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1303 - #5

Proposed Code Change – Language

SOIL-GAS MEMBRANE. “Soil gas membrane” means a continuous membrane of at least 6-mil (0.15 mm) polyethylene, 3-mil (0.075 mm) cross-laminated polyethylene or other equivalent material approved by the building official.

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

The need for this change is to give the option of allowing thicker membranes.

The requirements for the soil gas membrane are the minimum requirements. A membrane that is thicker would be more effective and should be allowed in all cases. Adding the explicit term “at least” gives more clarification to the interpretation and allows for the use of thicker membranes – specifically in unpoured crawlspaces that may be used for storage or be prone to heavy traffic. Many current radon mitigation contractors use 12 mil poly for durability reasons and this language specifically allows for thicker poly to be used without the need of a building official’s approval.

Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis

There is no cost associated with this change as it is only clarifying.