

GEW153-14

702.21 (New)

Proponent: Jonah Cecil Scheib, Urban Green Council, representing Urban Green Council (cs@urbangreencouncil.org)

Add new text as follows:

702.21 Emergency Drinking Water Supply. Buildings of Group R or Group I occupancy that have potable water distributions systems that are dependent on the pumping of water supplied from a public water main to any location in the building, shall be designed with emergency potable water supply fixtures. Such fixtures shall be located within the building where the pressure from the public water main will provide for the required flow and pressure in accordance with the *International Plumbing Code*. The fixtures shall be located in an accessible common area of the building. The number and type of emergency potable water supply fixtures chosen shall provide for the filling of portable containers by the building's occupants for obtaining drinking water and water closet flushing water. The number and type of emergency potable water supply fixtures shall be approved.

Exception: Buildings with potable water distribution pumps powered by an emergency or standby power system that is powered by either a renewable or non-renewable energy source, shall not be required to have emergency potable water supply fixtures.

Reason: This proposal would allow people to have better access to drinking water during blackouts. During a power failure, buildings that use electric pumps lose their water supply. Pressure from the public water main may be sufficient to reach the lower stories of the building, but even that may remain unavailable if a non-operating pump blocks the water supply. This proposal would require residential buildings, as well as hotels, dormitories and residential care facilities, to provide drinking water to a common area, supplied directly through pressure in the public water main, for use in a power outage.

Per the 2012 IgCC Preface, the code is "founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a green construction code that adequately protects public health, safety and welfare".

New York City established a similar regulation in 2013.

Bibliography:

NYC Building Resilience Task Force, Proposal 23 ([Proposal](#))

NYC Local Law 110 of 2013 ([Law](#); [Legislative Summary](#)) NYC Plumbing Code Section 614 and Table 403

Cost Impact: Will not increase the cost of construction.

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