# Everything I know about water intrusion I learned in Kindergarten





Alberta Building Envelope Council 2022-10-26

#### Introduction

Thank you ABEC



• Thank you for the support provided to Doctors Without Borders!



## EIFS Drainage

How the EIFS industry got skewered by being so darn good at drainage

#### Where we're going

- A journey through US and Canadian evaluations, codes and standards
- Building Science fundamentals
- History of drainage it's all downhill from here
- Elephant in the room
- Back to the future

## History c.1995

The Dark Ages

### North Carolina





Flashing not optional — required by code

## EIFS Industry Solutions Late 1990's

- Install over building paper—it's in the code!
- OK for stucco, siding, or brick—referenced in code
- EIFS not in the code evaluation reports required

## Long and winding road

**Code Evaluation Services** 



#### How many evaluation services were there?

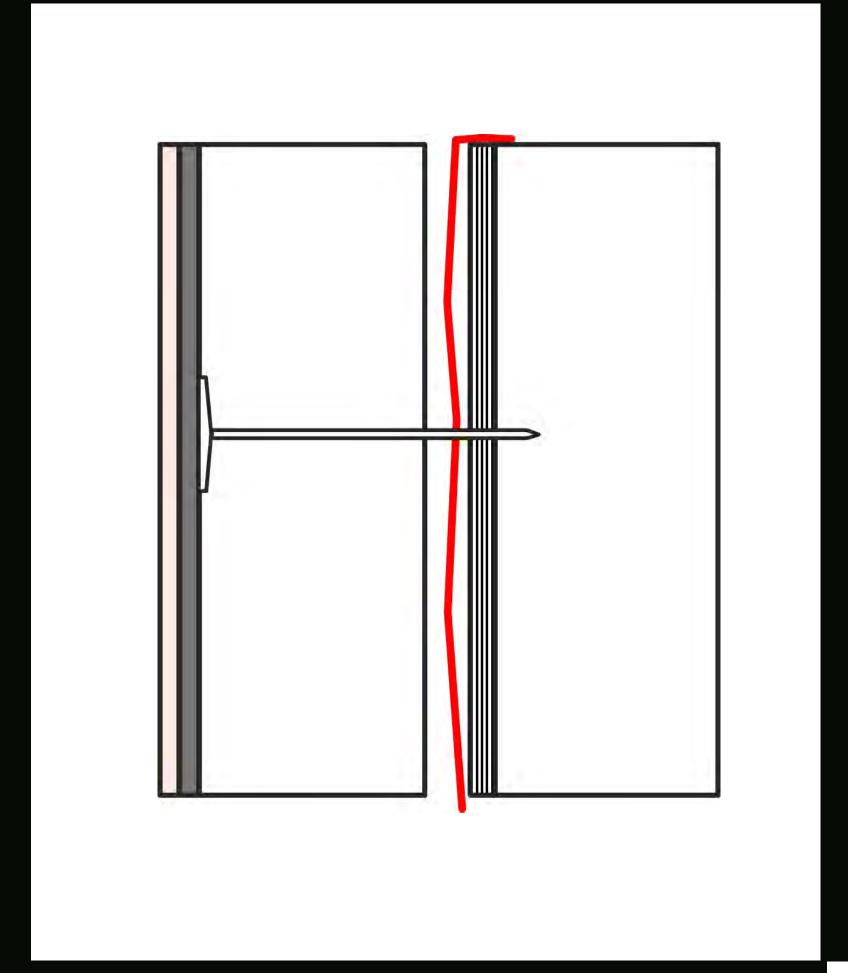
- Four model building code evaluation agencies in USA
- One federal agency in Canada (CCMC)
- Plus various state, provincial and municipal agencies
- If your product was not in code, they'd want to talk to you!



Demonstration testing for BOCA officials:

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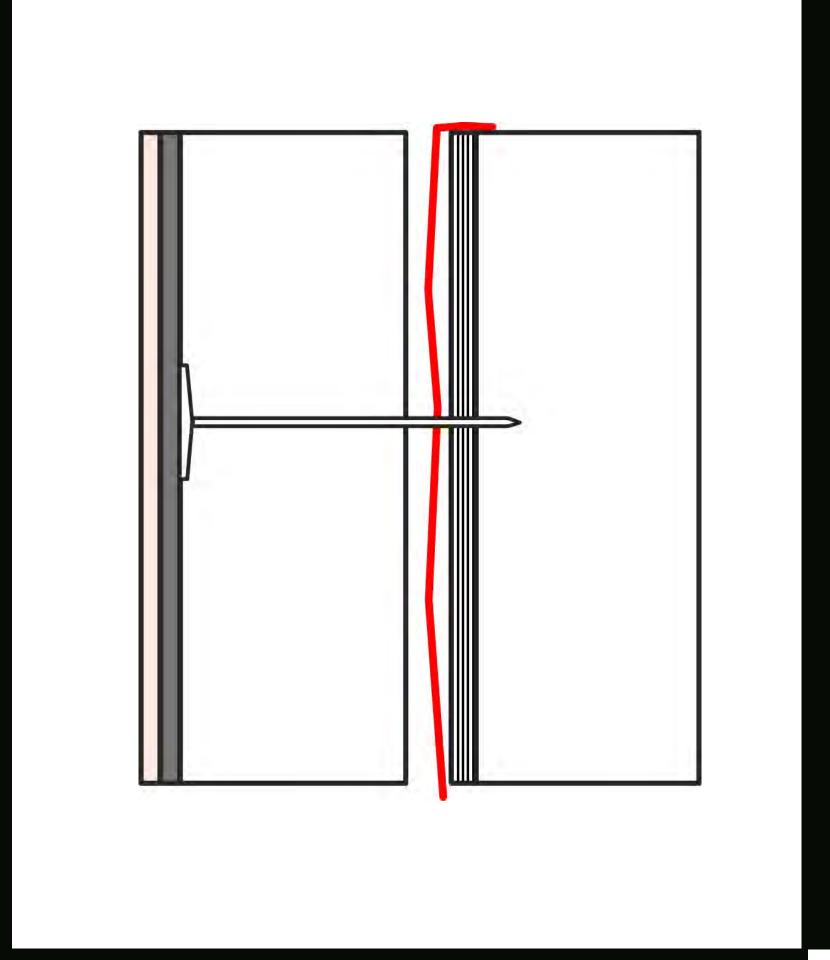
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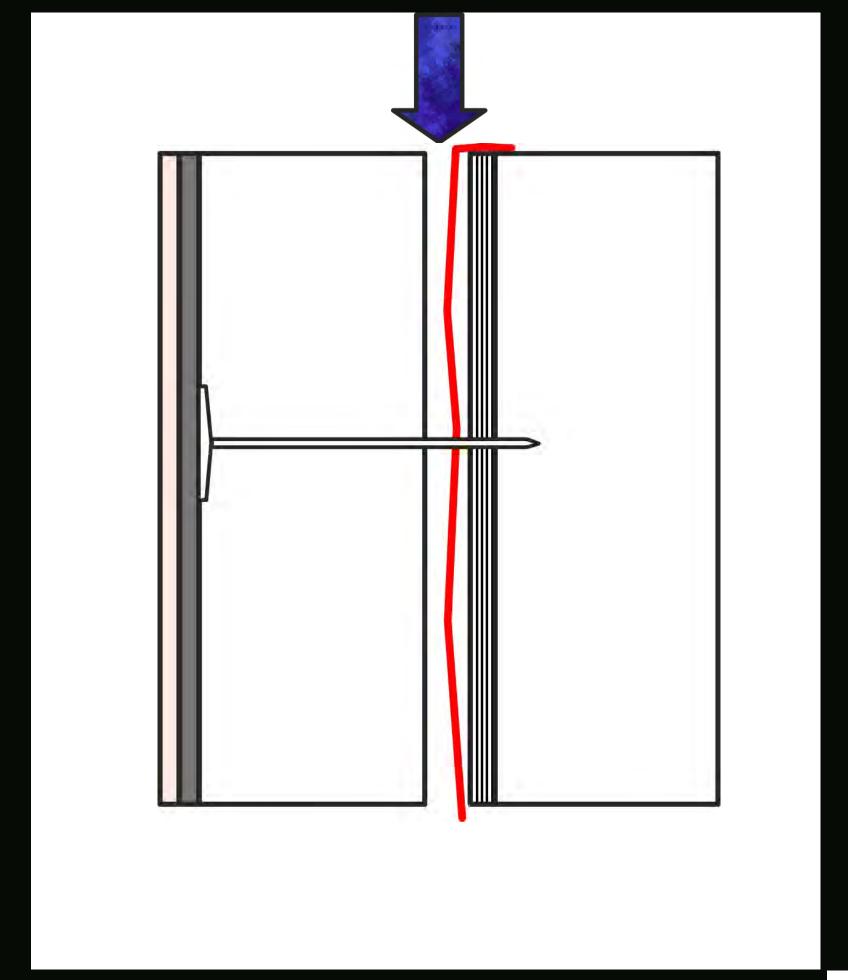
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Water introduced into drainage cavity



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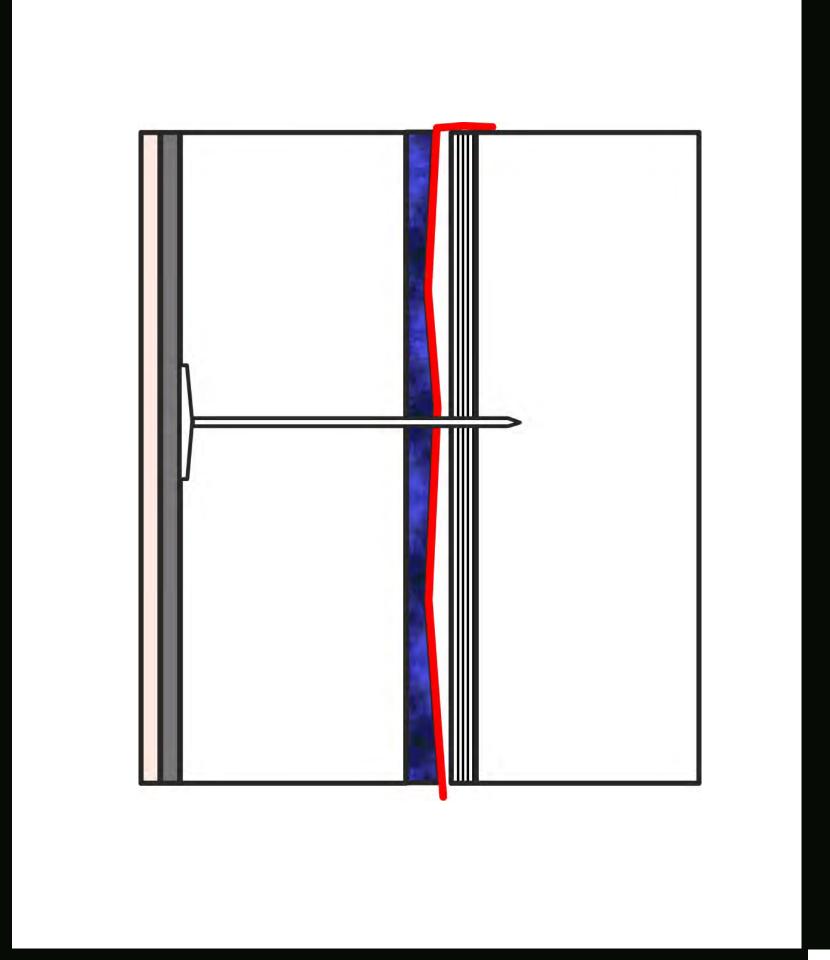




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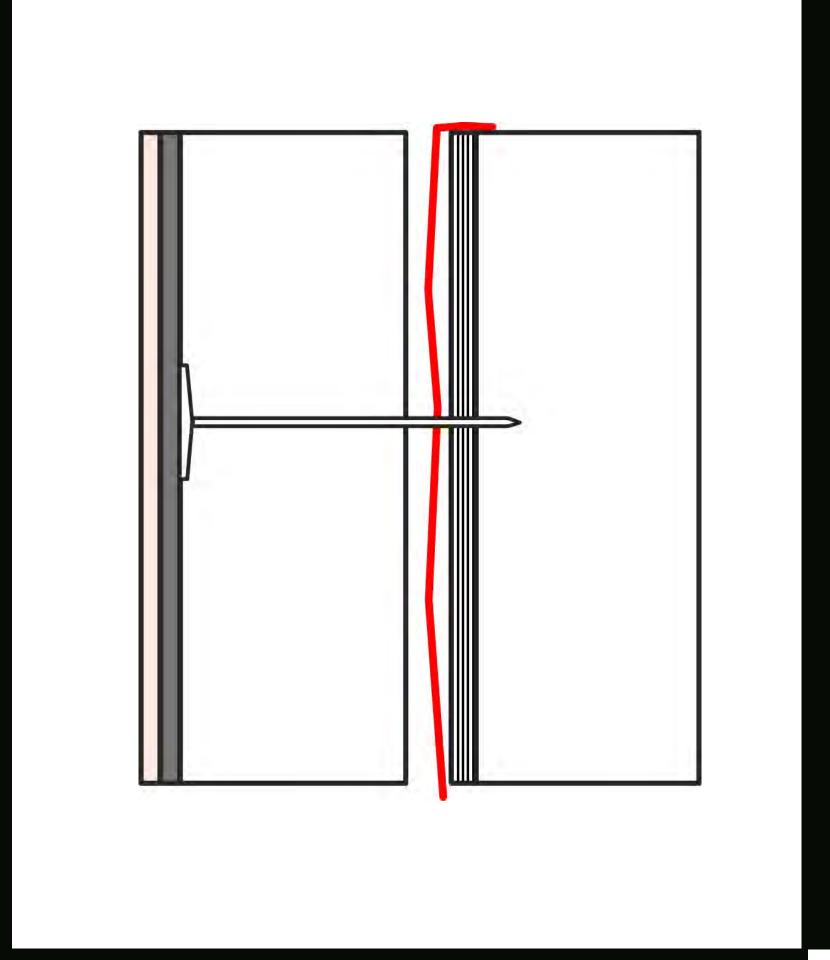
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Water introduced into drainage cavity



