PH Verification for Large Buildings: What We've Learned So Far

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Steven Winter Associates, Inc. Improving the Built Environment Since 1972



Overview

- Focus: Verification of Insulation and Air Barrier Continuity
- Issues that dictate QA/QC program
- Case Studies
 - Cornell
 - Beach Green North
 - 3365 Third Ave



Verification for Large Projects

- Project Sequencing: Foundations
 - Abutting neighbor?
 - Staging of foundation?
 - Under slab
 - Stem walls



Verification for Large Projects

- Inspection & testing process above grade
 - Wall construction
 - Brick & block
 - Panel
 - Metal Stud
 - Staging
 - Drywall starting on lower levels, still insulating at top
 - Opening like hoistways, elevator shafts, HVAC shafts



Verification for Large Projects

- Inspection & testing process roof insulation
 - Equipment on roof
 - Curbs
 - Brackets
 - Small dividing walls

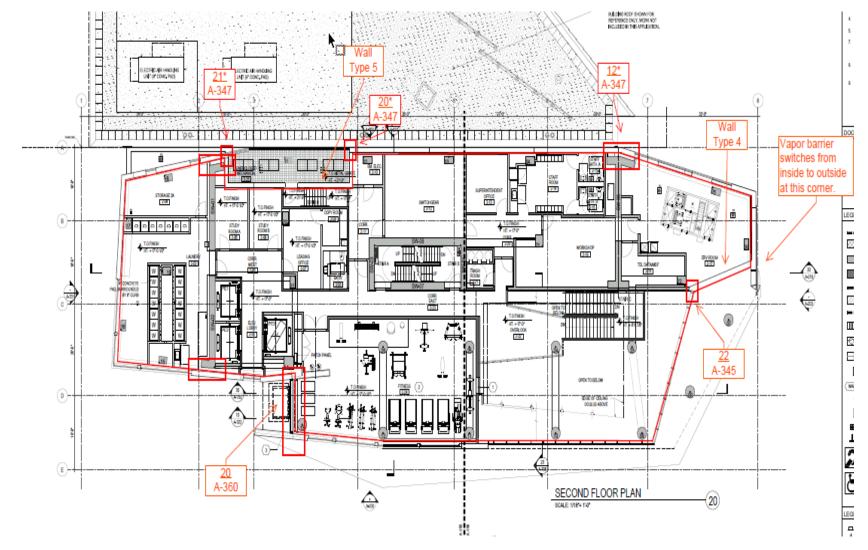
 Bulkheads/unconditioned mechanical rooms – roof insulation needed in these areas before main roof



