

# Attached Awning Rating Feasibility Research Project Conference Call

## Conference Call Notes

Thursday, October 23, 2009

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1. In attendance: Ross McCluney, John Gant, Ray McGowan, Don Smallwood, Willie du Pont, Michelle Sahlin
2. The group reviewed the letter to be sent out to key contacts to get additional research projects and references for the Attached Awning Rating Feasibility Research Project. Two attachments will be sent along with the letter: Attachment A illustrates various types/styles of awnings to be considered in the research; Attachment B is a list of references of the research and references collected so far.
3. Research projects and references submitted in paper form will be scanned to be added to the database which will include a synopsis of the study, the research method and whether (and why) it is relevant to the project.
4. The three awning industry representatives expressed a need for focusing on solar heat gain reduction provided by awnings, as it alone is the driver for rating efforts as a qualifier for EnergyStar® programs. While not primary drivers, other aspects to be rated include visible light transmittance, view (from out of the window) impact, and glare reduction, as they are important and appreciated properties. References to these last three aspects will be limited on the report.
5. Ross McCluney reported that he has started an outline for the research report outlining basic ideas, needs for input methodologies, and a detailed awning shading model and abstract and outcomes if certain methodologies are used.
6. Willie DuPont showed two Access databases that are linked to one another. These databases document the research references and the contacts that provided the references.
7. Ross asked the group to help him in the future by reading the references gathered and commenting on them. He will do a short slideshow at the upcoming Fall NFRC meeting in San Antonio to bring the NFRC up to date on the overall direction of the project. The slides will give a brief overview of the project, current status, and allow for questions.
8. The PMTG members are asked to review NFRC 901 on Annual Energy Performance to understand some of the implications and methods used for consideration of regions, climate and orientation.
9. John Gant, Ross and Willie will be visiting two awning fabric manufacturing facilities next week to see labs and equipment used for measuring various optical properties of awning fabric. The visit should help with the ongoing discussion about the role the manufacturers will play in defining properties of their materials. Will the optical properties analyses be done by independent labs or by manufacturers in-house. It was suggested that the facilities visit could assist in formulating questions for a survey about testing optical properties to be sent to fabric manufacturers. John Gant stated that most awning fabric manufacturers do some type of optical properties measurement and that they currently outsource this testing.
10. This led to a discussion about various experts on testing and optical ratings. Willie will contact Maureen Grasso from UGA regarding the concepts of energy performance analysis of exterior shades and any goals she has regarding any evaluation of shading in ASHRAE and recognition of shading in ASHTR building codes. She has collaborated with Bruce Hund of Texas A & M. Ross will call Mike Rubin at LBNL to get a preliminary opinion on the behavior of scattered light through tightly-woven diffusing awning fabric.

11. The group discussed whether to pursue a simple or complex optical rating, and whether awning fabric manufacturers would be willing to invest in equipment for rating optical properties. The equipment would cost about \$200,000.
12. The next conference call is set for November 9 at 2:30 PM Eastern Time.

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