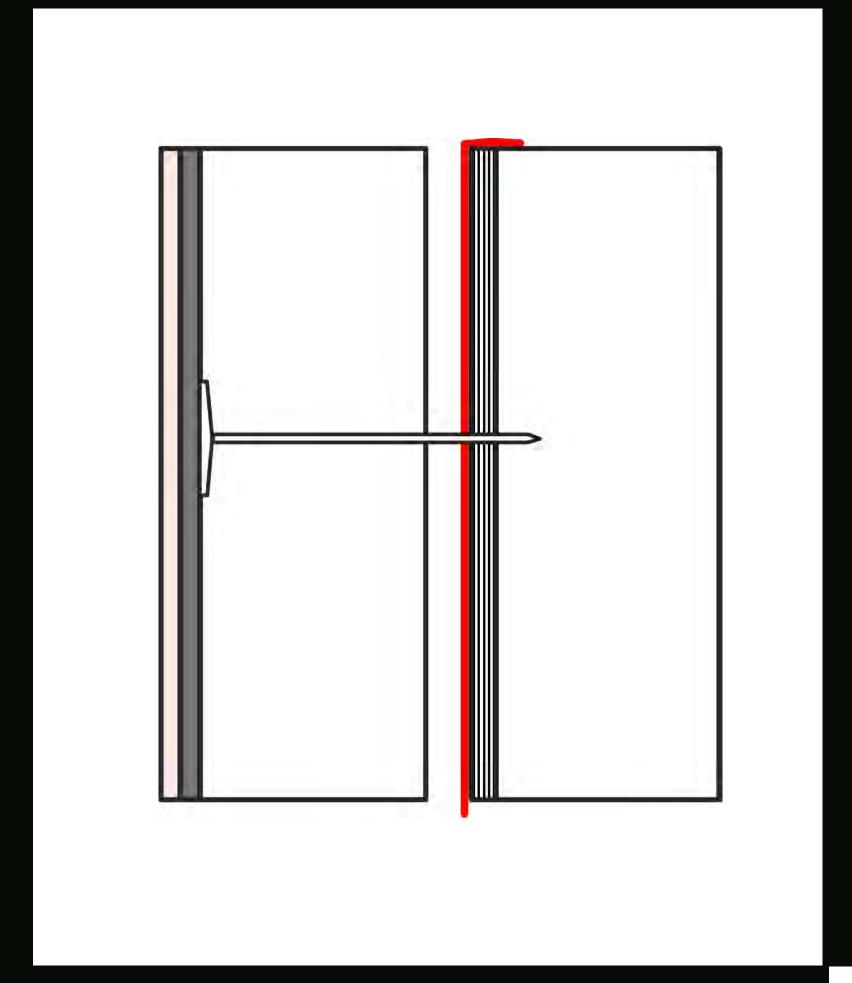
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#### Demonstration testing for BOCA officials:

- Water introduced into drainage cavity
- Pressure difference added
- Cavity opened

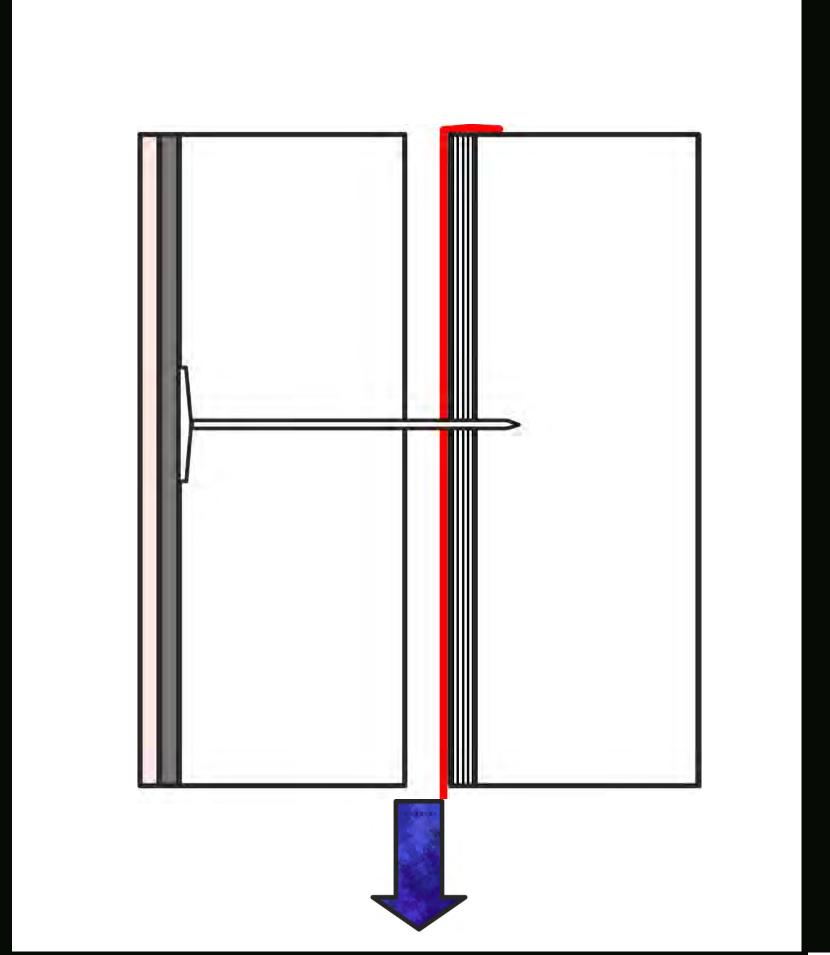




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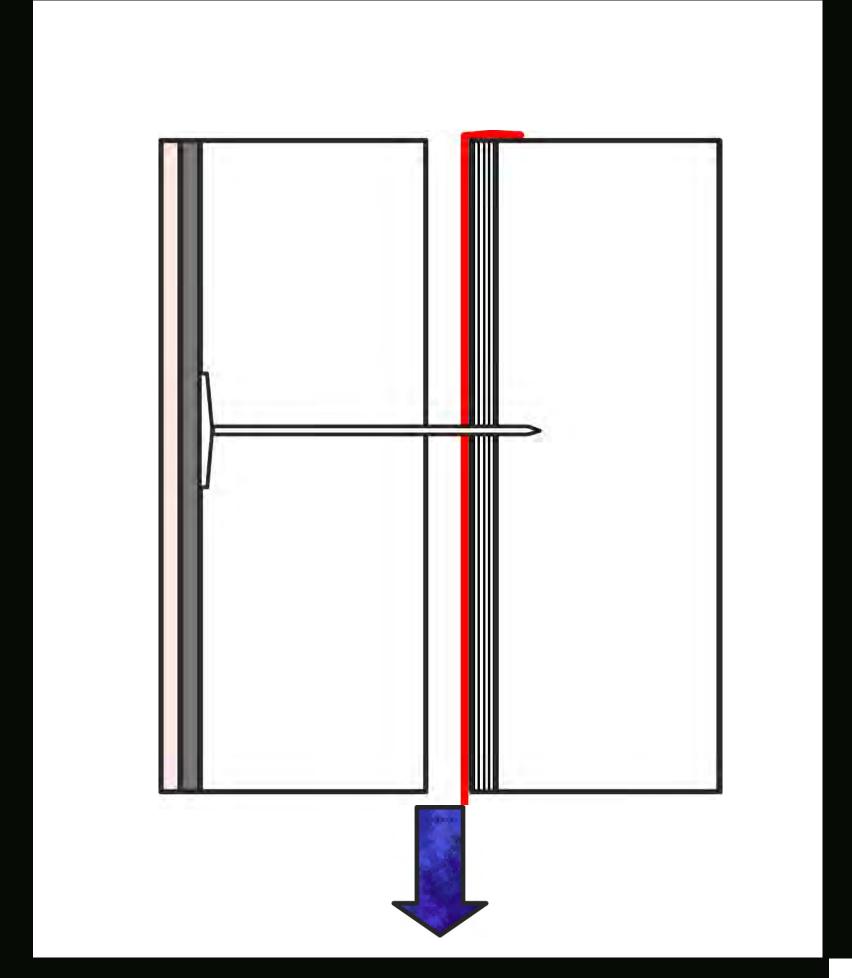
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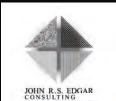


#### Demonstration testing for BOCA officials:

- Water introduced into drainage cavity
- Pressure difference added
- Cavity opened
- Testing now done without pressure
- Note: Not acceptable in Canada!





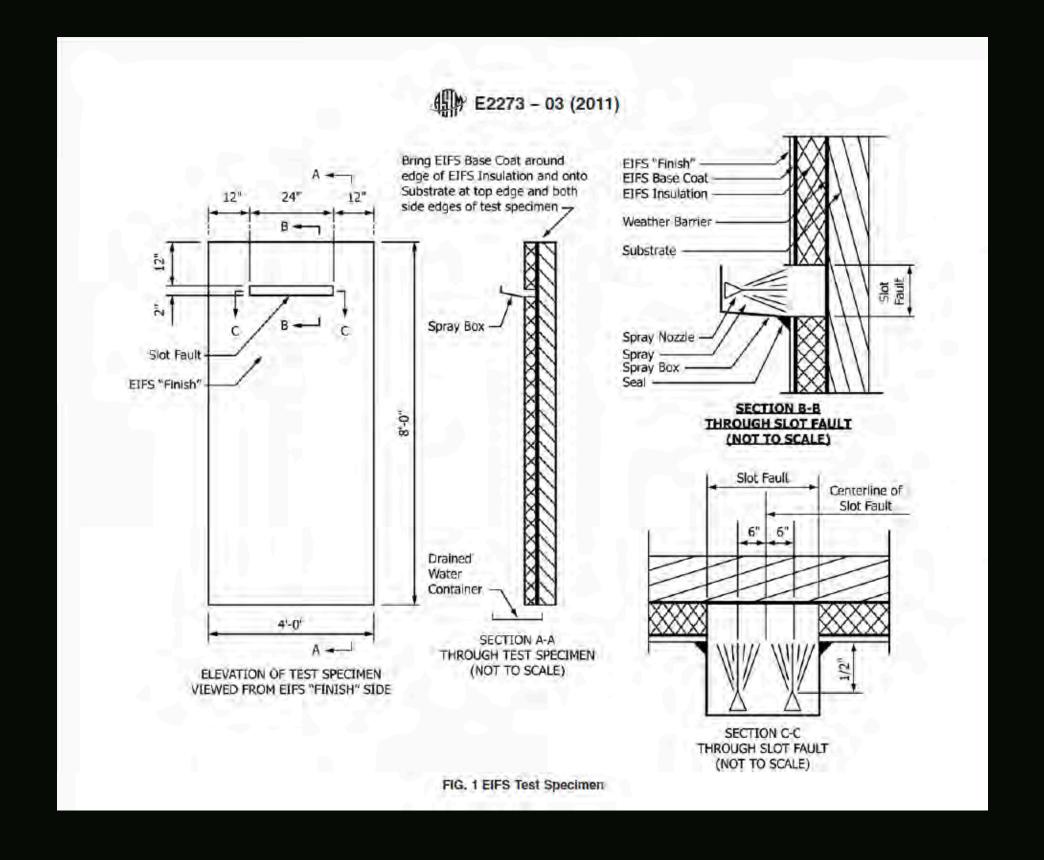


ASTM E-2273 Drainage for EIFS:



#### ASTM E-2273 Drainage for EIFS:

 19L/hour sprayed into 300 cm<sup>2</sup> opening





(

#### ASTM E-2273 Drainage for EIFS:

- 19L/hour sprayed into 300 cm<sup>2</sup> opening
- Equals 48 cm/hour rainfall
- Only required for EIFS
- All other claddings "meet code"





Isn't water supposed to be deflected away from the wall cavity ... not through it?

(Kindergarten Building Science)

## Welcome to Canada





## British Columbia



Cladding for the new millennium



#### Barrett Commission

B.C. government inquiry

"The ignorant provide advice to the deluded and costly decisions are made."

#### Fallout

- Class action litigation against NBCC \*
- National Research Council of Canada gets nervous
- Code committees and NRCC institutes get 'fear of god' lectures
- Government has to be seen "doing something"

\* Spoiler Alert - never sue the government



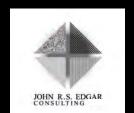
## Moisture in Exterior Wall Systems (MEWS)

NRCC research consortium c. 2002

#### MEWS

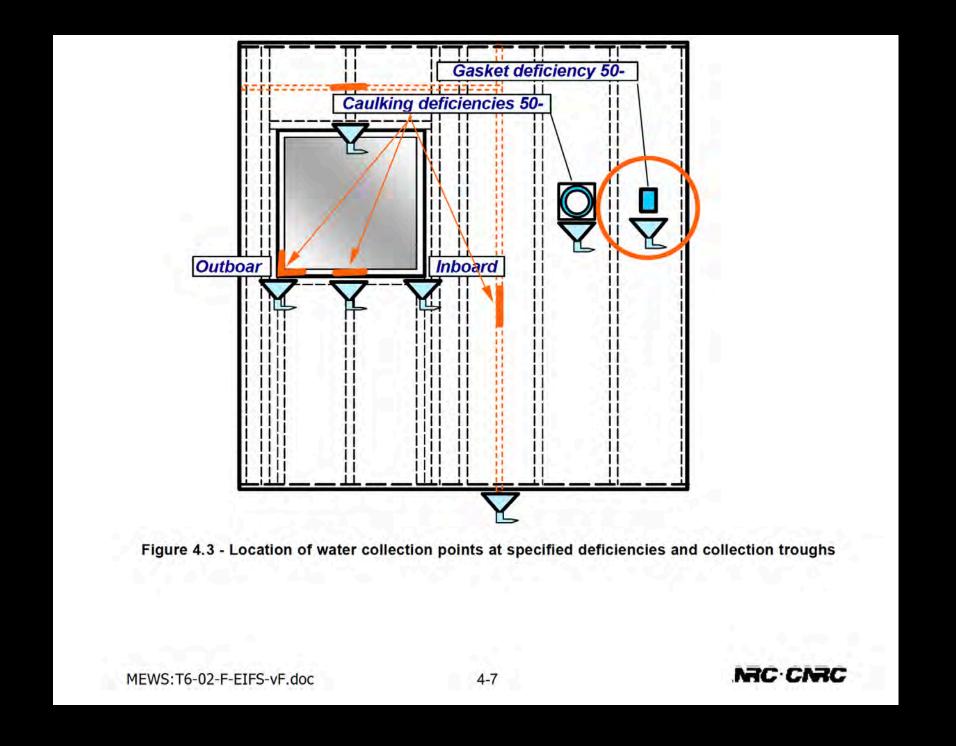
- Weather data across Canada and the USA studied
- Moisture Index (MI) developed
  - compares rate of wetting vs. drying
- If wetting greater than drying MI > 1.0
- Covers wet coastal areas (Newfoundland & BC)

## Water Penetration MEWS Research



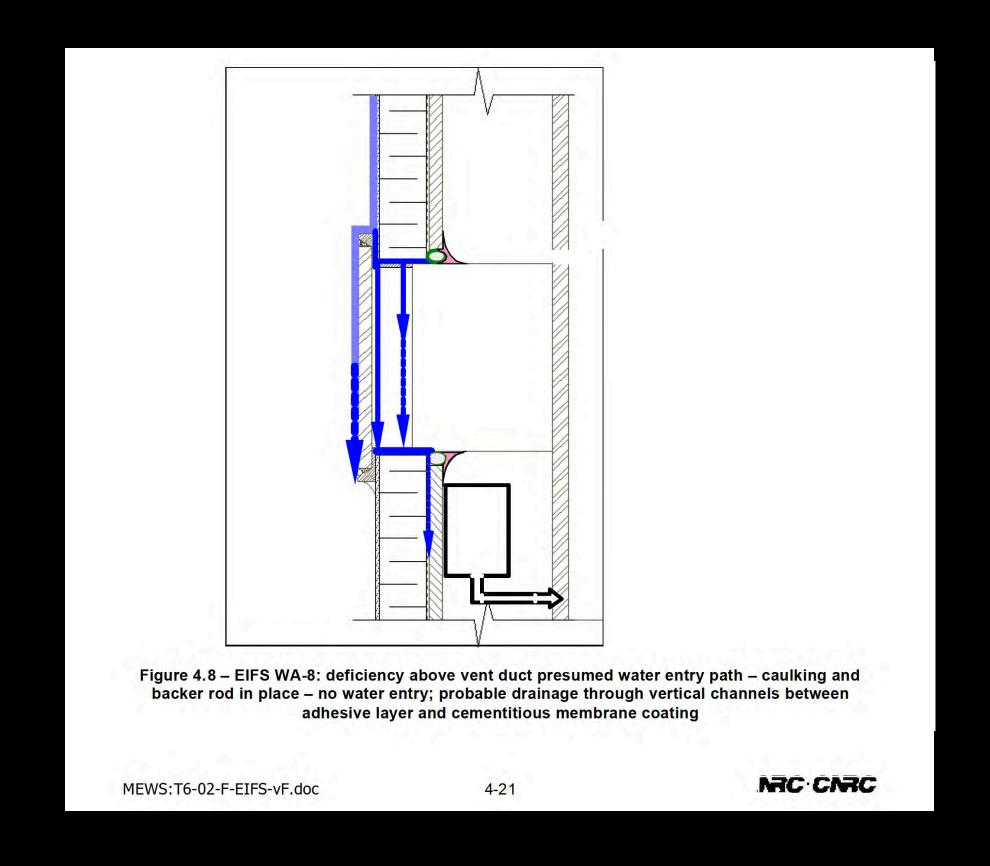
## Water Penetration MEWS Research

- Walls tested with normal penetrations and common flaws
- Wall claddings sprayed with water (amount based on worst case weather)
- Pressure differences added
- Air leakage added



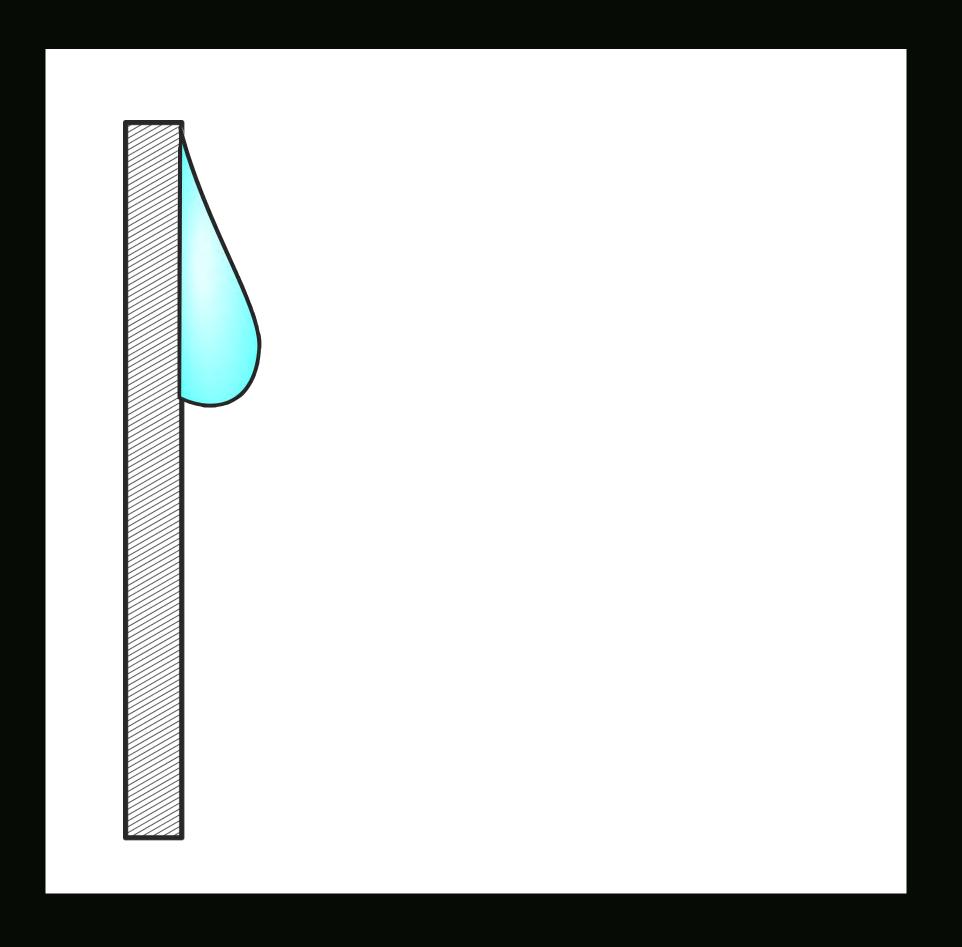
## Water Penetration MEWS Research

- Walls tested with normal penetrations and common flaws
- Wall claddings sprayed with water (amount based on worst case weather)
- Pressure differences added
- Air leakage added
- EIFS with Drainage performed well



#### MEWS Fallout

#### Bureaucrats to the rescue

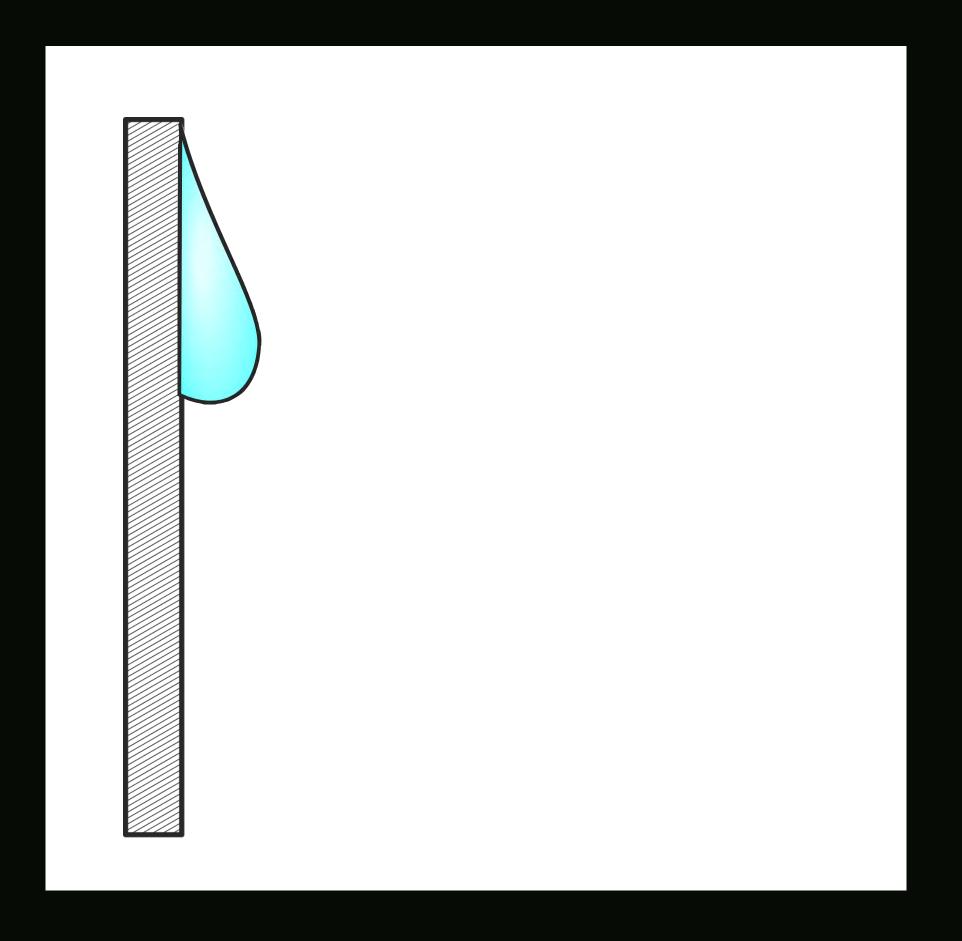




#### MEWS Fallout

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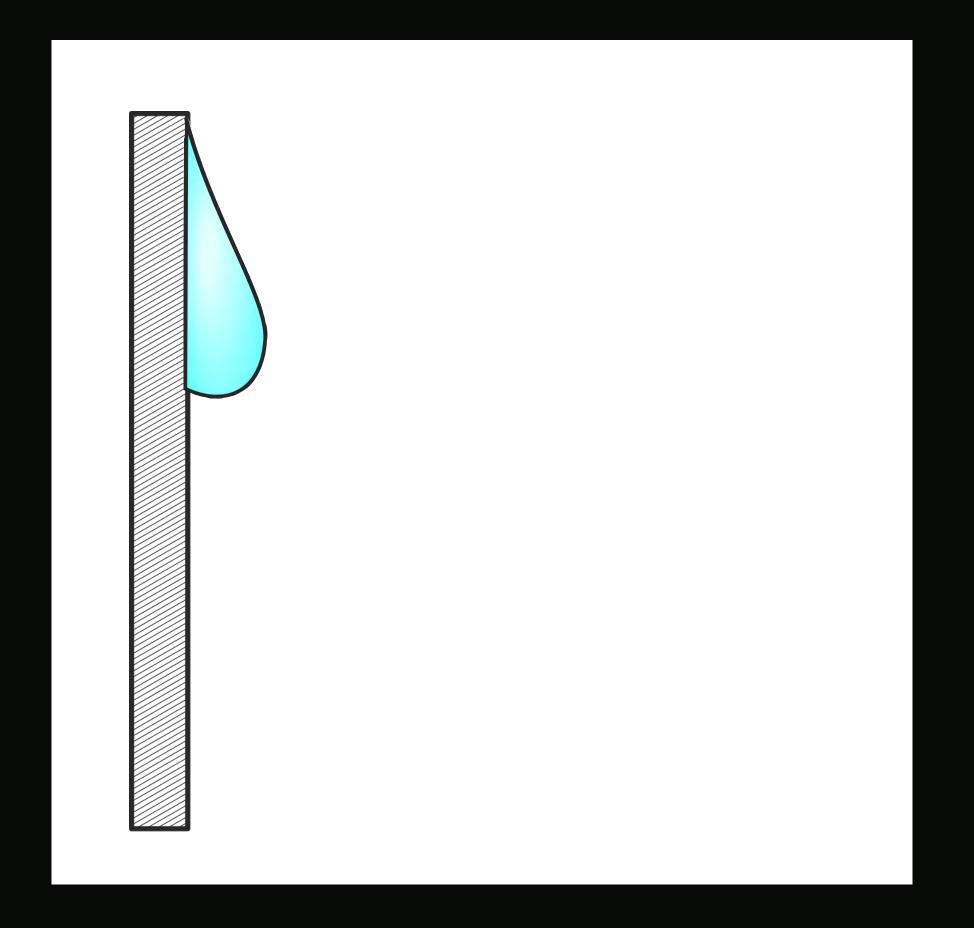
Moisture Index added to code



