



The Sage Report

A Monthly Newsletter on Industry Insight's, Projects, and Productivity

CODE CORNER

Did You Know? Special Inspections Are Required for Many Firestopping Applications

According to the 2020 New York State Building Code, special inspections are mandated for certain firestopping applications. Specifically, Section 1705.17 of the code states:

"In high-rise buildings or in buildings assigned to Risk Category III or IV, special inspections for through-penetrations, membrane penetration firestops, fire-resistant joint systems, and perimeter fire barrier systems that are tested and listed in accordance with Sections 714.3.1.2, 714.4.2, 715.3, and 715.4 shall be in accordance with Section 1705.17.1 or 1705.17.2."

This means that for **high-rise structures** or buildings classified under **Risk Categories III or IV**—such as schools, hospitals, prisons, and emergency response facilities—special inspections are required to verify the proper installation of firestopping. Firms such as Atlantic Testing Laboratories can perform these special inspections.

SOFTWARE TIPS & TRICKS

Quickly Change Text Case (Shift + F3)

Ever typed a whole sentence in CAPS LOCK by mistake? Instead of retyping, use **Shift + F3**! This shortcut cycles through **uppercase**, **lowercase**, and **title case** (first letter capitalized) in Word and Outlook. Just select the text and press **Shift + F3** until you get the format you want.

Bluebeam: Shrink a Text Box to Fit (Alt + Z)

If you've ever drawn a text box in Bluebeam that's way too big for your content, **Alt + Z** will instantly shrink it to the smallest possible size while still containing the text. This keeps your markups neat and eliminates unnecessary space.

THE SAGE BRIEFING

OGS Term Contract - Dave and John presented to OGS in a February 25 interview. OGS shortlisted 11 firms and expects to select as many as 8 firms. The contract value is \$7.5M. Fingers crossed!

KAPL Review - Fluor Marine Propulsion personnel visited our office in February 26 to review our annual contract review. The meeting covered last year's project performance, challenges, cost estimating challenges, and ways to improve quality control. The key takeaway was that Sage should continue to improve our internal QA by utilizing QC/QA checklists and provide a QC Letter with the final submission of every project.

Recruiting - Dave and Steve Marsh are presenting an information session at Union College on March 4th as part of our continuing efforts to recruit graduating engineering students. We also continue to receive resumes from students from multiple Universities. Expect to continue to see interviewees walking through the office in the coming months.

AI WORKBENCH

Revise Manufacturer Equipment Specifications for Project Specs. Prompt:

"Take the following manufacturer's equipment specifications and rewrite them in a clear, standardized format suitable for construction documents. Keep it concise, removing unnecessary marketing language while preserving all critical technical details. Ensure consistency in units and terminology. Format it with distinct sections for performance, materials, dimensions, power requirements, and compliance with relevant standards."



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Sacandaga Lake Discovery Center

Northville, NY

Architect: Phinney Design Group

We are excited to be working on the Sacandaga Lake Discovery Center in Northville, NY, a new 10,000-square-foot facility for Fulton County, designed by Phinney Design Group. Our team—David Layton, Marcus Moser, Mark DiRaimo, and Emily Ashburn is providing MEP engineering for this Revit-designed project. The two-story building (with a walkout basement) will feature a geothermal HVAC system utilizing (4) 800-foot boreholes and dedicated circulation pumps. A total of 12 heat pump units will serve various zones. A variable flow energy recovery ventilator (ERV) with zone VAV boxes will provide demand control ventilation. The project also includes photovoltaic panels on the roof, enhanced insulation exceeding code requirements, and an airtight building envelope. These features, combined with the geothermal system, make this one of the most energy-efficient buildings Sage Engineering has worked on—expected to achieve an EUI of less than 20. In fact, the building is "net-zero ready", with the potential to reach full net-zero status with additional PV and battery storage. The project is leveraging Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) direct pay incentives to cover the cost of the geothermal system, supplemented by New York State Clean Heat Program incentives. This strategic funding approach allows Fulton County to implement cutting-edge sustainable technology at minimal cost. The goal is to complete the design by March 2025, with construction breaking ground as soon as possible this year. This project is a fantastic addition to Sage Engineering's portfolio, showcasing our expertise in high-performance building design and innovative MEP solutions.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT