

IPE VANCOUVER BRANCH



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Looking for Your Comments on the Need for Power Engineers in BC

There is lots of talk these days about jobs for Power Engineers. Some optimists like me believe there will likely continue to be lots of power engineering jobs. Others are not so sure. The generating station I work at is closing, which has got me thinking about retirement, but the young guys are attending job fairs with companies in the oil sands. They lined up for hours to meet with one of about fifteen interviewers. New plants are still being built, even during this downturn in oil prices and they will need large numbers of Power Engineers at each of these plants.

One of the problems encountered these days in Canada is that Power Engineers don't seem to want to advance to the 2nd and 1st Class level. Why is this occurring? I don't blame them if they make more than enough money at the 3rd Class level and risk making less money when they take on supervisory duties. What incentives do we need to create to make sure we have the 2nd and 1st Class Power Engineers available to apply for the higher level positions when they come up?

Tim Haaf and I made a presentation to the Industrial Application of Gas Turbines Symposium in Banff last month with the idea of convincing some of them that hiring Power Engineers for their plants is a good idea even when they are not required by regulation. Their response was very favorable, though most had never heard of us.

The future of LNG in BC will require Power Engineers. If these companies are going to develop their own power generating plants at each of the proposed sites, which seems like the only reasonable solution, each of them will need large numbers of Power Engineers. In BC, we have to find ways to try to prepare for this happening very quickly.

I really don't like the idea of Canada becoming a country of migrant workers. China has millions of migrant workers working in factories far away from their homes. They only travel home by train at New Years. I lived for many years in Prince Rupert and Kitimat and it would be great to see these towns grow into larger cities with all the amenities, rather than just build larger airports so

workers can fly in and out every week.

In 2016 I will have worked as a Power Engineer for 40 years. There were lots of jobs when I started and there is lots of controversy about power engineering jobs today. Are there many more jobs for Power Engineers on the horizon? I would like to hear your comments on this issue. Please let me know what it is like trying to find a job as a Power Engineer today. Are you a Power Engineer who hasn't advanced to the 2nd Class level? Why? Thanks in advance for sending me a quick email.

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Special points of interest:

Send your feedback to Eric at esteinson@hotmail.com

Check the website, www.ipevancouver.ca for the 2016 Schedule of Meetings.

Do not hesitate to call or email Eric for more information.

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