

IPE VANCOUVER BRANCH



Issue 7

September 27, 2010

THE 'ACTION PLAN' APPROACH

The Vancouver Branch of the IPE continues to arrange plant tours, hold 5 general meetings a year and have safety and technical presentations at those meetings.

Last year we executed our Action Plan through a 'Professionalism Committee' and got our new website up and running. We plan to continue with the Action Plan approach on various initiatives going forward.

We are making slow progress on Corporate Memberships and need to find more incentives for companies to pay for member's dues. A suggestion will be made to National to allow discounts when Corporate Memberships are purchased for multiple years.

We are developing a half-day review of the Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Refrigeration Safety Regulation for members.

We have our new student organization formed with two representatives on the executive of the Vancouver Branch.

We are planning to review information from the BC Safety Authority on new boiler permits, to determine when new technologies are incorporated into design and share that information

with our members to keep them up-to-date.

As always, we continue to schedule and hold social events for Power Engineers. Our latest was a barbecue on August 8, 2010. Also, we plan to hold regular monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month next year. These would include the formal General Meetings along with less formal get-togethers.

Our Action Plan includes our branch's interaction with the Regulator. The BC Safety Authority changed regulations without any consultation reducing the requirement for Power Engineers in thermal fluid plants and removing the requirement for Boiler Inspectors to be 1st Class Power Engineers. They introduced Safety Management Plans and are holding



consultative sessions over the summer, after the fact.

We are encouraging our members to participate.

As Chair of the Boiler Technology Committee I have been trying to work with the Safety Authority on clarifying what regulated work Power Engineers may do on the electrical and gas equipment on the boiler. The Boiler Technology Committee unanimously proposed to change the regulation to allow Power Engineers to work on electrical and gas equipment from their main disconnects (isolators) back to the boiler. The Safety Authority did nothing with the recommendation, but when pressed they agreed to an inter-technologies committee (boiler, gas, electrical). Here the Safety Authority claimed the regulation could not be changed, but they could develop a clear directive and/or training materials. They are dragging their heels on this initiative by simply no longer scheduling meetings.

Working with the B.C. Safety Authority has not been easy.

I believe the Government of B.C. is stripping away regulations that protect public safety and we must continue to work to prevent further erosion.

Eric Steinson, PE
Area Director for B.C.
Institute of Power Engineers

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Special points of interest:

- The 'Action Plan' approach

Check the website, www.ipevancouver.ca for an update on the Vancouver Branch's Action Plan. Do not hesitate to call the Area Director for B.C. For more information.

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