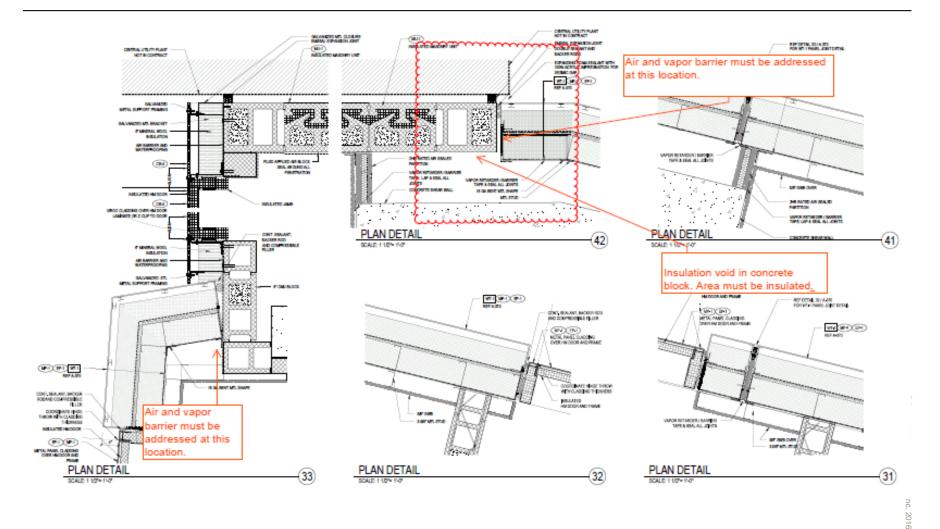


CORNELL ROOSEVELT ISLAND, NY

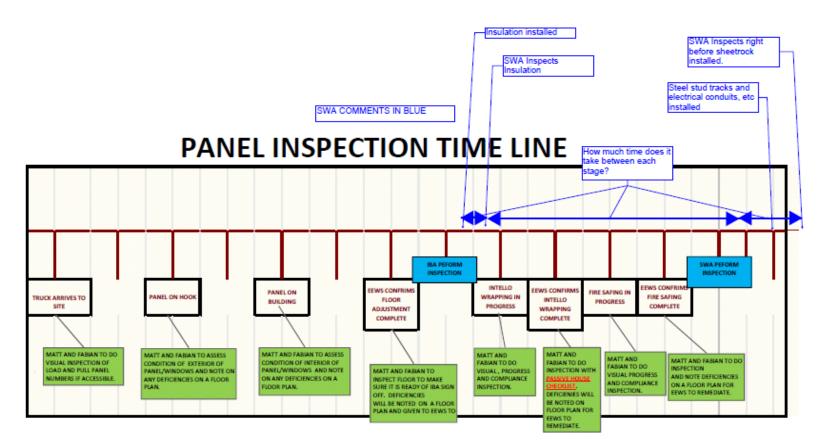
Redline Plan & Section



Drill Into Details



Identify Sequencing & Timing of Inspections

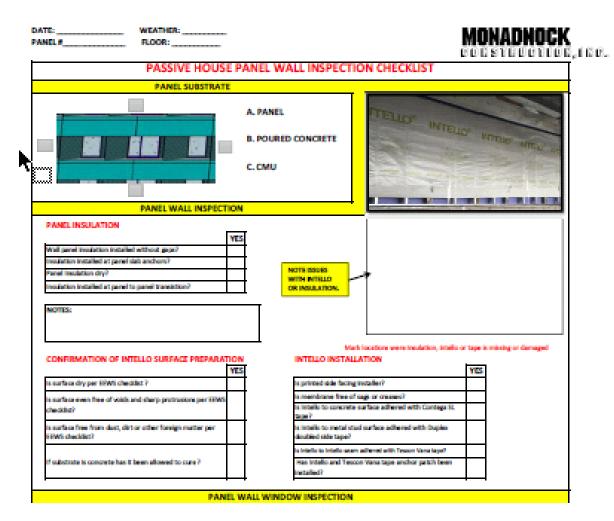




SWA's Scopes

- Include prelim QA/QC checklist development
 - Dependent on construction type
- Final blower door test plan

Develop Contractor Checklists



SWA Checklists



Automated Inspection Checklists

- Large projects w/ multiple dwellings
- Repetitive Tasks duct & unit by unit leakage testing
- Insulation inspections



Verification Item #1:

Insulation inspection on 24th floor

Description of Verified Item #1:

SWA inspected the 24th floor insulation installation. Minor issues were found and immediately repaired by Eastern.

Action Required:

None.

Reinspection Required?



Item 1 - Photo 1



Item 1 - Photo Caption 1

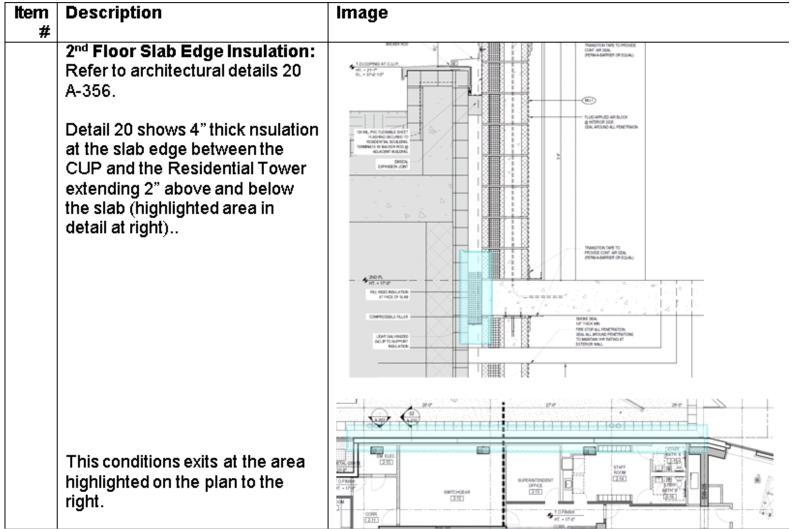
24th floor insulation installation.



