

ROUTT COUNTY REGIONAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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POLICY

RE: SNOW AND SEISMIC LOAD COMBINATION

FROM: Carl Dunham, Building Official

DATE: May 12, 1997, Revised August 27, 2008

~~Reduction of snow load combined with seismic load, when calculating the most critical effect of load combinations per UBC Section 1603.6, will NOT be allowed due to duration of snow loads in the Routt County region.~~

The above policy has changed as the codes have evolved since 1997. In the 2003 version of the International Building Code (IBC) the formula for determining base shear allows the designer to use 20% of the flat roof snow load for the value of the effective seismic weight of the structure (W), where flat roof snow load exceeds 30 PSF. We will accept this design method that has been published in the 2003 IBC with similar methodology in the ASCE 7-02.

It should be noted that building code criteria are established with one concern in mind: life safety - the protection of the public from injury or death. The code does not address concern for preservation of the building's appearance, financial investment or continuing function after a seismic event. Designers or building owners with concerns beyond life safety should consider building code criteria to be minimal. Any deviation in the calculation of the effective seismic weight should be noted on the construction documents.