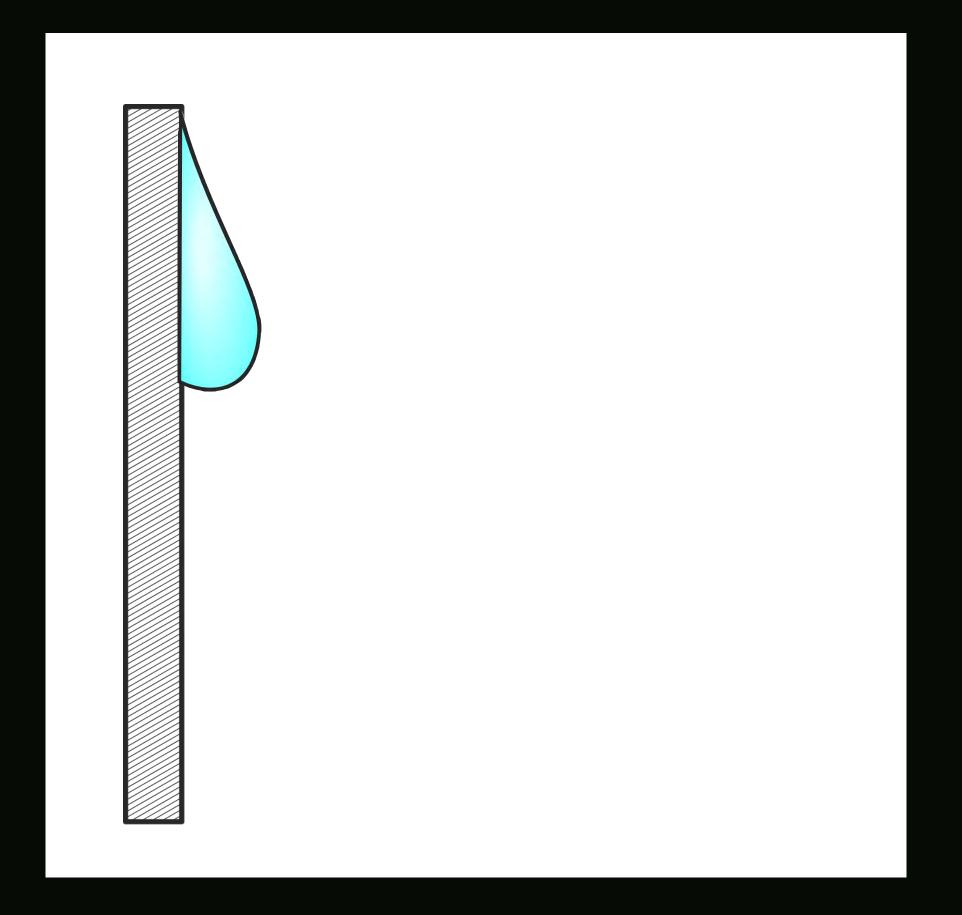
#### MEWS Fallout

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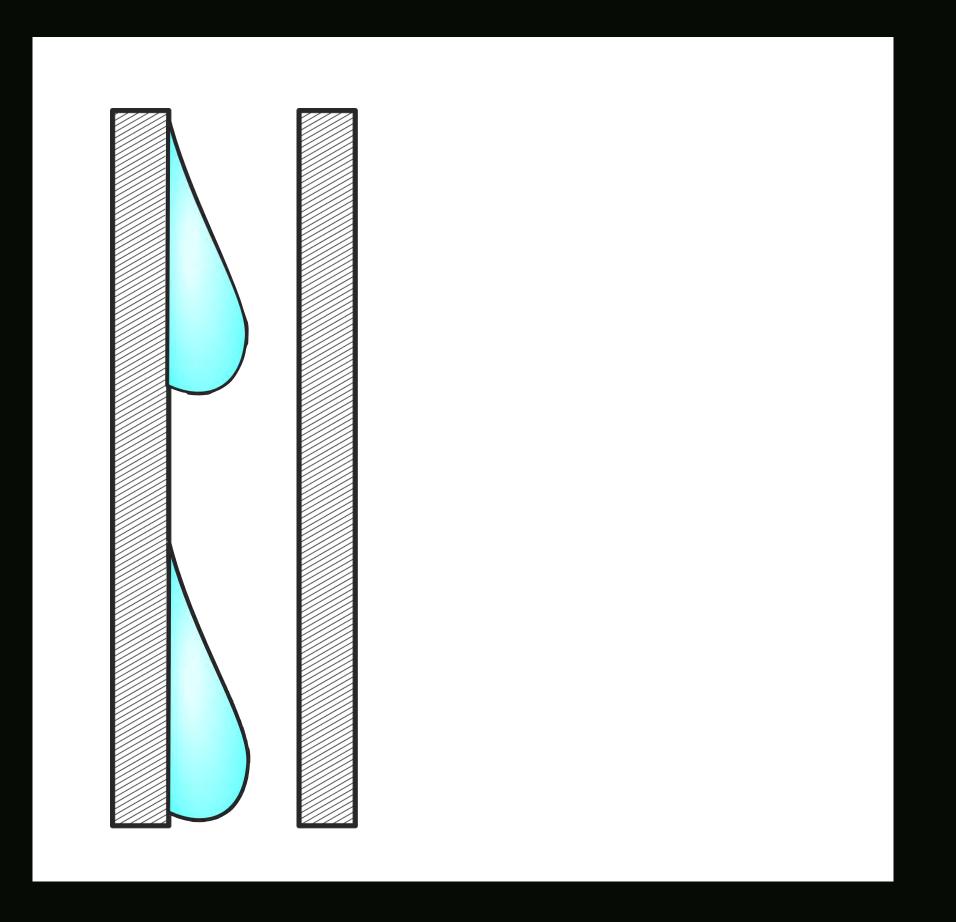
- Moisture Index added to code
- Capillary break required



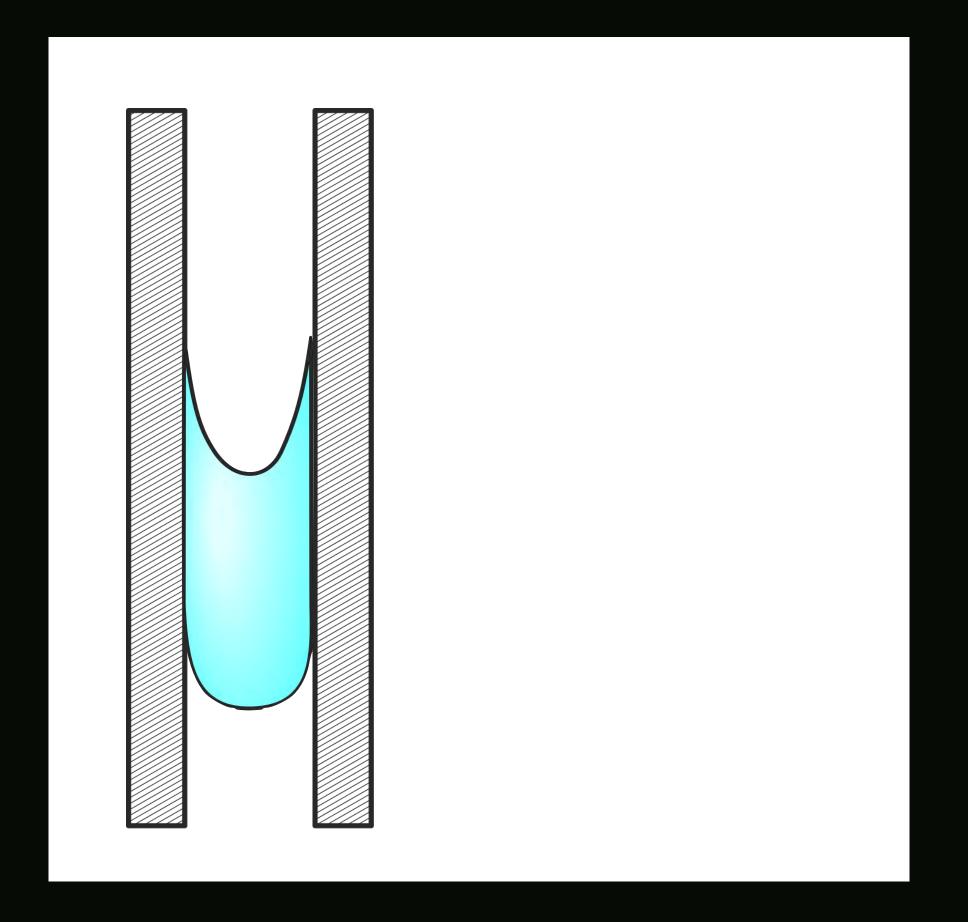
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- Size ?



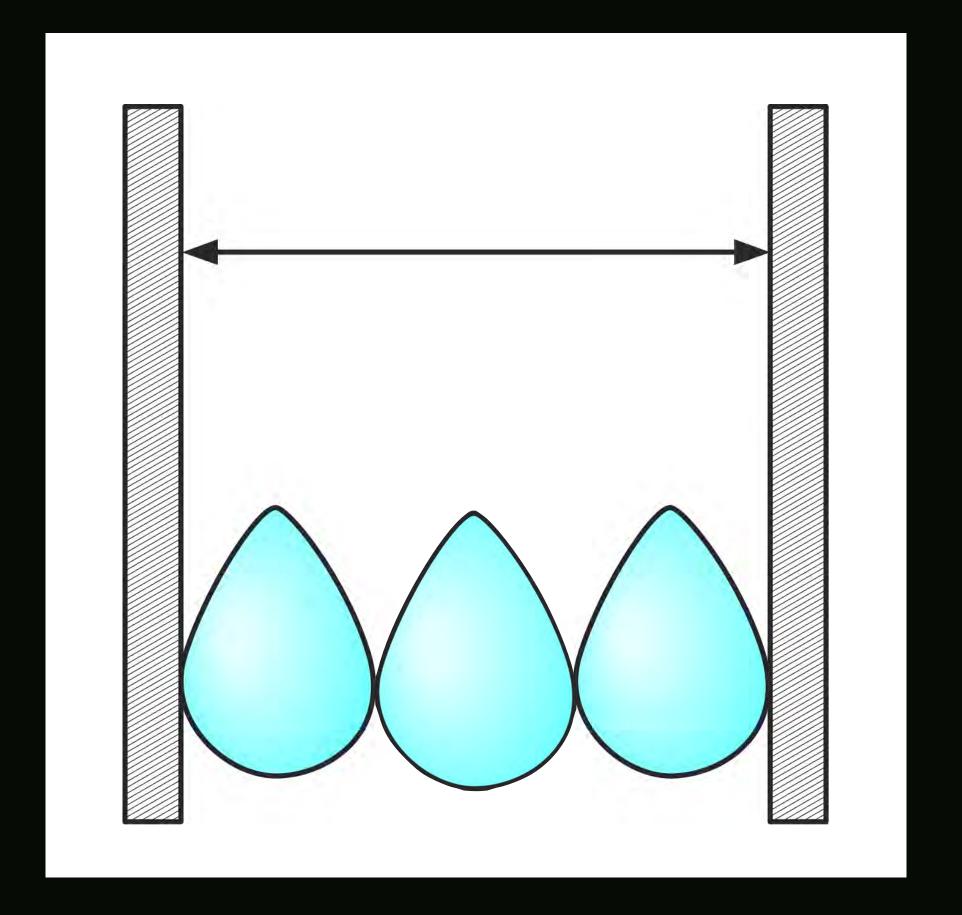
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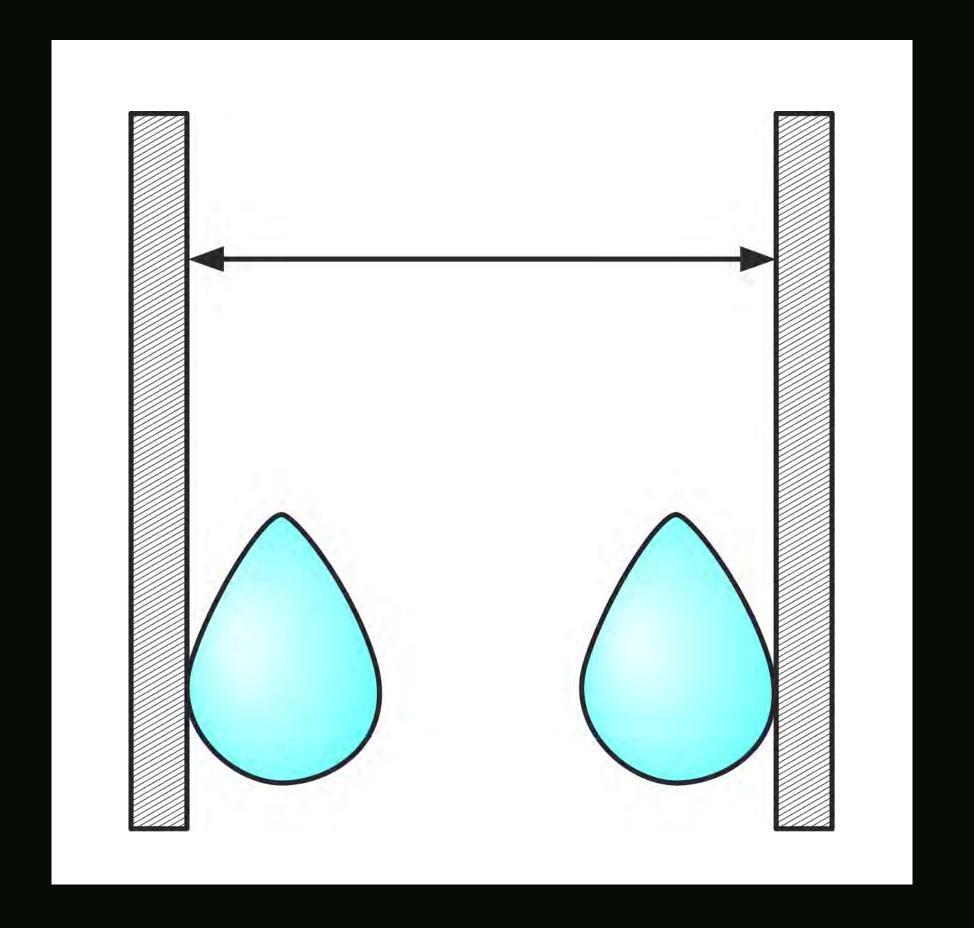
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- Size ?