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Site Visit Reports





Progress

- Panel installation started in March
- Finished top floor end of August
- Drywalled up to 13th floor
- Finishes being installed on lower levels
- Majority of effort spent inspecting insulation & air barrier – at least 1x per week since March

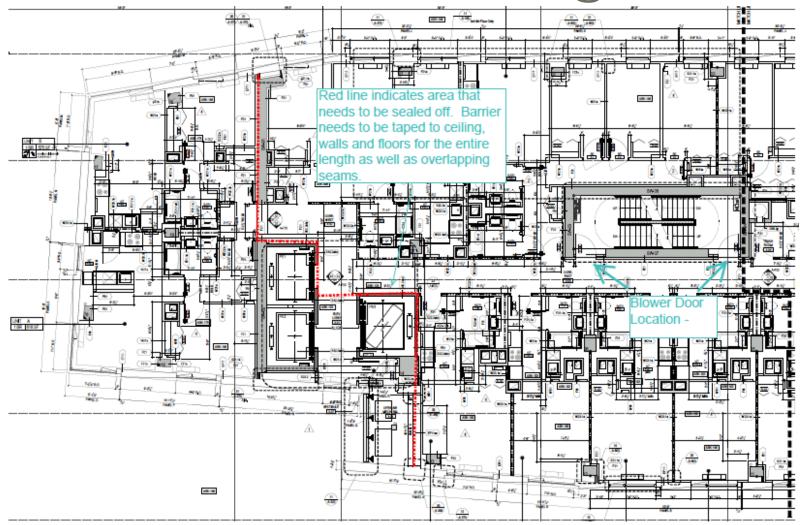


Interim Testing

- Ductless mini-splits no leakage testing required
- Original plan no whole floor testing
- Revised plan guarded testing on 4th, 5th and 6th floors
- Window & Door Leakage
- Façade Leakage
- compartmentalization



Guarded Testing





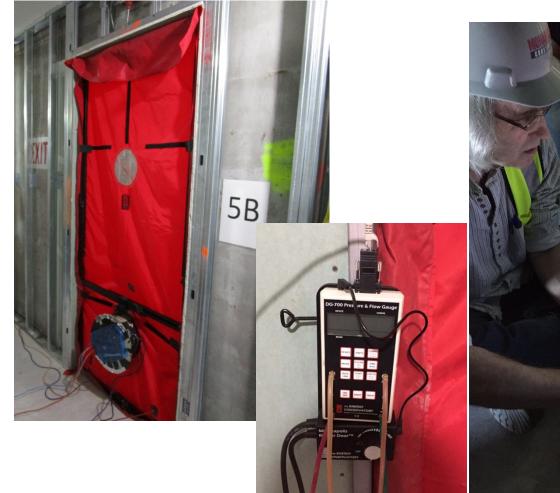
Temporary Air Barrier

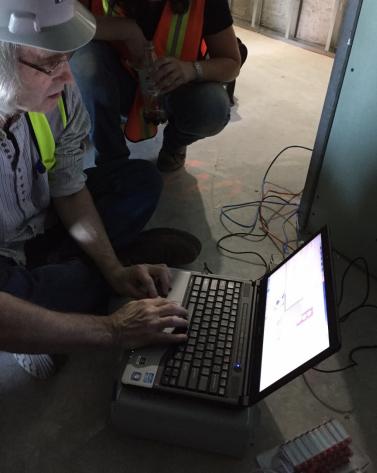




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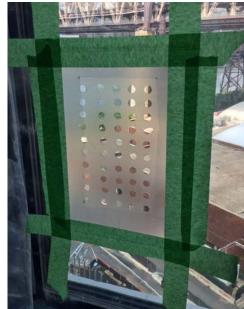
Blower Doors on 3 Floors





