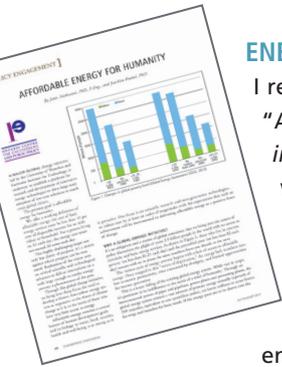


[LETTERS]

P.ENG. SPECIALISTS

I read with interest the president's message (*Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2015, p. 3), but am perplexed by the need for piling up more regulations and restrictions that are probably unenforceable, except after the fact. Surely our code of conduct covers the proper carrying out of an engineer's responsibility to protect the public. In fact, it was reported that the facility had been inspected, so the failure is in the selection of incompetent (or cheap) inspectors and ignoring their responsibility for maintenance on the part of the owners. How will new rules and "certificates of specialist" help, when the specialist may not be hired? How will PEO administer these specialists? Who will judge who is or is not a specialist? The specialist is supposed to be the P.Eng. who practises in the relevant field. That is the idea of the P.Eng., is it not? I have seen specialists who were not. Everyone has.

Simon Weisman, P.Eng., Toronto, ON



ENERGY vs. POWER

I read with interest and anticipation the article "Affordable energy for humanity" (*Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2015, p. 44). I was disturbed to see that they really meant "affordable electricity or power for humanity." The difference is important and as engineers we must strive to make sure that the public understands the difference. Energy comes in many different forms as

sunlight, fossil fuels, wood, nuclear, etc. Some is used for thermal (heating) needs, and some is converted to power, either mechanical (car engines) or electricity. But it is important to recognize that as we move from energy to power, there are conversion losses. Our power plants typically operate at efficiencies of 25 to 33 per cent and throw away 50 to 75 per cent that could be used for thermal purposes. Rejected heat from Pickering nuclear plants could displace almost all of the space heating energy for the city of Toronto. Throwing away heat from thermal electric plants is against policy or even illegal in northern European countries.

So my point is not to criticize the many important points about affordable energy in this article, but to emphasize the importance of integrated thinking in devising affordable and efficient energy solutions. If we keep saying energy when we mean electricity, we are distorting public debate and diluting an accurate focus on energy issues. As a consequence, I once wrote a clear letter to the minister of energy of Ontario on energy opportunities for Ontario and I received a letter on electricity policy and actions, totally missing the point—and the opportunities.

Michael Wiggan, P.Eng., Ottawa, ON

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Letters to the editor are welcomed, but must be kept to no more than 500 words, and are subject to editing for length, clarity and style. Publication is at the editor's discretion; unsigned letters will not be published. The ideas expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions and policies of the association, nor does the association assume responsibility for the opinions expressed. Emailed letters should be sent with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. All letters pertaining to a current PEO issue are also forwarded to the appropriate committee for information.

Address letters to jcoombes@peo.on.ca.

CORRECTION

In our May/June 2015 issue (p. 16), we failed to mention that PEO President Thomas Chong, P.Eng., FEC, both attended the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers AGM on May 5, and addressed the assembly.