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**APRIL 2021**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the April 2021 OSFM Engineering Newsletter. Since our last newsletter in January, there was a regularly scheduled Building Code Council meeting held March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The results of the meeting will be posted shortly in the minutes, but the results of the D-items are noted, unofficially, in the Building Code Council Approved Rule Changes article below.

Progress is being made on the Residential Changeout Inspector course, and five complete training sessions have been held to troubleshoot the course. Refer to the Qualification Board Article for a little more detail.

The ad hoc process has begun for the review and development of the 2024 NC Code. See details and tentative timeline in Current topics section.

## Current Topics

### Tentative 2024 NC Code Development Calendar:

The ad hoc process has begun for the 2024 NC Building Codes. The ad hoc committees have begun meeting, or will begin meeting shortly for their respective code volumes. The meeting notices will be published at the following location:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/building-code-council-bcc/bcc-ad-hoc-committee-meeting-information>

If a January 1, 2024 date is the goal, then the codes should be submitted as B-Items no later than the December 2022 meeting along with the fiscal notes. The schedule would go as follows:

- December 2022 – B-Item
- March 2023 – C-Item
- June 2023 – D-Item
- Rules Review Approval between June 2023 and September 2023.
- Proof reading and submittal to ICC for printing after Rules Review has approved.

### Open Mic

The department (OSFM-Engineering) has been experimenting with better ways to provide updates and outreach to code officials, and one of the methods being given a test-drive is a virtual open – mic Webex meeting. In order to view the times, proceed to the following link, and follow the directions therein:

[Inspector Open Mic | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](#)

## Recurring Articles

### Building Code Council Approved Rule Changes

A regularly scheduled quarterly BCC meeting was held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The full agenda can be read at the link listed below. The link will take you to the BCC Minutes webpage and the reader must then click on the .pdf file to open the agenda file. The minutes for March are not published yet, but the unofficial results of the D-items are posted below. The minutes from the December 2020 meeting are posted, and they are available at the link below.

BCC Meeting Agenda-March 9, 2021

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/news/events/building-code-council-meeting-march-9-2021>

BCC Meeting Minutes-December 2020

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/bcc-minutes-december-8-2020>

New on the NCDOT Website are the full proposals of the B-items. In the past, only the summary of these were posted in the Agendas. The full proposals can now be viewed at the following link. The B-items are each listed as a separate .pdf file, and they start immediately after the Agenda for the meeting.

BCC B-item proposals for the March 9, 2021 Meeting

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/news/events/building-code-council-meeting-march-9-2021>

**FIGURE 1: SCREEN SHOT OF B-ITEM PROPOSALS FOR RESPECTIVE AGENDA**



**BCC Agenda - 20210309 - March 9, 2021.pdf**

PDF • 795.52 KB - February 10, 2021

[Building Code Council \(BCC\)](#)



**BCC Agenda - 20210309 - March 9, 2021- B-Items -B-1- NCGS153A and 160A to 160D.pdf**

PDF • 348.21 KB - February 23, 2021

[Building Code Council \(BCC\)](#)



**BCC Agenda - 20210309 - March 9, 2021- B-Items -B-2- NCFG C PEX-AL-PEX.pdf**

PDF • 641.9 KB - February 23, 2021

[Building Code Council \(BCC\)](#)

Once the Building-Code-Council-approved March D-items are also approved by the Rule Review Commission, (sometimes an amendment gets sent back to Building Code Council for various technical reasons) the adopted rules will be placed on the NCDOT Engineering website. Please refer to the Cumulative Supplements article of this newsletter for the link to the cumulative supplements from past meetings.

The full review of the March-approved code amendments is left to the reader, but **the titles of each item** are bulleted below. Remember these are not final until they are through the Rules Review process. The approved March D-items, if approved by Rules Review Commission, will be effective January 1, 2022.

