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To: Construction Officials
From: Edward M. Smith 
Director
Division of Codes and Standards

Subject: Placement of Houses on Pilings

As the Sandy rebuild continues, many communities are seeing a large number of houses being elevated on pilings. There are two areas of concern that require the attention of local code officials.

Pile Certification: The pile certification must be in hand before construction of a new house or placement of an existing house proceeds. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.18(b)1.i. and ii., the inspections for which construction must cease include the bottom of footing trenches and foundations and walls up to grade. In the case of a house or other building on a pile foundation, the pile certification takes the place of this inspection.

Connections: After the house is placed on the pilings, inspections must be performed to ensure that all connections are done properly. It does little good to know that the pilings were installed properly if the house is not tied to the pilings. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.18(b)1.iv(1), structural framing and connections also are listed as items for which construction must cease until an inspection is made.

Vigilance in getting the proper documentation and performing the required inspections is essential to the success of the rebuilding effort. Should you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact the Code Assistance Unit via telephone at (609) 984-7607 or via e-mail at codeassist@dca.state.nj.us.

