NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THE FUTURE OF FENESTRATION PERFORMANCE

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ABSTRACT

This session will introduce the audience to a wide array of new fenestration products and technologies and will describe some of the issues influencing product performance innovation. Observations from evaluating the energy ratings for more than 20,000 products will be presented. Current energy performance issues, field problems, and coming technologies will be discussed. Following brief presentations, the panel will join the audience in a question-and-answer discussion about the problems that currently face builders, consumers, architects, and other "users" of fenestration products. Industry's response to these needs and anticipated regulatory actions will be discussed. Slides of current "problems" and future "solutions" will be presented.

Jim Krahn — "How Industry Brings New Technologies to Market"—The fenestration product industry is breaking out of old molds and adopting a wide array of new materials and technologies in the process of bringing new products to market. Krahn will describe how the process of product innovation is changing and will share some examples of recent new product development activities by one of the nation's largest fenestration product manufacturers.

Paul Warner — "Innovation and Performance as Marketing Forces"—Rarely does innovation occur without market demand. The president of one of the nation's largest suppliers of vinyl extrusion for fenestration will describe how performance demands by consumers and builders are pushing the fenestration industry to provide ever-increasing product performance levels. Real-world examples will be shared.

Thomas Schwartz — "The Real World: Problems That Performance Innovation Must Address"—A recognized building forensics specialist and chairman of ASTM Committee E-6.55 on Exterior Building Wall Performance, Schwartz has seen more "real world" fenestration performance fenestration and wall performance and describes a number of priority problems that future fenestration innovation must address.

Jim Larsen — "Energy Codes and Utilities: Driving Forces Behind Glazing Performance Innovation"—Local, state, and national energy codes have dramatically changed how builders look at windows, doors, and skylights. Similarly, utilities are carefully scrutinizing how and where their incentive dollars are invested. Larsen will describe some of the ways the glazing industry is responding to building code and utility program needs and will discuss some of the coming innovations expected from the glazing industry.

Richard Karney — "The Government's Role in Bringing New Technologies to Market"—Whether too big or too small, the government plays key roles in bringing new technolgoy to the market. Fenestration product innovation has been one of the areas in which Department of Energy research and communications support has been particularly successful. The chairman of the Thermal Envelope Conference will share his thoughts on the government's role in influencing innovation and the adoption of new technologies.