#### Bureaucrats to the rescue

- Moisture Index added to code
- Capillary break required
- Size ?
- 10 mm based on width of 3 drops of water.

Cue dramatic music - opening chord from Jaws



# Canadian Construction Materials Centre

(CCMC)

# CCMC

- EIFS must have drainage!
- No problem ASTM with 90% drainage requirement
- Where does the 10% go?



### CCMC

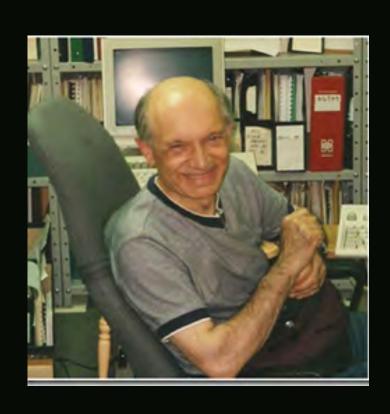
- EIFS must have drainage!
- No problem ASTM with 90% drainage requirement
- Where does the 10% go?
- Another consortium research project established!

# Forintek Find the missing 10%



# Forintek Find the missing 10%

- Enter Drs. Don Onysko and Mark Bomberg
- DMO Associates (Don, Mark and Others)
- Drainage and LA-WRB for CCMC
- Bonus round drainage for Canada Mortgage and Housing (CMHC)



Dr. Don Onysko BECKIE Recipient 2004

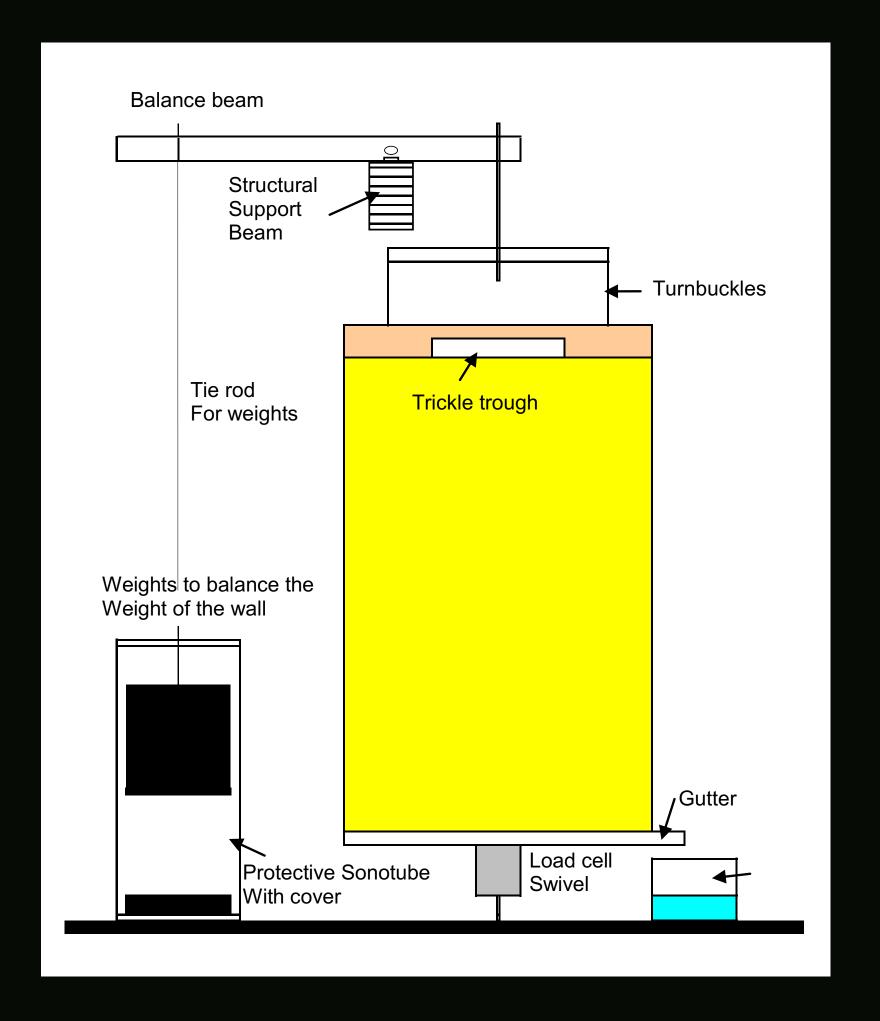


Dr. Mark Bomberg BECKIE Recipient 1999

# Drainage Research Hangin' in

Find the 10%

- EIFS panels suspended and counter-balanced
- Leaks are small and chronic, so water dribbled into panels
- Mass of water measured to 1g accuracy



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Find the 10%

- EIFS panels suspended and counter-balanced
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- Mass of water measured to 1g accuracy
- Drained to 99.8% efficiency



# Drainage Research Hangin' in

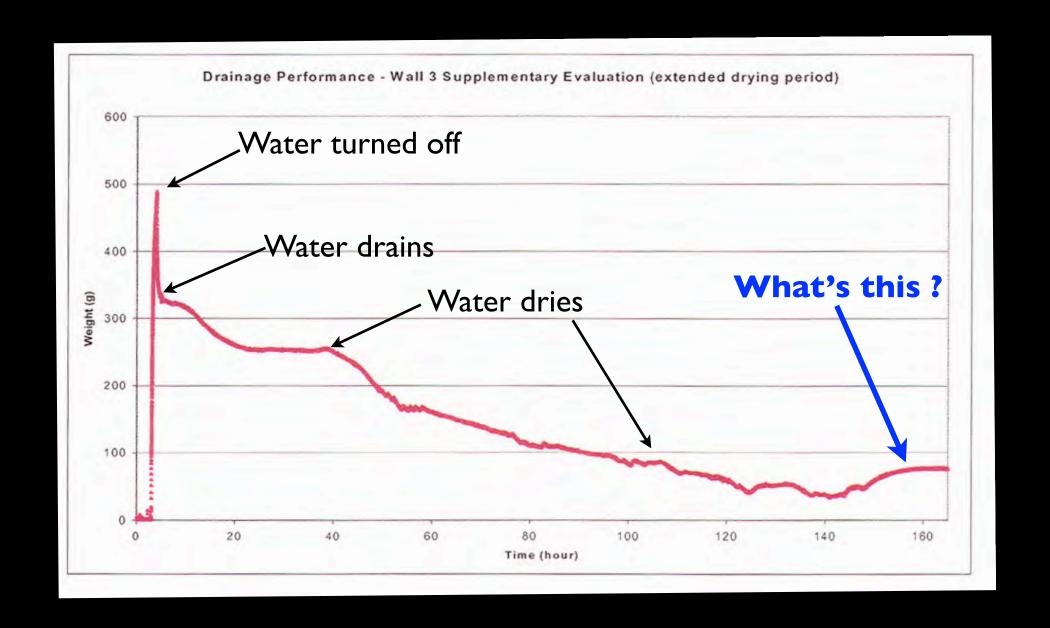
Find the 10%

- EIFS panels suspended and counter-balanced
- Leaks are small and chronic, so water dribbled into panels
- Mass of water measured to 1g accuracy
- Drained to 99.8% efficiency

Wait for it .... Where did the 0.2% go?



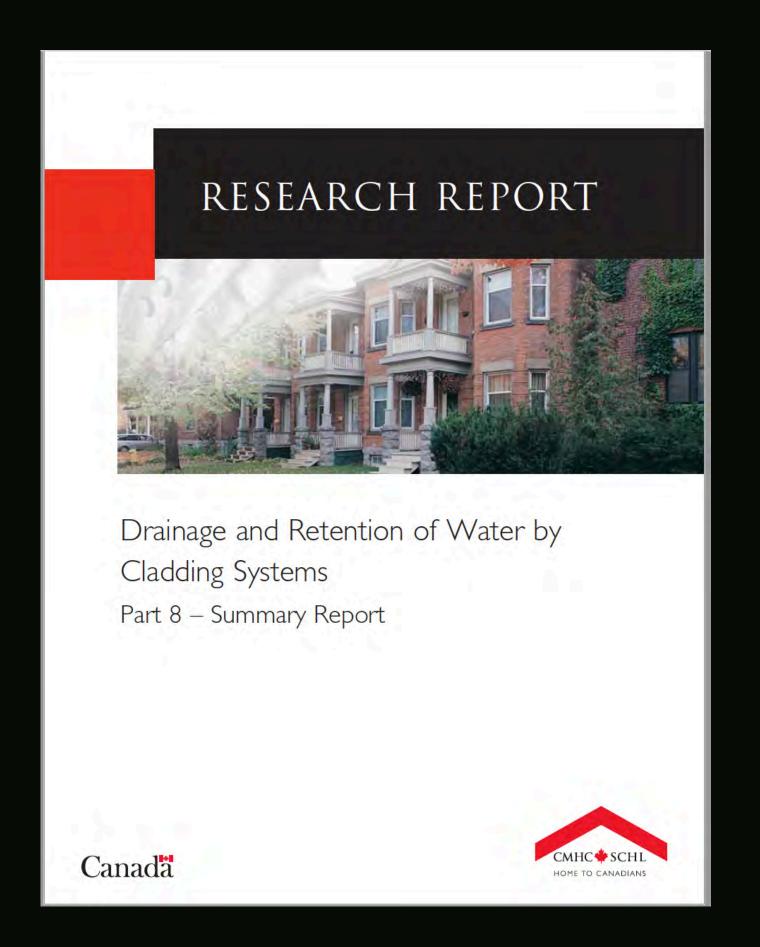
# Research at Forintek and CanBEST



St. Jean Baptiste Effect

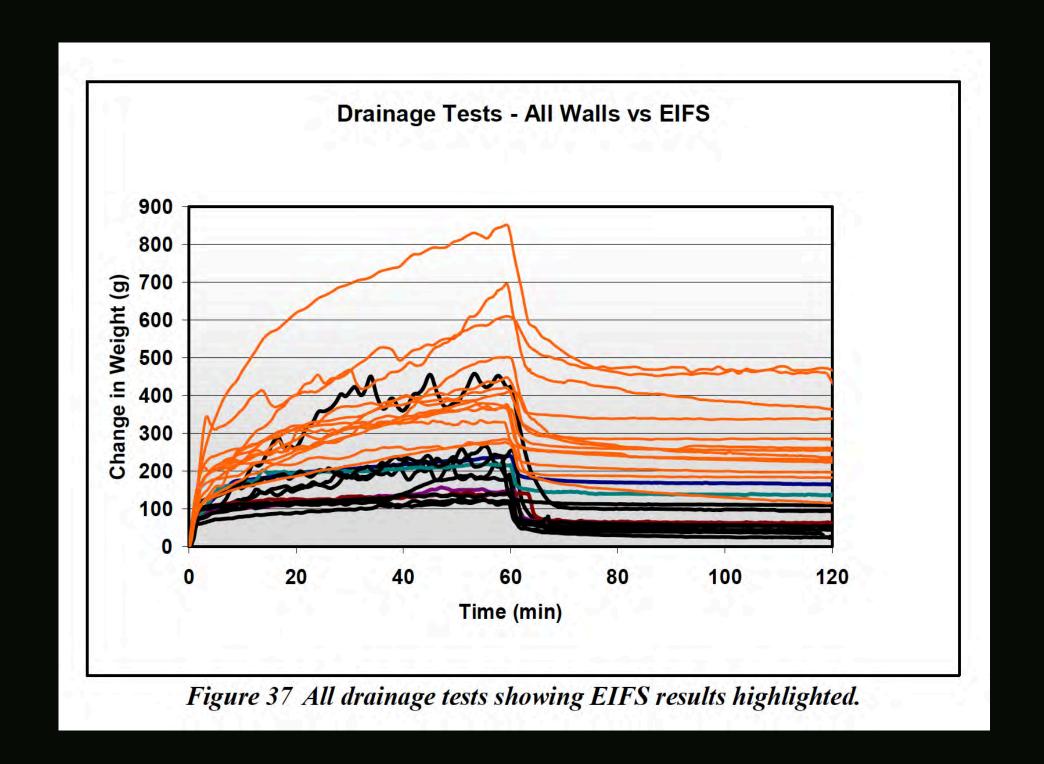
#### Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC)

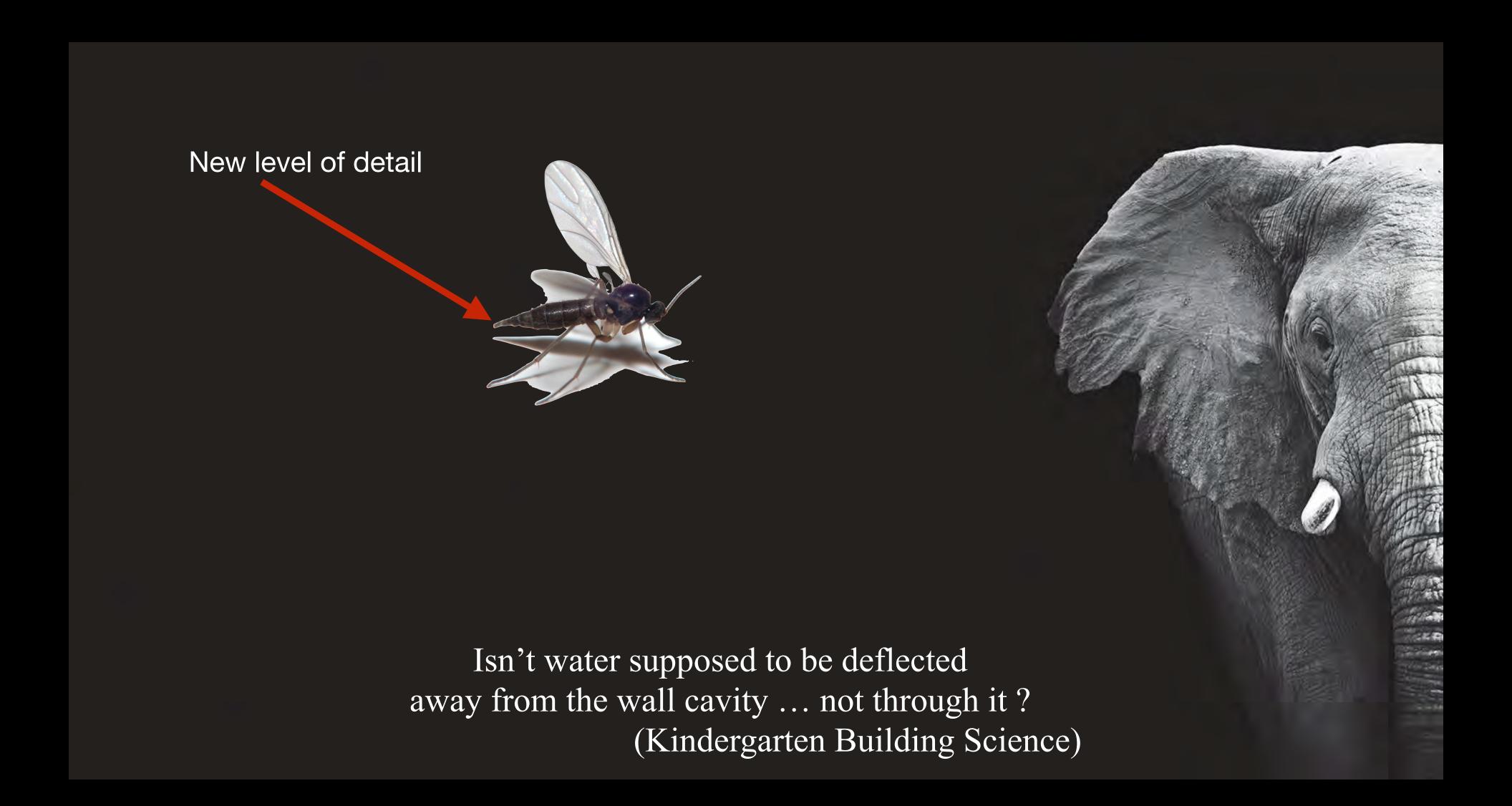
 Compared other claddings to EIFS



#### Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC)

- Compared other claddings to EIFS
- EIFS tended to drain the best

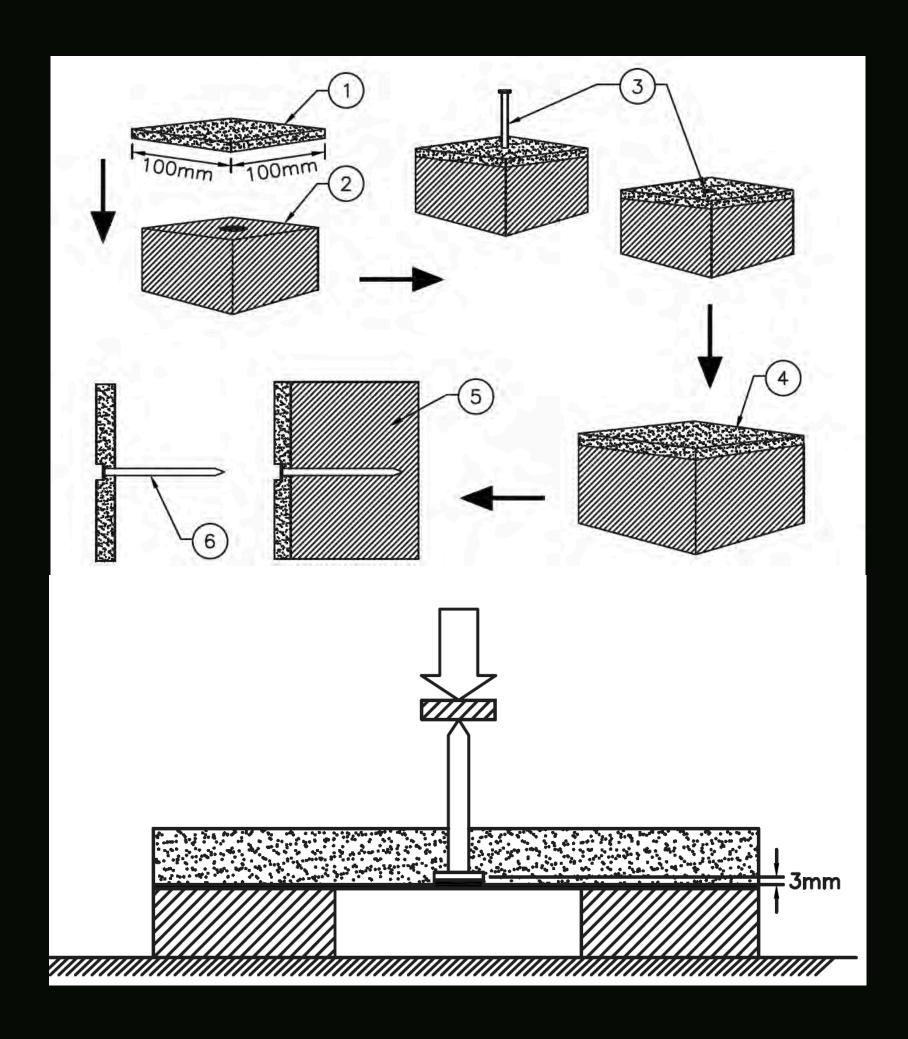




 Jumping elephant test (to induce nail pops)



 Jumping elephant test (to induce nail pops)



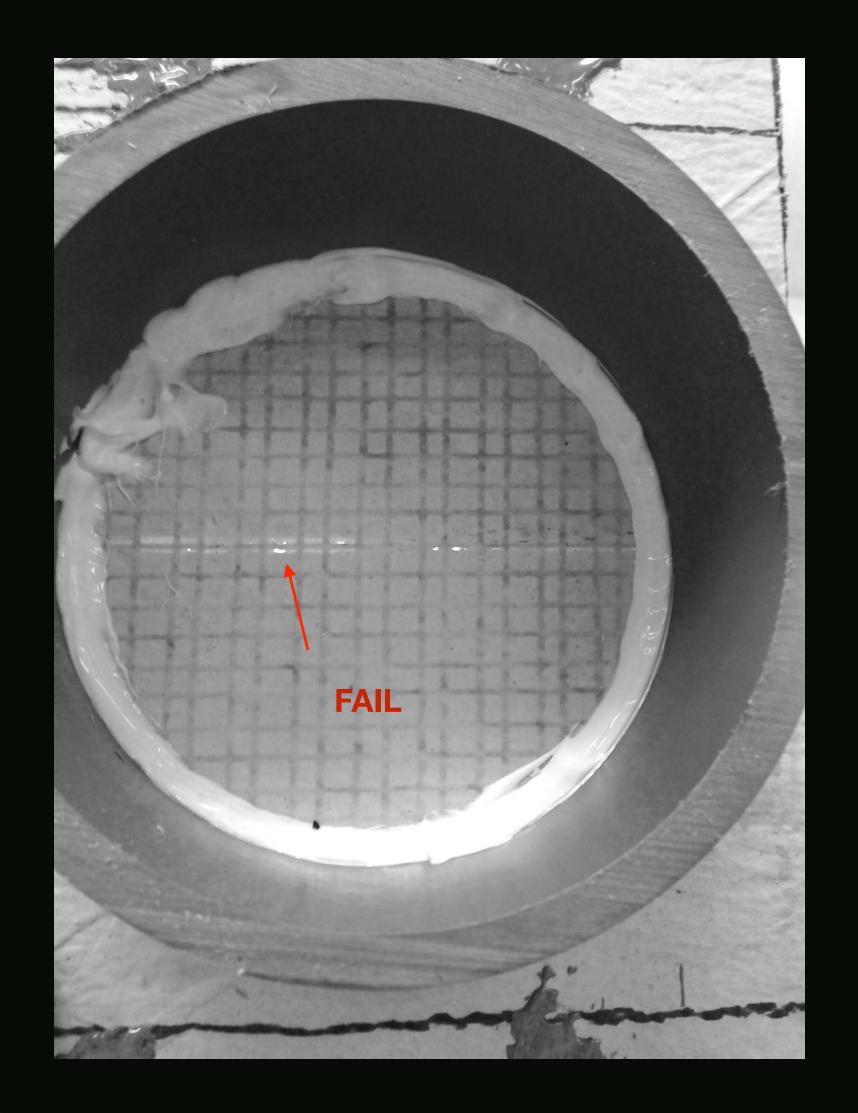
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- Jumping elephant test (to induce nail pops)
- Joint relaxation test



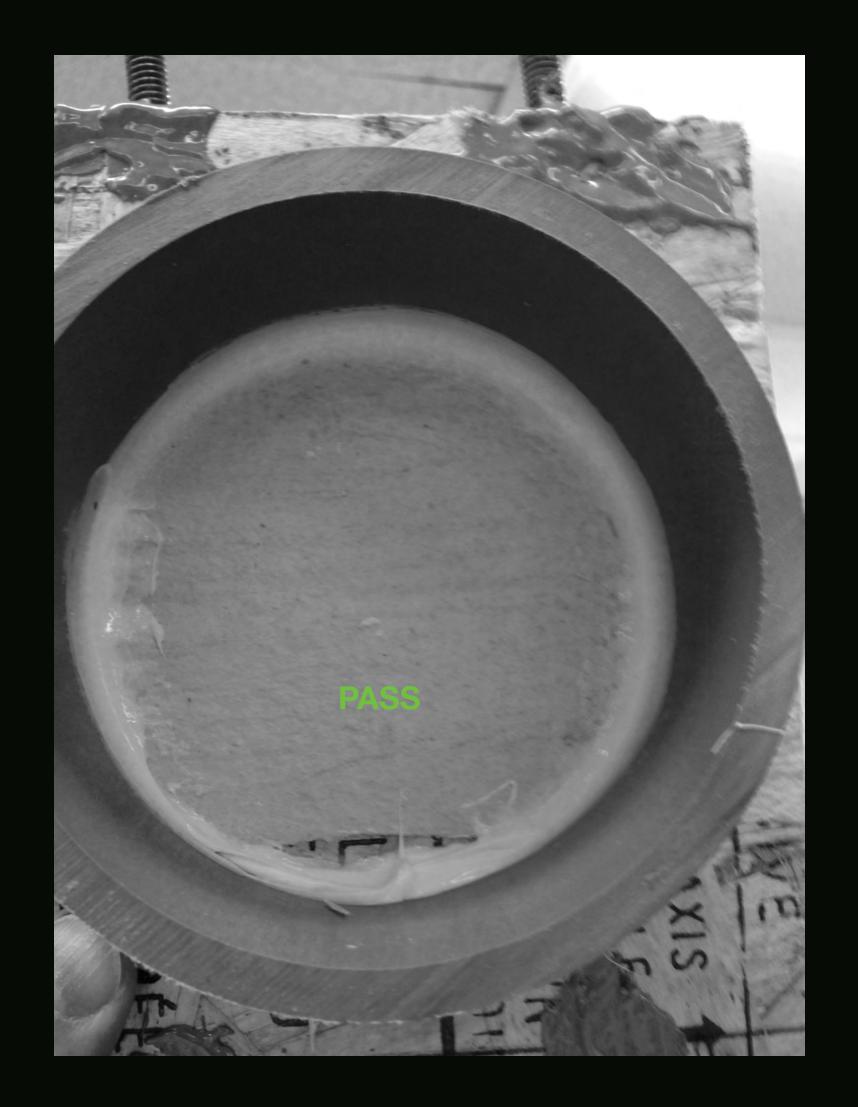


- Jumping elephant test (to induce nail pops)
- Joint relaxation test





- Jumping elephant test (to induce nail pops)
- Joint relaxation test





- Jumping elephant test (to induce nail pops)
- Joint relaxation test
- Joint disruption test
- Bond tests before, during and after immersion
- CCMC evaluation .... ?????

### CCMC Fallout

A new, very expensive, 5-year NRCC research consortium for Damage Assessment to determine how much water can be retained without damage occurring to the substrate material

# CCMC Fallout

OR

Just say 40 grams is the same as zero

#### The EIFS Industry leads!



How come no other cladding has to meet the same requirements?

# Drainage at University of Waterloo



# Back to the USA



# Modelling at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

### Advanced Modelling

- Developed material characteristic data
- Model predicts 1% of rainfall enters the cavity
- Showed EIFS works everywhere (including Calgary)

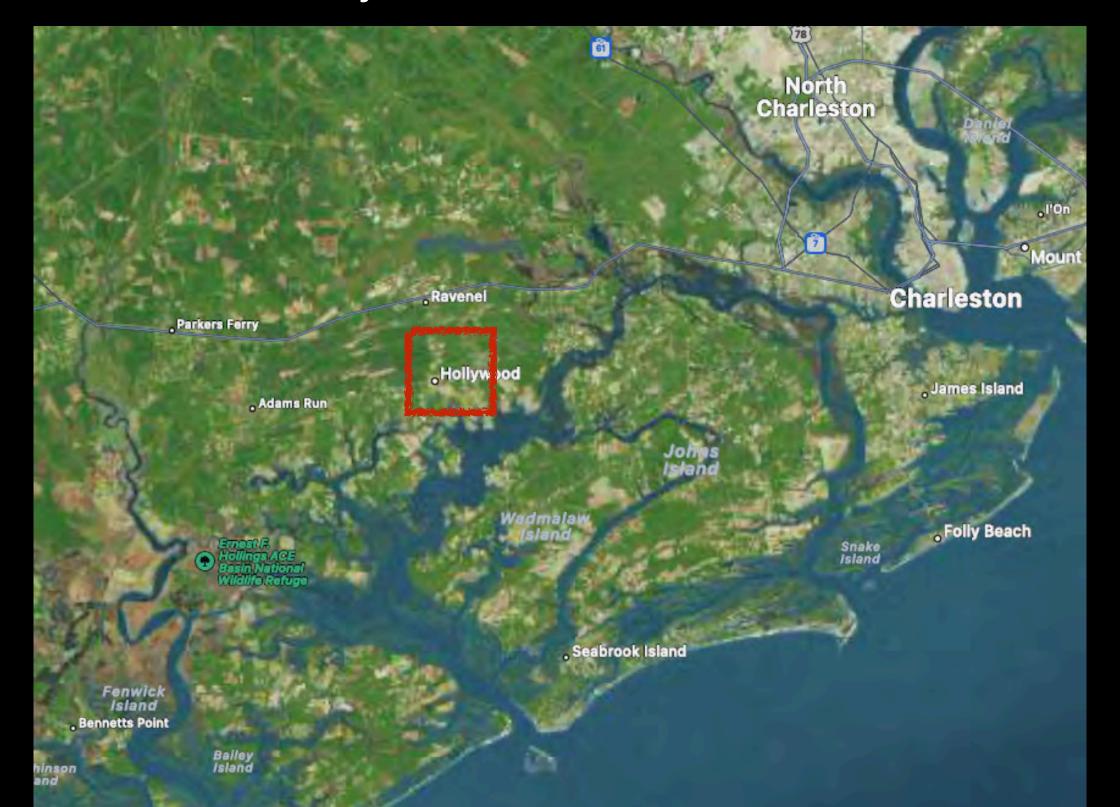
# Natural Exposure Test (NET) Facility

Hollywood, South Carolina



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Opening day



- Opening day
- After 2 years of monitoring, panels added to opposite side
- It has everything!
- Including drainage





# Monitored leakage

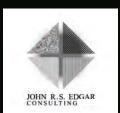
Gutter size matched to test panel opening



### Monitored leakage

- Gutter size matched to test panel opening
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### Monitored leakage

- Gutter size matched to test panel opening
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- EIFS drained

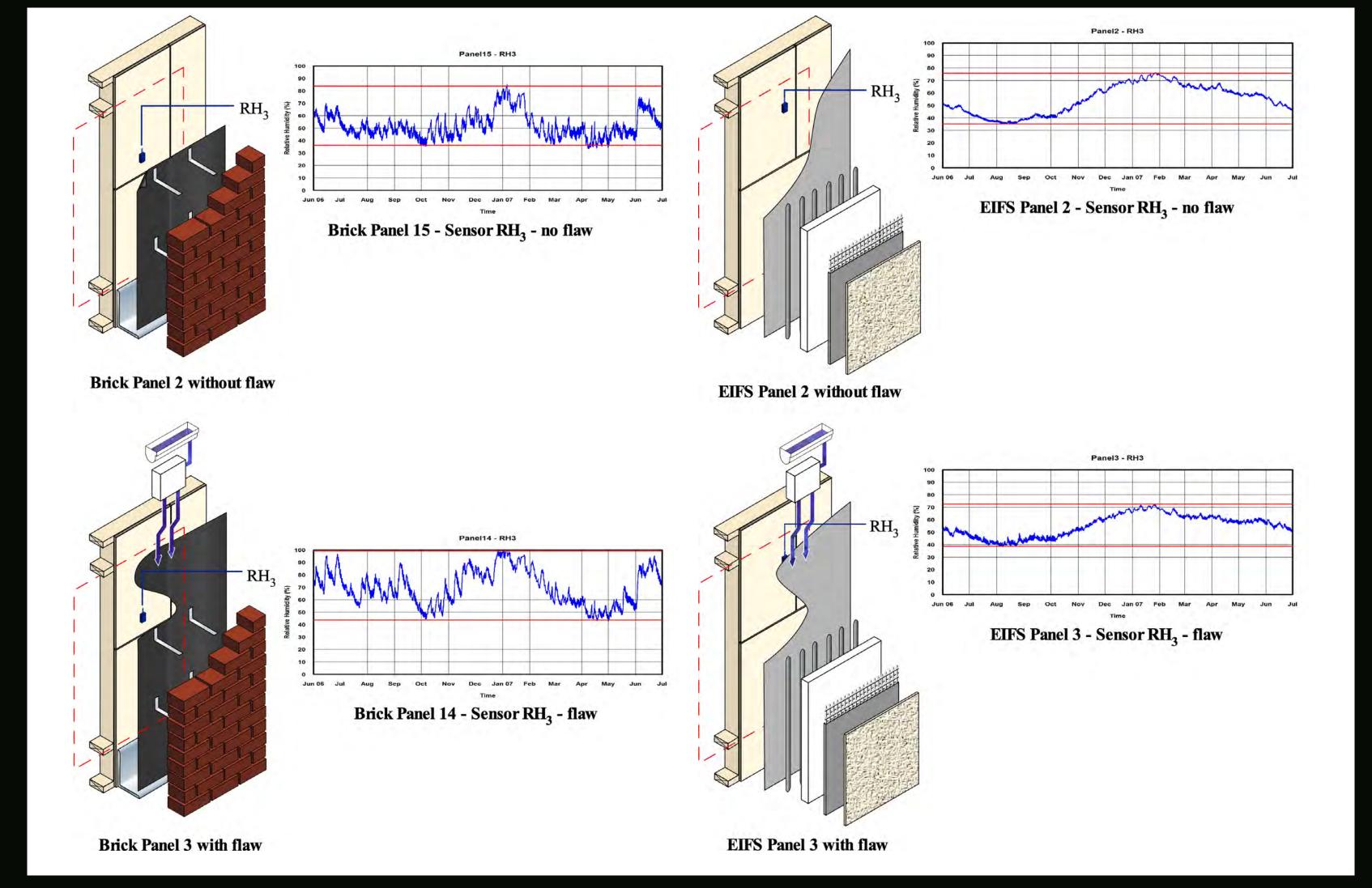


### Monitored leakage

- Gutter size matched to test panel opening
- Tip bucket drained onto WRB
- EIFS drained
- Brick ...



### Performance



### EIFS has its act together

- Research, testing, and field validation
- Based on field performance, model validated for all climate zones
- EIFS standards placed in US model building codes



## Back to Canada



## Back to Canada





## ProDemnity

Insurance company "does" building science

### ProDemnity Response to Research

#### Rejected

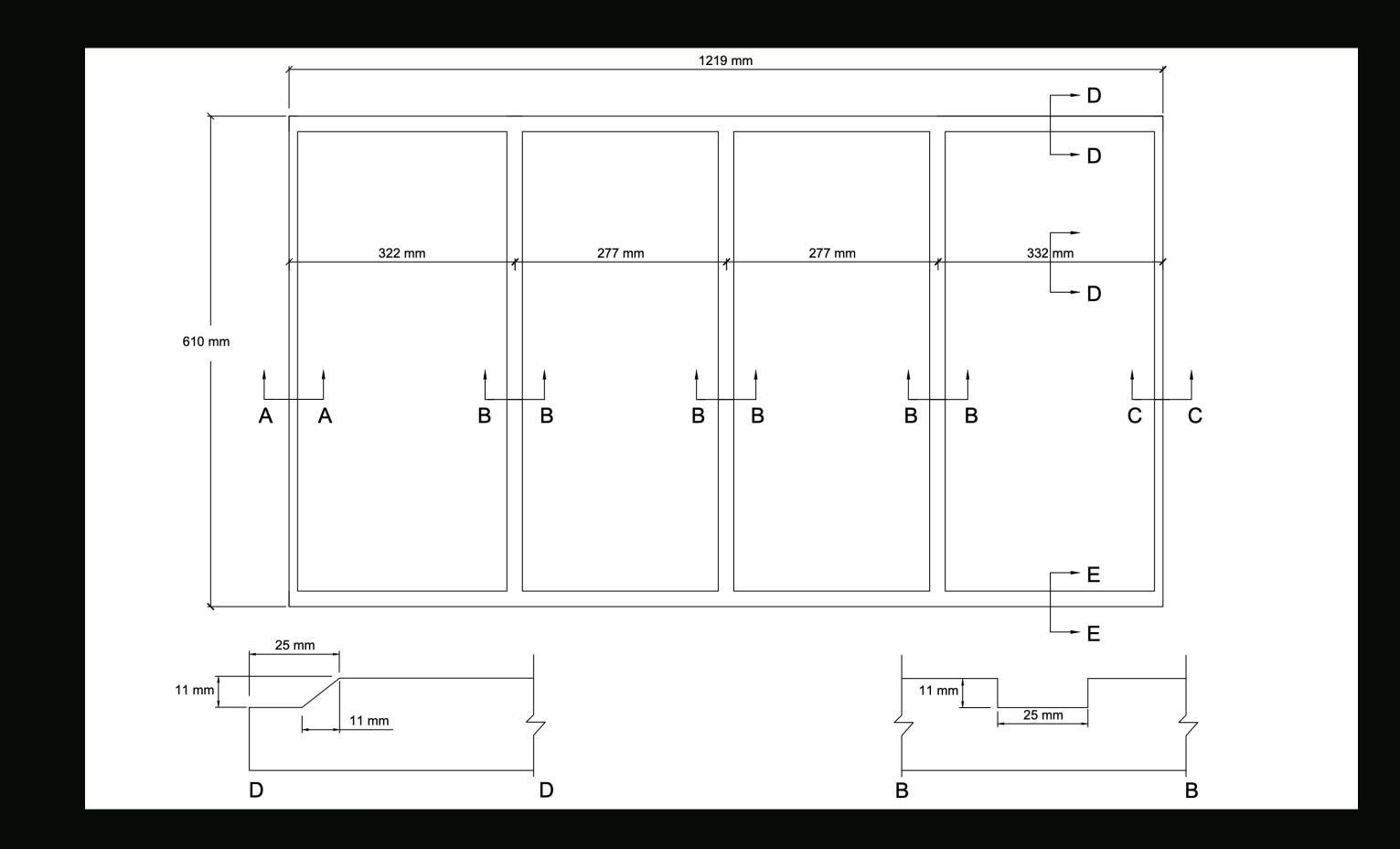
- "We know *intuitively* that 2 mm drainage cavity will not work."
- Insisted on a 10 mm drainage cavity like the coastal areas
- And no we don't "approve" systems

## Hello GDDC

Geometrically Defined Drainage Cavity

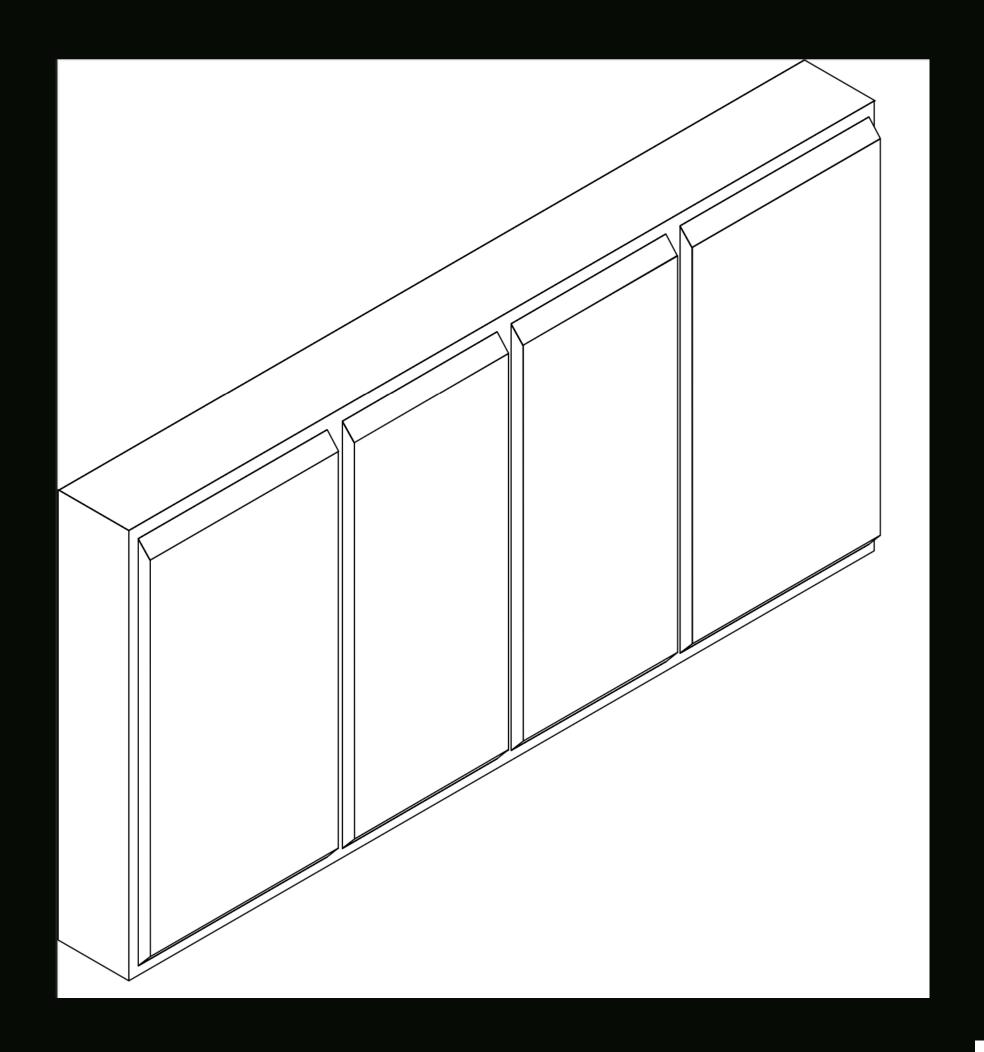
#### Patterns cut in insulation

• 10 mm drainage



#### Patterns cut in insulation

- 10 mm drainage
- Still allows adhesive pattern



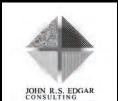
Why is the EIFS industry tying itself into a pretzel?