Façade Leakage Measurements: Quantitative







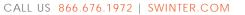
Façade Leakage Measurements: Qualitative







BEACH GREEN NORTH QUEENS, NY



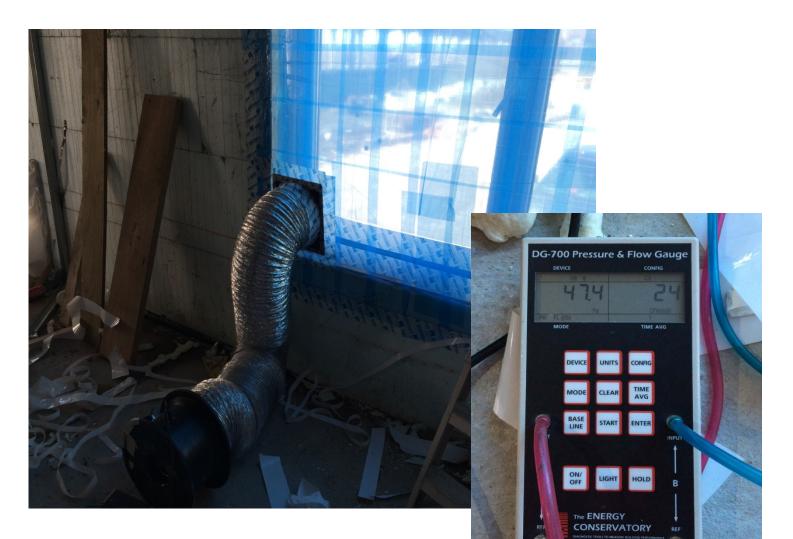




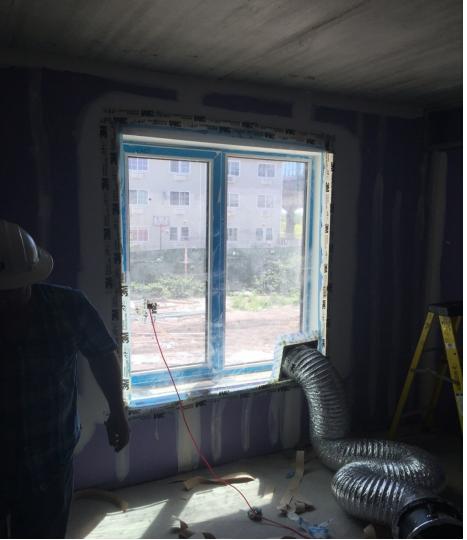
 ICF doesn't require as many inspections for insulation

1st Window Mockup





2nd Window Mockup







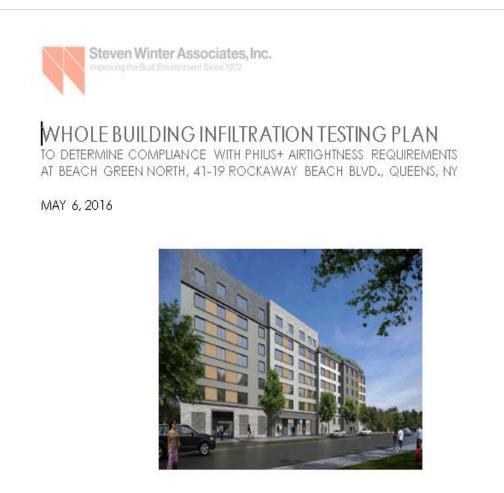


Duct Sealing on ERVs



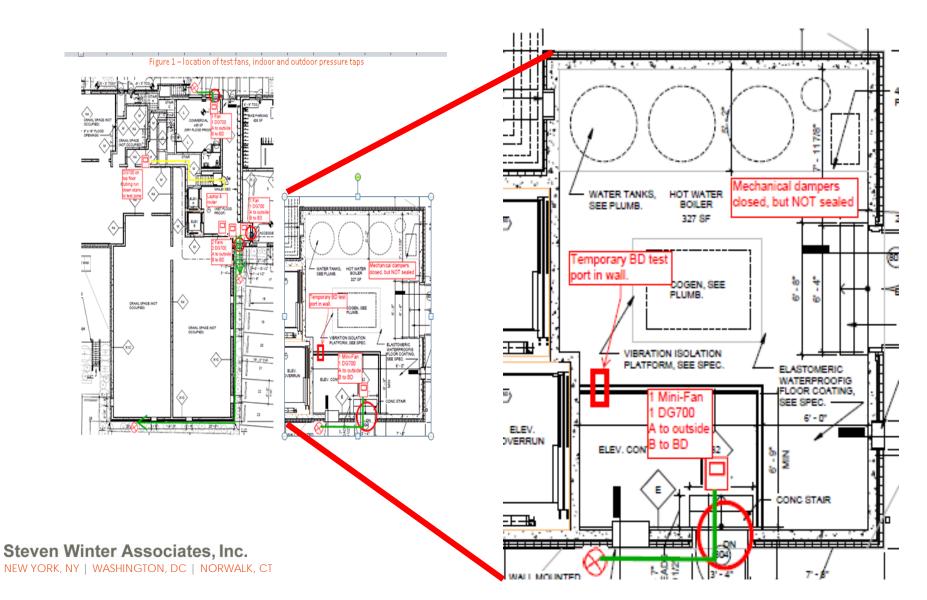
Blower Door Test Plan





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Blower Door Test Conditions



Blower Door Test Conditions

| Intentional Opening | Test Setting | Notes |
|---|---|--|
| Windows, doors, skylights and hatches in the building enclosure | Closed and latched | |
| Dryer doors | Closed and latched | |
| Doors, hatches and operable windows inside the <u>test</u> enclosure | Open | Use stairways A & B to connect all zones of the building |
| All motorized dampers | Fan off, damper closed but NOT sealed | Penthouse boiler room. Elevator hoistway |
| Fire dampers | Remain as found | |
| ERV's | Fan off, dampers closed. Ducts to outside sealed inside ERV cabinet. | Ventilation is continuous, so dampers closed and sealed |
| Heat / Cool system | Thermostat to 'off', supply and return ducts open & uncovered | |
| Combustion appliance flue gas vents | Appliance set to pilot or off Flue left in their as-found position | Penthouse boiler room |
| Plumbing traps | Sealed or filled with water | |

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Individual ERV & Blower Door

- Need to seal off ERV for final test.
- Can't seal off vents from outside
- Will leave ducts to unit disconnected at first, then connect after testing.





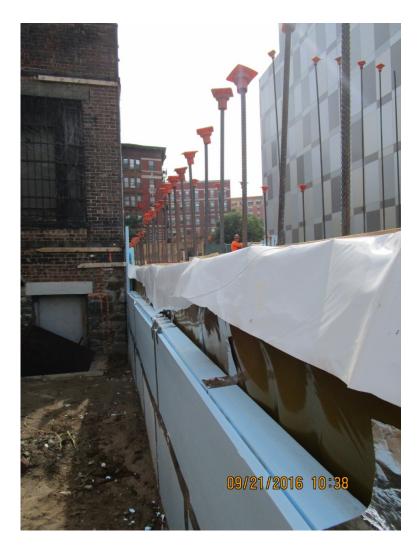
3365 THIRD AVE BRONX, NY





Complicated Foundations

- Infill site
- Walls near neighbors being poured in stages
- Several foundation inspections needed





Questions?

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Come by Our Booth

- High Performance Building Guides
 available
 - Details for efficient façade attachments
 - Guidance on de-rate for penetrations
 - Product information

Thank you!