Temporary Allowance for Remote Visual Verification for DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Certifications
4/8/2020

The DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program understands that our builder and rater partners throughout the U.S. are experiencing extreme hardship and uncertainty at the current time. To support our partners and the overall growth of the Zero Energy Ready Homes market, the ZERH program is assessing different actions and policies that could help reduce risks and streamline the process of ZERH certification.

One immediate action we are taking is to recognize RESNET's 4/1/2020 policy language on Allowing Remote Rating Inspections, and accepting this same remote inspection protocol for verification of features required for DOE ZERH certification. RESNET's "Temporary RESNET Protocols for Remote Field Inspections During the COVID Pandemic" are now posted online. Note that this remote inspection option needs to be approved by the Rater's Accredited Provider in order to be implemented.

Raters that use the remote inspection protocol must collection documentation such as photos in accordance with RESNET's protocol, and shall provide a signed copy of RESNET's Interim Remote Verification Disclosure Form (available soon from RESNET) to the builder or developer. These same provisions are required by RESNET, ENERGY STAR Homes, and Indoor airPLUS – which are all providing the same temporary allowance for remote visual verification.

This allowance for remote visual verification for DOE Zero Energy Ready Home is effective immediately and currently has an expiration of 6/30/2020. DOE will monitor market conditions and may extend this expiration date.

The DOE ZERH program is also monitoring efforts by RESNET and ENERGY STAR Homes to develop temporary alternatives to on-site diagnostic testing, and is anticipating such alternatives can soon be utilized for ZERH certifications. Additionally, the DOE ZERH program is developing an alternative to the on-site hot water delivery test. Please look for upcoming communications on these issues.