



British Columbia Institute of Power Engineers

6362 Thorne Avenue

Burnaby, B.C.

V3N 2V1

Vancouver Branch
Special Calgary, Vancouver Branch
Executive Meeting

BCIT Town Square – Mtg Rm. “C”
April 30th, 2005.

Attendance: **British Columbia:** Art Smith, PE; Eric Steinson, PE;
Olaf Vinje, PE; Ron Jones, PE; Doug Bramley, PE; Peter Rubben, PE;
Wai Lam, PE; Garry White, PE; John Lauder, PE (President, Victoria
Branch).
Calgary: Ray Shupac, PE - President; Garry Codner, PE –
Area Rep.

A round table discussion was held.

1. Regular Meetings – Eric Steinson, PE and Ray Shupac, PE

Eric discussed ways to improve regular meeting attendance and interest in the meetings. These included safety talks, plant presentations, visits by Chief Examiner and Safety Manager.

Ray tries to have guest speakers and tries to hold executive meetings a week preceding regular meetings. He plans to have some sort of monetary draw such as snowball, where a members' name is drawn and if the member is in attendance, wins half the pot. If the member is not in attendance, the pot snowballs. Attendance tends to grow with the pot. A job posting bank on the Calgary website would be great.

2. Student, Regular & Associate Membership – Art Smith, PE; Gary Codner, PE

In 1992 we decided to reactivate the Vancouver Branch of the Institute of Power Engineers. Our first instinct was to contact Engineers that were

already active in the field. Almost immediately, we realized that most working Engineers thought they had guaranteed employment. A good indication was most engineers could tell you what shift they would be working six months in advance.

It became evident that we had to look at how political parties and churches increased their membership. It was found that a solid foundation is constructed by informing and educating our youth about the values that the Institute of Power Engineers contributed since 1940 and about what could be done in the future.

Over the past twelve years, the membership has increased gradually from six. Today, we are communicating with approximately 300 engineers including students. This increase of 294 has proven to us that building the foundation with students was the proper way to proceed. This established a concentrated membership base of Power Engineers, which now opens many opportunities for the British Columbia Institute of Power Engineers.

By analyzing the membership list we have members in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. It is also noted from the addresses that we represent approximately 50 communities in our province. This has increased the BCIZE exposure and future opportunities.

Since 1992, these students have advanced to all classes of Power Engineers, from boiler operator, fifth, fourth, third, second and first class. It is also noted our members are employed as building operators, shift engineers, assistant engineers, chief engineers, plant superintendents, managers, boiler inspectors, chief examiner and instructors.

The Institute of Power Engineers is the only organization registered with the Government of Canada to represent ALL POWER ENGINEERS across this nation. The ultimate goal of the Institute is SAFETY FIRST. Therefore, the ultimate goal for all Power Engineers should be: **IPE membership.**

Arthur Smith, PE
Area Director
British Columbia Institute of Power Engineers.

Art Smith informed IPAC Chemicals is BCIZE'S first official sponsor. Gary Codner said NALCO is the official sponsor for Calgary branch.

It is agreed that all branches need to attract more members. Alberta has 17,000 practicing power engineers and only 300 members. B.C. has half the active power engineers, but an equal number of members. We hope to provide more "value for money" to members.

John Lauder, PE, from Victoria stated that the Victoria branch does not have enough members to hold regular meetings and has no student member base.

Art Smith mentioned his idea of a “family concept” to include not just members but spouses, etc. since many of them contribute a lot to the organization. He also hopes to connect to student organizations.

Page 3

4. Website – Eric Steinson, PE

The BCIPE website has been up and running for more than a year. The employment page has been a success and we hope to sell more advertising space. Free advertising is provided to the sponsor.

5. E-Mail – Eric Steinson, PE

E-mails are sent to 250 members. All mailings have to be approved by either Art Smith or Eric Steinson to avoid problems.

6. Safety – Doug Bramley, PE

Doug discussed the new Boiler Safety Authority and its direction for the future. More manpower for inspection and more enforcement of regulations are needed.

21st CENTURY CHALLENGES TO PLANT SAFETY – D.H. BRAMLEY, PE; Inspecting Power Engineer, First Class B.C. Safety Authority

1. Lobby Groups with Financial Self-Interest

- Increased influence on the law-makers (global economy, multi-nationals)
- Play-off one government against another government
- Risk assessment management

2. Accelerating Technology Changes

- Information/communication explosion
- Electronic control systems (remote monitoring, reduced staffing)
- Kyoto Accord (environmental degradation)

3. Standardization of Regulations, Codes & Standards

- North American standards lowered
- Jurisdictions “cherry-picking” from other jurisdictions
- Prescriptive regulations being changed to objective regulations

4. Power Engineer Scope of Work Diminished

- Pressure from professional engineers, trades and technical
- Owners lobbies to be exempt from acts and regulations

- Changing technology

FUTURE PLANS

- 1) substantially increase membership
- 2) greater participation in law-making, codes and standards groups
- 3) improve power engineer credibility
- 4) first and second class engineers to degree status
- 5) legislated up-grading
- 6) broaden power engineer scope of work (water/waste water, environmental protection)
- 7) insist that law makers enforce the law – require justification for changes to laws
- 8) whistle-blower training
- 9) increased communications with all branches of IPE
- 10) EDUCATE, INVOLVE, EDUCATE, INVOLVE, EDUCATE INVOLVE

Page 4

7. Education – Garry White, PE

Garry put forward a very exciting idea: Since the new power engineering course from Pan Global have the learning objectives defined, and since we belong to a professional organization, the next step is to partner with a college or university which could supply upgrading courses such as ethics, economics, etc. Substantial accreditation could be given for courses completed and the result would be a B.Sc. in Power Engineering.

8. Legislation – Eric Steinson, PE

The BC IPE reviewed the new B.C. Legislation and made numerous suggestions for changes. To date some suggestions have been taken, but the general feeling is a lack of consultation by government.

9. Tours – Eric Steinson, PE

Eric tries to hold several tours per year. UBC power plant was the most recent.

10. AGM 2006 – Art Smith, PE

The B.C. Branch will host the 2006 AGM. Hotel bookings and venue bookings in progress.

11. Sub-Branches – Art Smith, PE

Fort Nelson and Castlegar are two areas considering starting sub-branches. Art circulated a summary for starting a sub-branch.

12. Victoria – John Lauder, PE

A few engineers with the Canadian Armed Forces have kept the Victoria branch alive, but there are some new members to get things going.

Page 5

13. Alberta Steam Lines – Ray Shupac, PE

Steamlines is a magazine that was started in 2004. It is distributed to all branches and is available on the National Website. Ray tries to make the articles thought-provoking and controversial and to make everyone aware of the IPE. It is not meant to be a “local” publication. More advertisers are needed and the next step is to send the magazine to all facilities that employ power engineers.

14. Calgary Business Plan – Gary Codner, PE

The Calgary Branch hope to evolve into a more professional organization with a plan or mission statement and would include, budgeting, accountability and more defined principles so that members are working toward a common goal. Calgary hopes to be represented in different organizations. What does that mean?

15. The National Plan – Ray Shupac, PE

There is a feeling that not all branches are being treated equitably and that a bias exists between east and west. The more members we have the more clout we have.

**Ronald Jones, PE
BCIPE Secretary.**