

[LETTERS]

STICKING WITH THE ESSENTIALS

It is surprising that nobody has commented on the photograph of VFD and pumps shown on page 11 of the May/June 2015 issue of *Engineering Dimensions*, showing installation of electrical equipment near motors—a moisture and oil environment of pumps. This is asking for trouble. Electrical equipment should be housed separately. Although the photograph is not very clear, the motors are installed near a wall with very little working space around them. It would be difficult to replace them when they burn out. Also, life span of the pressure gauges on the discharge of the pumps is very short due to vibration. No comments about the orientation of the valves. Also, the operators should have been wearing hard hats, eye and definitely ear protection. These are “bread and butter” issues and should be taught to electrical and mechanical engineers who want to go into the building and plant construction industry.

There has been a seismic shift in the economy, which is now 70 per cent services. Yet people in power who have never had their ankles dirty at a job site keep making rules for the proletariat. With this type of training, the designation of EIT should be discarded to the graveyard of long dead gods as it is left over from the Industrial Revolution, when the world has moved on. Nowadays, employers want an engineer to start from hour one with no questions asked. They cannot afford to pay and wait for a number of years for him or her to come full steam. These issues do not require delta-y, complex numbers, p.u. values, circle diagrams, vector algebra, Z transforms, ZOH, or orthogonal functions for systems and control, etc., and should be included in the curriculum of the first year. Universities should teach essentials and discard non-essentials.

With no schooling of process modeling and stochastic controls, chemical engineers (the ones I have met) have almost abandoned the paper and pulp industry, as evidenced by very few publications from Canadian authors in *Pulp & Paper Canada*. Here, like in Bhopal, India, tribal affiliations are more important and P.Eng. or an engineering degree with knowledge of GPC has no value. This partly explains the decline of the industry. Model-based control, such as DMC or GPC, has been very popular in petrochemical industries since the early 1980s.

Time has long passed for the need for a separate designation of professional building and plant electrical engineer, specifically when they form a big part of the membership.

I was chair of what is now Lake-of-the-Woods/Atikokan Chapter for a number of years. I advised people to go for services like IT, law, finance, pharmacy, dentistry or veterinary or medical science where monetary value is much higher, demand greater, no red tape or EIT requirements, especially when third-world countries are turning out engineers like rabbits.

Yash P. Sharma, P.Eng., Winnipeg, MB



RETURN TO PRINT

I used to look through each print issue, reading certain articles. I have only attempted to open the new digital edition twice, because it is so difficult to use. Here are some suggestions for the next time you decide to go digital:

- Don't use the print document format for an online magazine. The page-by-page format is terrible. Each article should be a separate web document, and separately downloadable as PDF. If you must include ads and other short items, tack them on to each article. Don't make the reader shamble through every page, and pretend that we've seen the ad because we struggled past it. You might check out CNET.com for a well-organized online magazine.
- Don't ignore mobile devices. Computers are no longer the primary web browsers.
- On my iPad Air, the single-page format results in really tiny print. I can zoom, but then must scroll around to follow the print-oriented, two-column layout.
- I tried to use the grid layout to vector to a page, but it won't scroll (Chrome on IOS), so it only includes the first 30 or so pages.
- I tried to download the PDF, but could not save it for offline reading. You have to allow this if you hope to be read.

I could have told you all this earlier, but I expected that vanishing readership would tell the tale. I'm very happy to see that council has decided to reinstate the print edition.

Peter McMorran, P.Eng., Yorktown, VA

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.

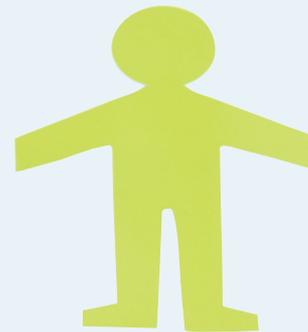
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DECREASE IN DISCIPLINE?

I was quite shocked and concerned by the absence of a Gazette section in the November/December 2015 edition of *Engineering Dimensions*. With a community of more than 80,000 PEO licence and certificate holders and likely thousands of complaints received by PEO every year from the public, surely the number of investigations conducted should be significant such that Discipline Committee hearings are being held regularly and the Gazette section can publish details of at least one Discipline Committee hearing every two months. In my 28 years as a PEO member, I cannot ever remember an issue of *Engineering Dimensions* without a Gazette section. The first thing I have always read in every issue of *Engineering Dimensions* is the Gazette section because I want to learn from and avoid the mistakes of my peers.

Is PEO providing sufficient resources to the investigators and Discipline Committee to follow up on complaints from the public? Are the complaints from the public being investigated as thoroughly as in the past? Are Discipline Committee hearings being prosecuted as rigorously by PEO as in the past? In my opinion, disciplinary penalties have more often than not been lighter than I would have expected in the circumstances (a proverbial slap on the wrist in most cases). Our statutory responsibilities as a self-regulated profession may be at stake if PEO does not maintain (or enhance) a rigorous process and outcomes for complaints.

David J. Baigent, P.Eng., Burlington, ON



ENGINEERS AS ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Referring to the November/December 2015 issue of *Engineering Dimensions*: the articles on materials engineering were very informative. One important aspect of all newly created products is eventual disposal. They all wear out or become outdated and are subject to disposal. Quite often this means going to a landfill. As engineers, we should be custodians of the environment and I would like to think that the developers of engineered materials are also considering how their creations will eventually be recycled in an environmentally friendly manner.

Ed Trask, P.Eng., Cornwall, ON



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