CONCLUSIONS

Building energy codes, such as Standard 90.1, the IECC as well as advanced codes such as Standard 189.1 and beyond code programs, such as LEED, rely on geographically defined climate zones and requirements classified according to these climate zones. Standard 169-2013 reassigned the climate zones to about 400 U.S. counties. Standard 90.1 has adopted the new climate zone map. The reassignment of climate zones results in an overall reduction in stringency of Standard 90.1 because most of the reassignments are to warmer climate zones, which have generally less stringent requirements. The national weighted impact on the energy consumption of commercial buildings is 0.18%, measured using the Progress Indicator process. While this impact may appear small, some highly populous counties have been reassigned to milder climate zones and in such counties, the decrease in stringency will be quite high. The reduction in stringency could also be higher for residential buildings and poses difficult questions for future adoption of codes.

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