

Maine Regional Building Committee
of Jehovah's Witnesses
Design & Engineering Dept.

April 4, 2012

Jeanie Bourke
Planning and Development Department
Inspections Division
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

Subject: Portland Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses; Kingdom Hall Remodel

Dear Ms. Bourke:

This letter is written in response to your recent review comments of March 23, 2012 regarding the subject project. Specifically it addresses the two comments regarding the (1) subsoil conditions and (2) the point load of the LVL beam.

1. A geotechnical report was not obtained as the addition to the building is directly adjacent to the existing building. For design purposes, we felt that the exemption allowed under IBC 1803.2 would apply since the existing building has the same building section and foundation type as the proposed addition and has performed adequately for quite a number of years. The footing is therefore designed according to the presumptive load bearing values of Table 1806.2 assuming clay, sandy clay, silty clay, silt and sandy silt (1,500 psf). We also anticipate visiting the site during the foundation excavation to verify subgrade soil type and bearing capacity. If the subgrade is found to have a lower bearing capacity, the footing width will be increased to accommodate a weaker soil. We can provide the City a letter of findings and modifications (if required) subsequent to this event should you desire.
2. The capacity of the proposed plate and existing slab were evaluated with regard to the loading from the LVL in the meeting room and the plans reflect what is required. The slab does not require an additional footing and the plate has capacity for the anticipated loading.

We trust these responses provide you with the information you require to complete your review however we would be pleased to provide you with more information if you require such.

Respectfully,
MRBC Design & Engineering Dept.

Eero Hedefine, P.E., LEED AP
Project Engineer

