



British Columbia Institute of Power Engineers
Vancouver Branch
6362 Thorne Avenue
Burnaby, B.C. V3N 2V1

Official Sponsor



GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 21, 2011

Trauma Tech – Boundary & Lougheed

Chairman: Dave Paulin, PE
Assistant Secretary: Jason Rako, PE
Treasurer: Joseph Stadel, PE

Chairperson Peter Ruben was absent from the evening's meeting;
Acting Chairman Dave Paulin, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Attendance: George Anderson, Martin Vine, Farshad Foroughi, Davie Lee, Charles Storie, Olaf Vinje, C. Simpson, Jason Rako, Tim Haaf, Manny Nunes, M. Z. Tung, Gordie Gully, Dave Paulin, Eric Steinson, C. Hancock, Art Smith, Ravi Thambirajah, Miki Martins, S. Soubbotin, Ben Szmuklerz, Jim Young, Doug Bramley, David Tjan

1. Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was passed out to those in attendance. The agenda was approved (motioned, second, carried).

2. Introduction of New Members and Guests:

New members and guests were read aloud by the treasurer, Joe Stadel.

Regular: Magdalena Fedorow

Students: Charles R. Storie, Davie Lee

Guest: Christine Hancock, Powerhouse Support Services Ltd.

3.0 Circulation of Previous Minutes:

The previous minutes were circulated and reviewed for any errors.

4.0 Approval of Previous Minutes:

Finding no errors, the previous minutes were approved.

5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Eric Steinson opened the discussion with an update of the BoilerBlog.ca www.boilerblog.ca online newsletter for power engineers. Jason Rako, assistant secretary, gave a brief tour of the website. The website should be available to members and the general public very shortly.

6.0 **Correspondence**

Received a letter from "Vibes Corporation", saying they will commit a yearly donation to the British Columbia Institute of Power Engineers.

7.0 **Reports**

Area Report, Eric Steinson

Eric reports that there has not been much activity since the last meeting. He sent out his Alternative Safety Approaches presentation to area directors across the country (the National Executive) and has not received much word back.

Treasurers Report, Joseph Stadel

Joseph reported that funds were added to the account; all is in good order. He also reiterated his position of transparency among members and encouraged questions and comments from the membership.

Committee Reports, Bob Norton: To place 1st & 2nd Class employment ads on the website contact Bob. steamer48@shaw.ca Absent no report.

Employment Committee, Farshad Foroughi : To place 5th, 4th, 3rd Class employment ads on the website contact Farshad fforoughi@telus.net

Farshad reiterated that the IPE Vancouver job board advertises local power engineering positions. He was asked if the possibility of adding date tags to each of the postings. Farshad will update the posts with a job-expiry date tag.

Membership Report, Art Smith

There is no report at this time; it is in progress.

Education, Joseph Stadel

As mentioned during the last meeting, there are a lot of people applying for the BCIT Power Engineering course. This is creating a potential wait of nearly two years.

The steam plant at BCIT is near completion. The pinnacle of this plant is the Nebraska D-type, low-NOx boiler and Shinko turbine. Tours may be offered shortly to IPE members.

Joseph will speak with Garry White for more information regarding education.

Legislation, Eric Steinson and Doug Bramley

The Boiler Technology Committee (BTC) is now six years old (as mentioned at the previous meetings). This committee is attended by well-known members of the power engineering community.

The key concern to the BTC is the broadening of legislation governing power engineers and the classification of plants. The new legislation will be broader and will effect issues such as how long a chief engineer may be absent from a plant (there are no real answers to this question at this time).

In regards to ammonia refrigeration plants, Doug stated that the new standardized start up and shut down procedures is one of the reasons why Vancouver has had few ammonia leaks. Unfortunately, there have been many leaks in the valley. Doug attributes this to a lack of standardized procedures and a noticeable resistance to adopt standards.

As mentioned at the last meeting, the refrigeration operators exam has been reduced to one paper rather than two.

Another topic brought up by Doug is the issue of plant RAP scores. There was lengthy discussion on the subject but Doug stated that a plant should not schedule their inspections based on the RAP score.

Doug said “(If) you need a Safety Inspection, call for one,”

Currently there is a shortage of boiler inspectors and the BCSA is attempting to employ more.

Student Committee, Farshad Foroughi

A BBQ will be held for BCIT power engineering students at BCIT. Food will be free.

Executive News, Dave Paulin

Vibes Corp will be having another free presentation on May 16, 2011. The presentation will be about fans, pumps and motors.

The Vancouver IPE is looking to have more presentations in the future with more participation from companies. These presentations are also aimed to benefit students.

The March 19 Mini-conference was a success with 38 people in attendance (20 engineers; 14 students and four guests).

Dave “hopes everyone enjoyed it and got something” from the conference. In the future, Dave hopes to have more people come from Victoria and Abbotsford.

The next mini-conference is planned for October 22, 2011. New topics may be water treatment, instrumentation, and HVAC.

8. New Business

No new business was brought up at this meeting.

*****Coffee Break*****

9.0 Presentation

Eric presented a Power Point Presentation on "Alternative Safety Approaches". The presentation detailed the dialogue Eric and the chairman of the Vancouver IPE, Peter Rubben, had with the Boiler Safety Manager (for B.C.) on October 8, 2009. The meeting was to discuss a variance at a thermal fluid plant and the loss of many first-class boiler inspectors.

Two weeks after the meeting, a letter was released (a "Notice to Stakeholders") which detailed the following:

1. **The introduction of safety management plants into the *Safety Standards Act***
2. **The elimination of prescribed staffing requirements for low pressure thermal fluid plants that are equipped with modern safety systems**
3. **The elimination of prescribed requirements of BC Safety Authority Boiler officers**

The original letter, providing details of each point, was presented at the meeting. The presentation also highlighted the dialogue (in the form of official letters) between Eric and the Minister of Housing and Social Development, Rich Coleman.

In summary, the presentation concluded that the provincial government's stance of regulation shows the following:

Clear lack of desire to consult before changing the Regulation

It should be noted that the new regulations were approved on March 11, 2011 would be published two weeks from the date of this meeting.

Also raised in discussion was the possibility of equipment not being up to ASME code but rather an "equivalent".

For up-to-date information regarding legislation, please visit the IPE Vancouver website at www.ipevancouver.ca

Discussion

Following the presentation for the evening, there was much discussion amongst members about what should be done about the new regulations governing power engineers in B.C. as "Safety is now in the Power Engineers hands."

10.0 Safety talk - Doug Bramley

Doug's informative talk was based on your health and especially the prostate problems. Doug emphasized the importance of getting prostate exams on an early and a regular schedule.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, April 18, 2011.**
at: 110 – 2250 Boundary Road (Boundary & Lougheed)

Respectfully Submitted.

Jason Rako, PE
Assistant Secretary
Vancouver Branch
BC Institute of Power Engineers