks, one week and one day previous the day of the meeting. Due to their nature of their work, they may not be available to attend the meeting, and may cancel with short notice. In this case request if their sub-principal government official is available to take his/her place. If also this person is not available, request a reschedule of the meeting. It may be possible that a government official of lower rank may be assigned to cover these meetings. After the meeting, write a thank you letter for providing their time and attention. If issues from the meeting are open, write and/or call requesting follow up to the issues still pending.

The first agency to be contacted for presentation is the entity in charge of the Puerto Rico Building Code. This agency is the Puerto Rico Regulations and Permits Administration (ARPE acronym in Spanish). The second agency to be contacted for presentation is the Puerto Rico Administration of Energy Affairs (AAE acronym in Spanish). This is the agency in charge of the public policies in energy use and conservation. It also promotes research in

the energy area. These agencies will be contacted with the purpose of promoting ASHRAE 90.1 as the Energy Code of the island. Also, meetings will be coordinated as needed to provide required technical information. Technical documents such ASHRAE Position Documents will be provided to contacts in these agencies.

D. Methods to Encourage ASHRAE Chapter Member Activity with Government Entities

The Chapter has identified three methods to encourage chapter member to be involve with government entities. The first one is a survey which will ask our chapter members questions such as if they are government officials or serving as an advisor to government committees. Also, the survey will ask names and contact information of government officials they may know or do business with. The survey will also ask if the person is available to serve as liaison with the government official. The second is preparing and publishing articles on the Chapter newsletter and in local newspaper. The purpose of this is double fold, informing the Chapter membership what we are doing related to government activities and to promote their interest in them. The third is the preparation of a monthly meeting with a government program. In this meeting the Chapter will be able to invite government officials to which our membership may ask questions about different aspects of their work.

E. Description of Activities to be Accomplished

The main goal that the Chapter is to have ASHRAE 90.1 adopted as the Puerto Rico Energy Code. This will be done thru meetings with the appropriate government official and entities, and providing any technical information requested by them. A contact list is required and will be prepared using the procedures stated above. Members and the general public will be informed of our progress thru the Chapter Newsletter and newspaper articles. The final activity will be submitting the Government Activities Award report to Region.

III. Conclusions/Summary

A. Discussion of How Government Activities Plan was implemented

The first step was setting up a meeting with the Administrator of ARPE, Luis Velez, with the purpose of presenting him the Chapter membership's concerns related to the Energy Code adopted by his agency and presenting him ASHRAE 90.1 as possible sustitution. A meeting was schedule for November 18, 2005, since coincided with Lee Burgett's (ASHRAE President) and Benjamin Cole's (RVC CTT Region 12) visit to our Chapter. Due to schedule conflict, the meeting was hosted by Ramon Ayala, Sub Administrator of ARPE. Details of the meetings are included in the meeting minutes (see attachment 2005-11-18 Government Visit ARPE Puerto Rico Chapter.doc). A newspaper article describing this meeting was published December 17, 2005 (See attachment 2005-12-17 Scan Copy Newspaper Article ASHRAE discute con ARPE codigo de energia.pdf) and another article on the December Chapter Newsletter (see attachment PR Chapter December 2005-06 NEWSLETTER.doc). Two copies of the standard were delivered by hand to the agency December 9, 2005. See meeting minutes and letter and transmittal for more information (see attachments 2005-12-09 Government Visit ARPE Puerto Rico Chapter.doc, 12-08-05 ARPE entrega de copia de codigo.doc and 2005-12-09 ARPE transmittal.pdf). A follow up call was done January 12, 2006 (see attachment 2006-01-12 Government Phone Call ARPE Puerto Rico Chapter.doc).

An article related to ASHRAE 90.1 was published on our newsletter during the month of February (see attachment PR Chapter February 2005-06 NEWSLETTER.doc).

The Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IIM acronym in Spanish) offered us help in the effort related the ARPE and ASHRAE 90.1 during a visit to one of their Board of Directors meeting (see attachment 2006-01-23 BOG Puerto Rico Chapter.doc). The CIAPR Legislative Committee hosted public hearings related to the building permit process during the month of February and March, 2006. As part of our effort, testimony related to the Puerto Rico Energy Code was presented February 28, 2006 during one of these public hearings (see attachment 2006-02-28 Public Hearing by CIAPR related to Building Permits PR Chapter.doc, 2006-02-28 ASHRAE PR Ponencia Permisologia.doc, PHTO0011.WAV and PHTO0012.WAV). The ASHRAE Puerto Rico Chapter President was invited by the IIM to be part of a committee with the purpose of submitting recommendations of adopting new Mechanical, Plumbing and Energy Codes by ARPE. The first meeting was held March 24, 2006 (see attachment 2006-03-24 Government Affair ARPE MPE Committee Meeting 1 Minutes.doc). This first meeting was attended by Luis Velez and Ramon Ayala, ARPE Principal Government Officials. We coordinated with them the presentation of an ASHRAE 90.1 Seminar/Meeting to part of their engineering group (see attachments 2006-03-06 ARPE seminario de codigo.doc and 03-24-06 ARPE transmittal.pdf). Personnel from AAE were invited to this seminar. The seminar was certified with three (3) Continued Education Units (CEUs) (see attachment 2006-04-21 Seminario ASHRAE 90-1 Solicitud aprobar UEC.doc, ASHRAE Standard 90.1 Training Sample Slides.ppt, Jarnagin Short Bio 2006.doc and Preliminary Agenda.doc to see copy of the documentation submitted with this purpose). The seminar was hosted April 21, 2006 (see attachments 2006-04-21 ARPE and ASHRAE Puerto Rico Chapter ASHRAE90-1 SEMINAR Meeting Minutes.doc, 2006-04-21 ASHRAE PR Chapter Attendance.pdf). The seminar instructor was Ronald Jarnagin (ASHRAE Vice President). Contact information of attendee was collected with the purpose of distributing position documents and copy of the power point presentation (attachment 2005-2006 ASHRAE PR Document Distribution to Government Contacts.doc for the list of government officials that received copies of position documents and Puerto Rico Presentation.ppt to see copy of the presentation). A published newspaper article provided information about March 24 meeting and the April 21 seminar (see attachment 04-06 Scan Copy Newspaper Article IIM Informa.pdf). The second meeting of the committee was done April 26, 2006 (see attachment 2006-04-26 Government Affair ARPE MPE Committee Meeting 2 Minutes.doc). The third meeting of the Committee will be hosted May 25, 2006. In this one the Committee will vote on recommending ARPE the adoption of the ICC 2006 Mechanical, Plumbing and Energy Codes (the last one incorporates ASHRAE 90.1-2004). We will discuss in subsequent meetings any addendums these may require due to peculiar conditions of Puerto Rico.

The most important information acquired during the March 24 meeting was that the Federal Department of Energy (DOE) gave a grant to Hawaii for the development of a Tropical Energy Code for hurricane prone areas (see attachments h_wiig-tropical.pdf). The grants co-sponsors are the governments of the Virgin Islands, Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and Puerto Rico, thru AAE. This code uses as a foundation ASHRAE 90.1-2004 and the Guam Energy Code (see attachments guamcode.pdf). An article related to this DOE grant was published in our March Newsletter (see attachment PR Chapter March 2005-06 NEWSLETTER.doc). The person in charge of the grant was contacted by email and

is supplying us information related to the grant (see attachments PROJECT SUMMARY-W-CS-03-HI.doc and AN ENERGY CODE FOR THE TROPICS.doc).

During the 2005-2006 Society year the Governor of Puerto Rico signed a law restricting smoking inside buildings. This new law eliminated the exceptions of the previous law such as bar, pubs and casinos. A newspaper article base on the ASHRAE position document ETS was published due to this event (see attachment 04-06 Scan Copy Newspaper Article ETS.pdf). Other work done was the start of a government contact list (see ASHRAE PR Chapter Government Contacts List.xls).

B. Future Activities to be Accomplished

The main activity is the final approval of ASHRAE 90.1 as the Puerto Rico Energy Code. Future activities include participation of Mechanical, Plumbing and Energy Codes Committee and continue to do follow up meetings with contacted code officials. Another future activity is coordinate a meeting with AAE Administration which the Chapter was unable to schedule a meeting with him during this Society year, but at least the Chapter was able to contact subordinates. Follow ups will be done to the progress of the Tropical Energy Code, to which the Chapter will provide resources for reading and commenting draft of this document. The government affairs survey will help us plan the activities for the next society year. Maintaining vigilance to government issues will be done and reaction will be accordingly to the issue, as for example of the ETS new law. It will continue as a standard operating procedure publishing articles in the Chapter Newsletter and newspaper related to our government activities. During our monthly meeting to be held May 11, 2006, the Chapter will conduct the government affair survey; results will be published on next year submittal.

Appendices

- Attachment Files
- Pictures of Activities

POINT CRITERIA FOR GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AWARD

I. Government Activities Report

Executive Summary	10
Government Activities Plan	15
Description of Activities to be Accomplished	15
Conclusions/Summary	15
Quality/Appendices Detailing Activities	20
Total Possible Points	75

II. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

POINTS

MAXIMUM
POINTS

- A. Identification of all governmental entities and pertinent contact personnel within chapter's area including:
- Local municipal governments
 - Local county governments
 - School districts
 - State or regional governments (legislative and executive)
 - Local office of Federal agencies
 - Code authorities
 - Municipal, County or State code committees (The identification should include names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all pertinent personnel as well as a listing of what codes have been adopted by the entity and a discussion of enforcement of any codes related to ASHRAE Activities e.g., Standards 90.1, 100 etc.,)

1

Each briefing to government entities with regard technical issues and/or ASHRAE position documents or standards

5

Provide ASHRAE Position documents standards/guidelines literature to government officials with personal follow-up.

5

- B. Each ASHRAE Chapter member serving on local, state, regional or national code committees or government bodies such as school boards, city councils, etc.

5

C. Government Activities Chapter meeting

- D. Each ASHRAE Chapter that serves as a liaison or advisor to governmental committees

5

TOTAL POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES POINTS

1400 POINTS

Total Government Activities Points = Government Activities Points from Section II, Multiplied by 300, Divided by Chapter Assigned Members.

Subtotal: _____

FINAL SCORING

Final Score (Total Points from Section I + Total Points from Section II)

TOTAL POINTS: