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PLI's Guidelines for Construction Activity  
During Governor's COVID Emergency Order

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**PURPOSE:** The following document outlines PLI's temporary policies in effect during Pennsylvania Governor Wolf's emergency order to cease non-life sustaining businesses and operations, including construction. It is intended to provide guidance for property owners, applicants, contractors and trade license holders. The policy is effective March 23, 2020 and continuing until the Governor's Order is lifted and/or modified to allow construction businesses and/or operations to continue.

**PLI Temporary Policy Guidelines – Construction Activities:**

1. **Emergency Order:** Please be aware that Pennsylvania Governor Wolf issued an emergency order on March 19, 2020 directing all non-life-sustaining businesses and operations, including construction, to cease operations. The Governor has identified two exceptions to this order for construction:
  - a. Commercial Health Care Facilities.
  - b. Commercial and/or residential structure emergency repairs.
2. **DCED Exceptions:** Please note that the Governor's order allows for waiver requests to this emergency order, please see: <https://expressforms.pa.gov/apps/pa/DCED/Waiver-process-keeping-physical-locations-open>.
  - a. If DCED issues an exception, you need to submit documentation of your request and DCED exemption to PLI with sufficient detail to understand the nature and extent of the exception.
  - b. Please submit documentation to: [pliappstech@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:pliappstech@pittsburghpa.gov).
3. **Permit Issuance:** PLI will limit issuance of permits to the exceptions identified by the Governor, see items 1.a and 1.b.
  - a. Please be aware that if your permit is in "Ready-to-Issue" status, PLI can provide a letter to funders explaining why your permit cannot be issued at this time. Please contact [david.green@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:david.green@pittsburghpa.gov) for this letter.
4. **Exceptions to Permit Issuance:** Applicability of item 1.b and 2 will be evaluated by PLI on a case-by-case basis based on the following code standards:
  - a. **UNSAFE STRUCTURE:** Emergency repairs due to structural instability, inadequate means of egress, inadequate protection or warning of a fire, or fire

- hazard, or other condition such that it poses a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or occupants of the premises or structure.
- b. **UNSAFE EQUIPMENT:** Emergency repairs to unsafe equipment that is in such disrepair or condition that it poses a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or occupants of the premises or structure.
  - c. **STRUCTURE UNFIT FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY:** Emergency repairs and/or replacement of critical systems (power, heating, ventilation) that if non-functional would make the structure unfit for human occupancy.
5. **How to Identify Emergency Repairs:** For any new applications for which item 4 may apply, please identify the work as “emergency work” and notify [pliapptech@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:pliapptech@pittsburghpa.gov) and identify:
- a. The application number and address;
  - b. The nature of the emergency;
  - c. Any documentation associated with the emergency such as photos and/or reports from a PA licensed architect and/or engineer.

Please note that written documentation shall be provided by PLI’s Director or Assistant Director of Construction to verify PLI has granted an exception. Note all authorized emergency work shall follow CDC guidelines, including social distancing during the construction work and the inspections.

6. **Existing Issued Permits:** PLI will also apply Items 1.b to existing issued permits on a case-by-case basis per the same standards identified in item 4. If you believe that that suspension of construction activities would create a dangerous or unsafe condition, please contact [PLIConstructionSupervisors@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:PLIConstructionSupervisors@pittsburghpa.gov) and identify:
- a. Permit number and address;
  - b. Nature of dangerous and/or unsafe condition;
  - c. Any documentation associated with the emergency such as photos and/or reports from a PA licensed architect and/or engineer. Note if related to structural stability, the report shall come from a structural engineer.

Please note that written documentation shall be provided by PLI’s Director or Assistant Director of Construction to verify PLI has granted an exception. Note all authorized emergency work shall follow CDC guidelines, including social distancing during the construction work and the inspections.

7. **Service Level Agreements:** All PLI Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are suspended to accommodate fluctuations in staffing until further notice. It may take longer than usual for applications to be processed and plans to be reviewed.
8. **Application Submissions:** Permit applications will continue to be accepted through the OneStopPGH online portal, if you encounter problems with the process, please contact [pliapptech@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:pliapptech@pittsburghpa.gov).

- a. Please note that PLI will suspend calculation of inactivity for abandoned applications for the duration of these temporary measures.
9. **PLI Application Review:** Applications will continue to be reviewed, however please be aware that staff is teleworking with limited access.
10. **PLI Inspection Services:** PLI's inspection services are suspended for all construction permits except for those permits identified in items 1, 2, 5 or 6.
11. **PLI Enforcement of Emergency Order:** PLI inspectors will be monitoring their assigned wards and issuing stop work orders for any construction activities not allowed per items 1, 2, 5, or 6.
12. **Revocation of Permits:** The calculation of inactivity for valid issued permits shall be suspended for the duration of this temporary policy.
  - a. Please note this shall not apply to permits that exceeded 180 days prior to this policy.
  - b. Please note that PLI reserves the right to revoke a permit if construction has been performed in a dangerous or unsafe manner.
13. **Duration of Temporary Measures:** These policy guidelines shall remain in effect until the Governor lifts and/or modifies the current emergency order to allow construction businesses and/or operations to continue.