**BCC Proposed Amendments-December 2020 (draft results)**

- Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revisions Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Fire code, Section 1010.1.9.7 as follows (200901 Item B-1): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **approved**
- Item D – 2 Request from Kerry Sutton representing American Concrete Institute (ACI), Dave Tepke representing ACI Carolinas, Mark LeMay representing International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI), Bill Brickey representing ICRI Carolinas Chapter, Keith Kesner representing CVM, and Tim Cook representing SKA Consulting Engineering to add the 2018 N.C. Existing Building Code, Section 606.1.1 and add a reference to Chapter 16 as follows (200901 Item B-2): (Remainder not shown for brevity) - **Withdrawn by proponent in favor of item B-9**
- Item D – 3 Request from Bridget Herring to amend the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Section N1101.13 as follows (200901 Item B-5): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **approved**
- Item D – 4 Request from Robert Privott representing the NC Home Builders Association and Jeff Tiller to amend the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Chapter 44 as follows (200901 Item B-6): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **approved**
- Item D – 5 Request from Robert Privott representing N.C. Home Builders Association and Jeff Tiller to add the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows (200901 Item B-7): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **approved**
  
- Item D – 6 Request from Julius Ballanco representing JB Engineering and Code Consulting, P.C. to amend the 2018 Residential Code, Chapter 44 as follows (200901 Item B-8): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
- Item D – 7 Request from Julius Ballanco representing JB Engineering and Code Consulting, P.C./Daikin U.S. to amend the 2018 Residential Code, Section M1402.1 as follows (200901 Item B-9): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
- Item D – 8 Request from Julius Ballanco representing JB Engineering and Code Consulting, P.C./Daikin U.S. to amend the 2018 Residential Code, Section M1403.1 as follows (200901 Item B-10): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
- Item D – 9 Request from Julius Ballanco representing JB Engineering and Code Consulting, P.C./Daikin U.S. to amend the 2018 Mechanical Code, Chapter 15 as follows (200901 Item B-11): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
- Item D – 10 Request from Julius Ballanco representing JB Engineering and Code Consulting, P.C./Daikin U.S. to amend the 2018 Mechanical Code, Section 908.1 as follows (200901 Item B-12): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
  
- Item D – 11 Request from Julius Ballanco representing JB Engineering and Code Consulting, P.C./Daikin U.S. to amend the 2018 Mechanical Code, Sections 918.1 and 918.2 as follows (200901 Item B-13): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
- Item D – 12 Request from Julius Ballanco representing JB Engineering and Code Consulting, P.C./Daikin U.S. to amend the 2018 Mechanical Code, Section 1101 as follows (200901 Item B-14): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
- Item D – 13 Request from Robert Privott representing N.C. Home Builders Association and Jeff Tiller to amend the 2018 Energy Code, Section R406.2 as follows (200901 Item B-15): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**

- Item D – 14 Request from Robert Privott representing N.C. Home Builders Association and Jeff Tiller to add the 2018 N.C. Energy Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows (200901 Item B-20): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**
- Item D – 15 Request from Robert Privott representing N.C. Home Builders Association and Jeff Tiller to amend the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Section N1106.2 Mandatory Requirements as follows (200901 Item B-21): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **tabled until June meeting**

## **Qualification Board Update**

### **Residential Changeout Inspector (RCI) Standard Certificate Update**

The Beta and four Pilot training courses have occurred online via webinar format. Thank you to all the instructors who developed the course material:

Beth Williams – Project Manager and Instructional Designer

Mark Burns – Plumbing

Dan Dittman – Test Items Development

Rich Hall – Test Administration

Mike Hejduk – Administrative

David Rittlinger – Mechanical

Danny Thomas – Electrical

Joe Starling - Electrical

In addition, Mr. James Klutz of Mecklenburg and his field staff provided many hours of development time and pictures and videos of field equipment. Joseph Starling and his staff collected field images, developed training videos, and provided extensive training materials.

There were 195 pre-registrants, 84 attendees, and 71 End-of-Course test (EOC) test administrations to date.

The schedule of one Beta Test and four Pilot Courses taught by NCDOI staff is listed below.

Beta Test – 11/6-11/13 – Completed as scheduled

Pilot #1 - 11/30-12/4 – Completed as scheduled

Pilot #2 - 1/8 – 1/14 – Completed as scheduled

Pilot #3 - 2/5 – 2/11 – Completed as scheduled

Pilot #4 - 3/5 - 3/11 – Completed as scheduled

Additional RCI EOC (End of Course) Testing Dates Held:

Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00 to 12:00

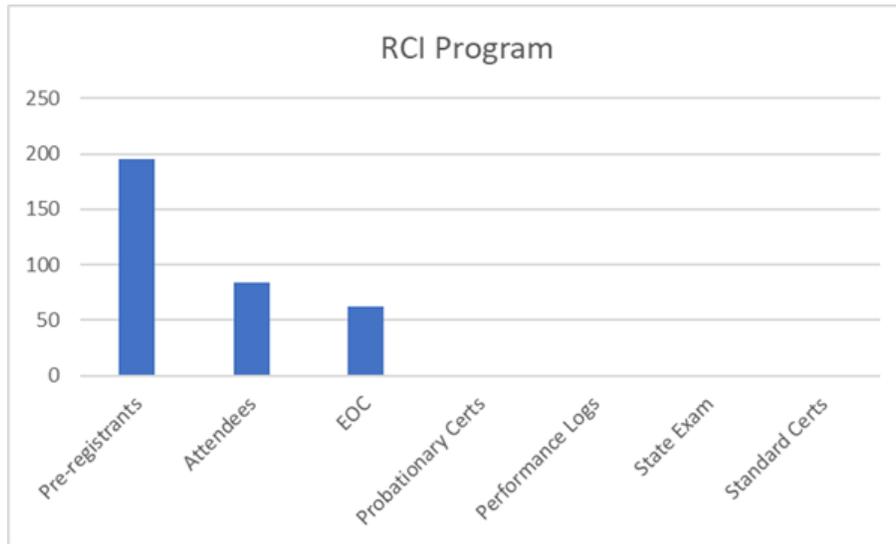
Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 3:00

Tuesday, March 23<sup>th</sup> 10:00 to 12:00

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 3:00

### **Next Steps**

Next steps will include issuance of Probationary Certificates to course graduates, development of the State Exam and certification of instructors to teach the course through the Community College System similar to other Board Standard Certificate courses. NOTE: Anyone interested in earning a RCI Probationary Certificate MUST pass the course EOC first.



### Open Mic

As mentioned in the Current Topics section of this newsletter, the department has conducted several open-mic events via Webex, and may continue to do these on a regular basis as long as they are deemed to accomplish the goals of providing more outreach to the code officials in the state. Please consider participating in these events.

[Inspector Open Mic | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](https://www.ncosfm.gov/inspector-open-mic)

### Minutes

The minutes of the Qualifications Board Meeting Minutes are available at the following link:

Meeting Minutes and Agendas

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/licensing-cert/code-officials-qualification-board-coqb/coqb-meeting-dates>

**FIGURE 2: IMAGE OF Q'BOARD WEBSITE TABLE OF MINUTES**

### Minutes

<a href="#">COQB Minutes - October 27, 2021 Board Mtg</a>
<a href="#">COQB Minutes - July 28, 2020 Board Mtg</a>
<a href="#">COQB Minutes - May, 19, 2020 Special Board Mtg</a>
<a href="#">COQB Minutes - April 28, 2020 Board Mtg</a>

- **Sam Whittington:** Certification and Investigator, Complaints  
919-647-0028 [sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov](mailto:sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov)
- Thomas Cooney has retired, the second investigator position is presently vacant

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# Department Notes

## Engineering Department

### Personnel Notes

#### Bill Kirk, PE

Bill Kirk has retired after approximately 5 years of service with NCDOT. Bill was in private practice for many years prior to joining NCDOT to finish his professional career, and we are glad he did. He was instrumental in filling in the gaps caused by retirements in this department, and his extensive knowledge was instrumental in maintaining the offerings of our department. We wish Bill much enjoyment in his retirement in Wyoming.

#### Thomas Cooney, PE

Thomas Cooney, who joined us in 2018, is another individual who chose to finish their career with NCDOT. Tom Cooney, PE retired as an Investigator for the NC Code Officials Qualification Board and Home Inspector Licensure Board. Tom had with him 29 years of local government experience that included 14 years of Law Enforcement in South Carolina, 13 years as an Assistant County Engineer and then Director of Public Utilities in Cumberland County. We wish Tom a happy retirement.

#### Carl Martin, RA

Carl Martin, who was just recently been the Chief Building Code Consultant, has been subsequently promoted to the Deputy Commissioner position. We look forward to Carl's experience and attention to detail in this new role he will fill. He received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from UNC Charlotte in 1985 and his NC Architecture license in 2010.

As of March 2021, here is the staff list and respective responsibilities:

- Vacant: **Building** Code (non-accessibility)  
919-647-0025 [bill.kirk@ncdot.gov](mailto:bill.kirk@ncdot.gov)
- Charlie Johnson: **Fire** Code (includes Chapter 9 of the NCBC)  
919-647-0094 [charlie.johnson@ncdot.gov](mailto:charlie.johnson@ncdot.gov)
- Pak Yip: Residential Code  
919-647-0007 [pak.yip@ncdot.gov](mailto:pak.yip@ncdot.gov)
- Jim Rodgers: **Residential** Code (non-structural)  
919-647-0056, 919-270-3699 (cell) [jim.rodgers@ncdot.gov](mailto:jim.rodgers@ncdot.gov)
- **Existing Building** Code  
Vacant
- Tara Barthelmess: **Accessibility (and temporary Existing Building contact)**  
919-647-0014 [tara.barthelmess@ncdot.gov](mailto:tara.barthelmess@ncdot.gov)
- Mark Burns: **Plumbing** Code  
919-647-0006 [mark.burns@ncdot.gov](mailto:mark.burns@ncdot.gov)
- David Rittlinger: **Mechanical** and **Fuel Gas** Code  
919-647-0008 [david.rittlinger@ncdot.gov](mailto:david.rittlinger@ncdot.gov)
- Dan Dittman: **Energy** Code  
919-647-0012 [dan.dittman@ncdot.gov](mailto:dan.dittman@ncdot.gov)
- Danny Thomas: **Electrical** Code – General Questions  
919-647-0062 [daniel.thomas@ncdot.gov](mailto:daniel.thomas@ncdot.gov)
- Joe Starling: State **Electrical** Engineer  
919-397-6159 [joseph.starling@ncdot.gov](mailto:joseph.starling@ncdot.gov)

In addition, the following topics will be addressed by:

- **Engineering Manager: Carl Martin** - contact for Statutes, Appeals, Council items (other than meeting minutes and agenda), Engineer Elements and Components,
- **Vacant (Carl Martin, interim):** BCC meeting minutes and agenda, Rules Review Commission, Formal interpretations, **Administrative Code** (non-statute)  
919-647-0009 [carl.martin@ncdoi.gov](mailto:carl.martin@ncdoi.gov)
- **Mike Page:** Answers questions as backup if staff is out  
919-647-0017 [mike.page@ncdoi.gov](mailto:mike.page@ncdoi.gov)
- **Sam Whittington:** Certification and Investigator, Complaints  
919-647-0028 [sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov](mailto:sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov)
- **vacant:** Certification and Investigator, Complaints  
-contact Sam Whittington

Link to New Website Personnel Contacts for Codes and Interpretations

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/contact-codes-and-interpretations>

## New Code Interpretations, Guidance Papers, and Appeals Posted

Since the prior newsletter, the following web interpretations, guidance papers, or appeals have been posted. Trades not shown did not have new web interpretations posted. The matrix of codes has been replaced with a drop-down menu box-driven sort function. Please notice that whenever you sort, then view an interpretation, you need to re-apply the sort function as the site defaults back to all the interpretations when the back-arrow is pressed.