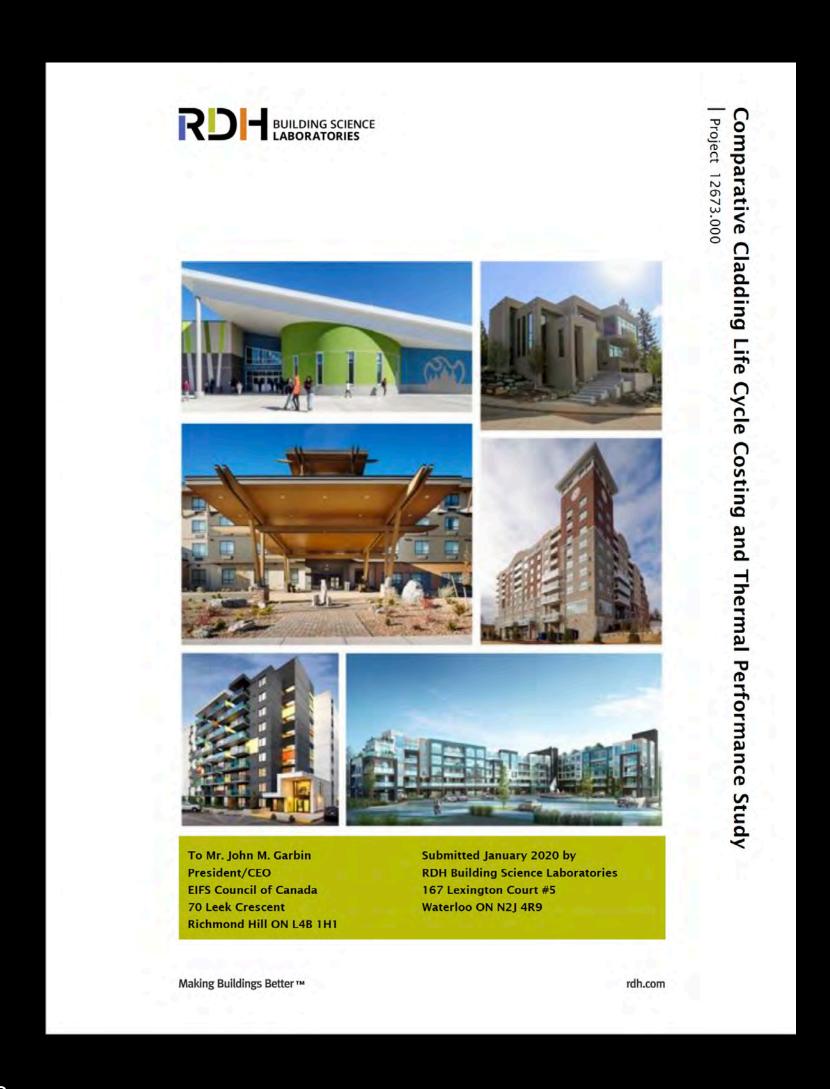
DEFLECT!

EIFS is not about drainage —

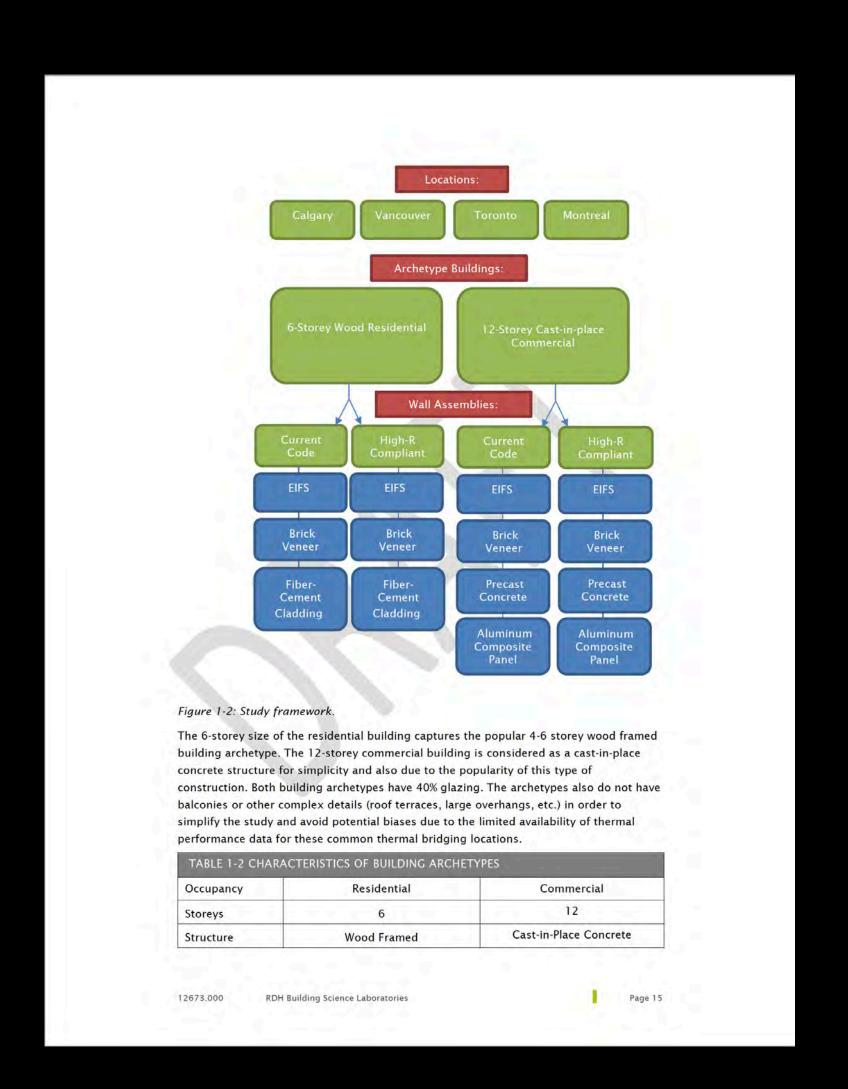


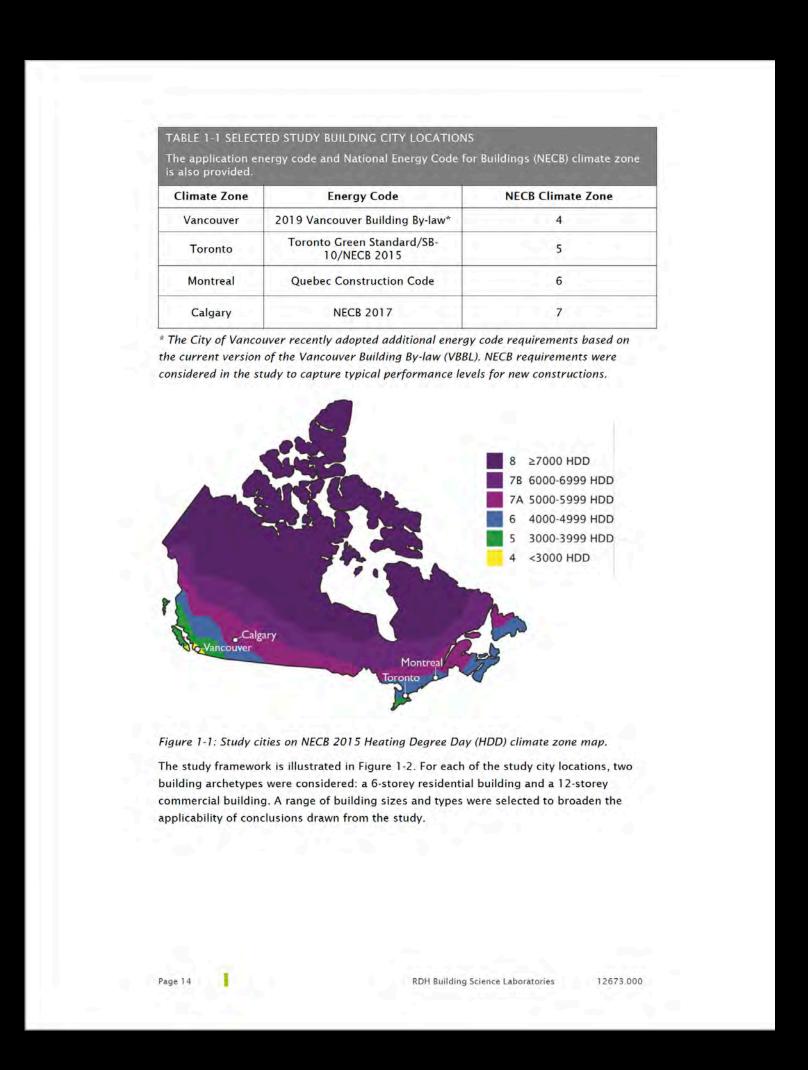




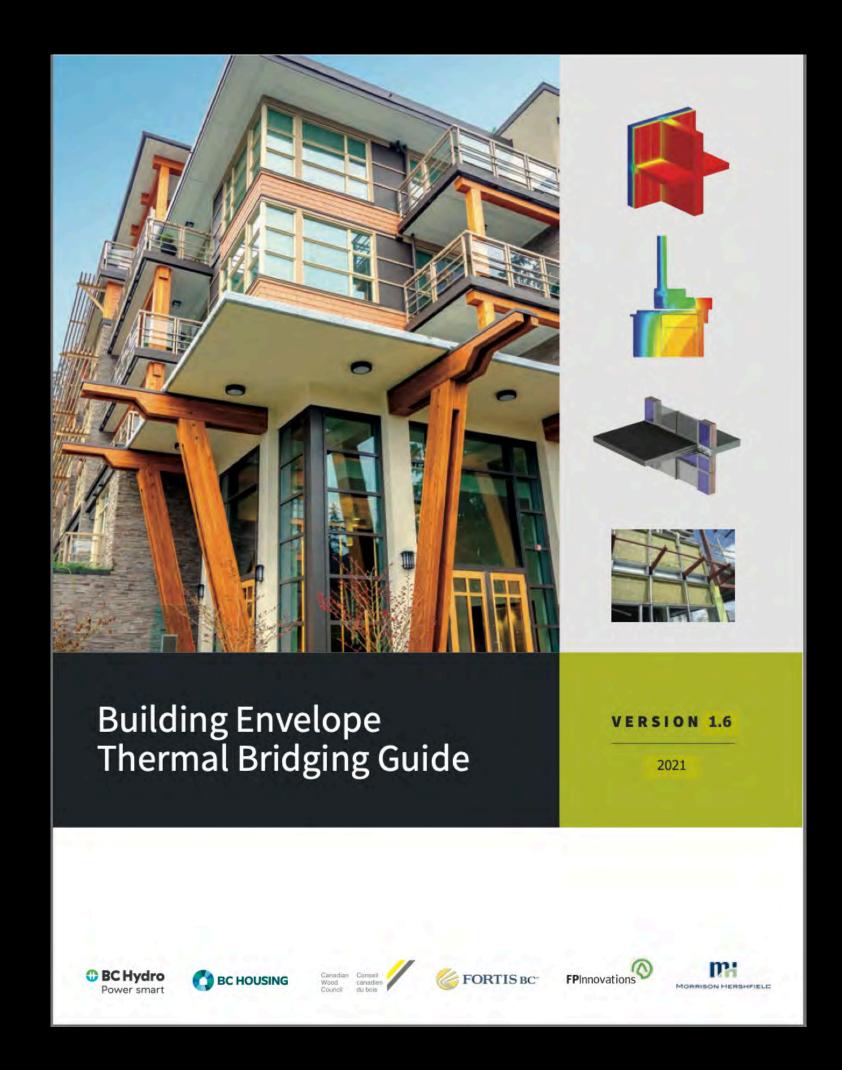








- ECC comparative life cycle costing study
- Thermal Bridging Guide





# Questions?

