

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITE PAPER – Clarifying the Concept of *Design for Release*<sup>™</sup>  
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**Brookline, MA, October 25, 2023** – To accelerate the rate of exploration, experimentation, and dissemination of peer learning in the Architecture-Engineering-Construction (AEC) industry, Building AEC Learning, Inc. (BAECL) is further clarifying the concept of *Design for Release*<sup>™</sup> which was:

- Developed as a key enabler of BAECL’s discussion framework, specifically to support the exploration theme of “Management of Design and Delivery Processes” (June 14, 2018).
- Presented during BAECL’s “Business as Unusual – Learning and Innovating with Peers” workshops at ArchitectureBoston Expo (ABX) (November 29, 2018 and November 07, 2019) and CMAA New England (February 12, 2019).
- Used in combination with Project Conditions of Satisfaction (CoS), Validation, and Execution Strategy as a framework for the discussion about “Using the Last Planner System<sup>®</sup> During Design” during a webinar organized by vPlanner (February 22, 2021).

*Design for Release*<sup>™</sup> is something that happens on all AEC projects during design development. Specifically, when a design team advances the project’s design sufficiently enough, then it releases the ability of the project team to start an important project task including, but not limited to...

- Submission of the project for review by a local building committee
- Submission for a plan review by an authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)
- Issuance of a contract to a Trade Partner (e.g., a Mechanical Contractor)
- Fabrication of prefabricated / modular units (e.g., pipe racks and wall panels)
- Purchase of equipment (e.g., switchgear and air handling units)
- Purchase of long-lead items (e.g., elevators and natural stone panels for the façade)
- Finalization of the column span resulting in the final selection of key structural steel members. This then allows the team to advance the foundation design.
- Selection and configuration of key structural steel members – This then allows the team to advance the duct, mechanical pipe, and plumbing design.

**“Stop asking Designers if Design is Complete!”** Working collaboratively towards *Design for Release*<sup>™</sup> is a more productive strategy for project execution than asking the Design Team, “When will design be complete?” For this reason, BAECL advocates that high performing teams use a *Design for Release*<sup>™</sup> mindset to manage key handoffs between project stakeholders and develop a cadence for decision-making so decisions can be made at the rate that the project needs – this is especially critical on fast-track projects.