Code, Guidance, Appeals link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/interpretations>

**FIGURE 3: NEW LOOK OF CODE INTERPRETATIONS LANDING PAGE**

# OSFM Code Interpretations



Code Type      Edition      Search

- Any -      - Any -     

Apply

Interpretations

Fire Protection

No additional since January 2021 newsletter

**Energy**

- C402.2.5 Slabs-on-grade perimeter insulation
- R402.1.3 Classification of pre-cast concrete panel walls

**Plumbing**

No additional since January 2021 newsletter

**Residential**

- N1102.1.3 Classification pre-cast concrete panel walls

**Accessibility Interpretations**

No additional since January 2021 newsletter

**Electrical Interpretations**

Presently, if you use the main Interpretations site, you need to click on “ALL” edition to view the Electrical interpretations on that site. However, if you go to the main Electrical Division site, there are interpretations for the 2017 NC Electrical Code, see following link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/state-electrical-division/state-electrical-code-and-interpretations>

The link should take you to a webpage, and you should see the following line items when you scroll down.

# 2017 Electrical Interpretations

Interpretation
<a href="#">90.2(B)(5) - Electrical Utility Conductors and Equipment</a>
<a href="#">Article 100 - Structures Defined</a>
<a href="#">110.14 - Tightening Torque Inspection and Responsibility</a>
<a href="#">210.8(A)(4) - GFCI Protection in a Crawl Space</a>

**FIGURE 4: MAIN ELECTRICAL CODE INTERPRETATIONS SECTION**

The illustrated diagrams that used to be on the Electrical Division website are not available at this time, we are working to get them formatted so they can be posted again.

**Formal Interpretations and Appeals and Guidance Papers**

Here are the Formal Interpretations posted since the prior Newsletter:

- 210126 Gardner - NCBC Chapter 2 Definition of Fire Area Related to Permanent Canopies
- 210129 Gemstone Homes NCRC R302.5 and R302.6 Existence of a Roll-Up Door Constitutes a Garage
- 210212 Libby Nixon NCBC 101.2 Inspection Requirement for Communications Eqpt on Power Co Towers

## Appeals

20210121 Whitley - Stop Work Order

## Guidance Papers

No additional since January 2021 newsletter

## Cumulative Supplements

Cumulative code changes and their adoption dates can be found on the DOI website at:

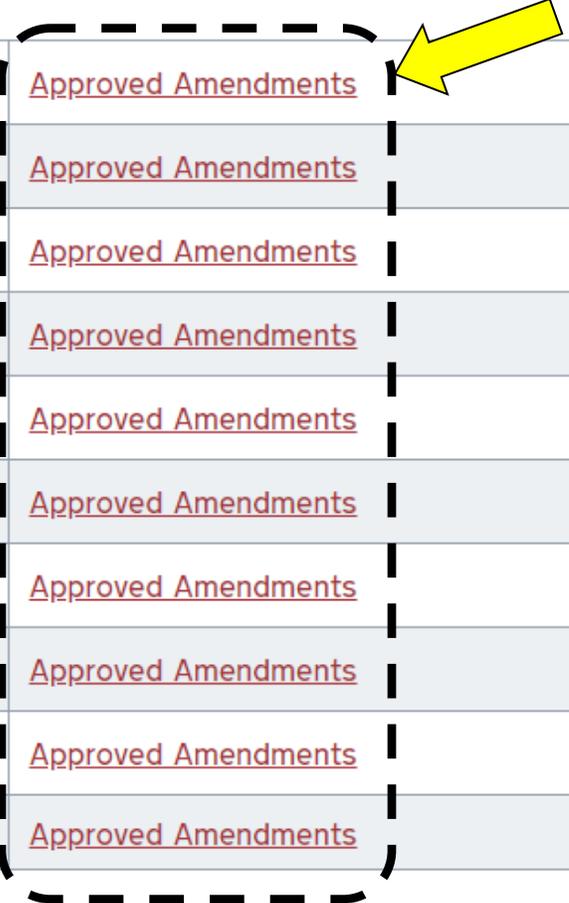
Cumulative code changes link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/codes-current-and-past>

Each code volume has a file associated with it. The files range in size from three pages (Fuel Gas) to 64 pages (Residential). If the reader would find a table of contents beneficial for the quick perusal of these documents, please contact Rob Roegner [Rob.Roegner@ncdoi.gov](mailto:Rob.Roegner@ncdoi.gov) or Carl Martin [Carl.Martin@ncdoi.gov](mailto:Carl.Martin@ncdoi.gov).

**FIGURE 5: TABLE OF APPROVED AMENDMENTS**

<a href="#">2018 Administrative</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Building</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Residential</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Energy Conservation</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Existing Building</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Fire</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Fuel Gas</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Mechanical</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2018 Plumbing</a> 	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>
<a href="#">2017 Electrical Code *</a>	<a href="#">Approved Amendments</a>



Remember, refer to NC Administrative Code section **102.4 Effective date of rules**, and **102.5 Interim use of approved rules** for clarification of effective dates and the process for using approved rules prior to the effective date.

## Education Section

### NC Building Code Training

The most up-to-date training schedule for all building codes are available at the following link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/licensing-cert/code-officials-qualification-board-coqb/coqb-code-education>

Once the web page is accessed, click the “**FIND A CLASS**” button to refine your search. Although many in-person classes have been delayed or canceled until further notice, there are quite a few on-line or virtual classes being scheduled. Some, including the NCBIA winter seminars, are a hybrid of on-site and remote instruction. Please check out the available on-line courses, and carefully read the locations and means of course offering. It is suggested that you contact the organization or individual providing the training to verify the locations and means of training before traveling to any given site or registering for a class.

#### Other websites of Inspector Organizations that offer training

<http://www.ncbia.org/> (Building Inspectors Association)  
<http://ncpia.us/> (Plumbing Inspectors Association)  
<https://www.nc-mia.com/> (Mechanical Inspectors note new website address – formerly www.ncmia.com)  
<http://www.ncfma.com/> (Fire Marshals Association)  
<https://nceia.com/> (Electrical Inspectors, note the new website address)

Reminder: Before signing up for any class, verify the course number. Attendee will not receive credit for courses that they attended within the prior three years. Some courses are taught at multiple sites across multiple years.

## Reminders and other Resources

### Code Amendments Going into Effect

Every January 1<sup>st</sup>, a number of previously approved code amendments go into effect. Please refer to the following link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/codes-current-and-past>

### Accessibility Newsletters

Note: Previously, it was cited that the interpretations within the Accessibility Newsletters were the equivalent of a web interpretation, but the current Deputy Commissioner, Carl Martin, has deemed them to more appropriately be guidance or informal interpretations. This note will be included in future printings.

With the updating of the NCDOT webpage, the Accessibility Newsletter were removed. If there are any questions about a specific topics or general Accessibility questions, please contact Tara Barthelmess (919-647-0014).

## **NCDOT-OSFM Webpage Updated**

As mentioned in earlier Engineering Newsletters, we encourage the users of the redesigned NCDOT/NC OSFM website to utilize the feedback feature at the bottom of most of the webpages. See following image for what the link looks like.

[How can we make this page better for you?](#)



**FIGURE 6: PLEASE USE THIS FUNCTION**

End of Newsletter