SPED Update

Volume III, Issue 7

July 2010

Executive Director's Note: GPP Program Proves Training Raises PPD Exam Scores

A quick analysis of pre and post test results for 33 Green Process Piper (GPP) trainees shows that students raised their PPD test scores an average of 21 points. Different versions of the Professional Piping Designer (PPD) Level I exam were used to assess candidates for training and a new version of the exam was used as a final test after training. Every student passed the PPD exam and no one failed to improve their test scores. Results indicate that the GPP program is effective.

These results are both satisfying and disturbing at the same time. GPP candidates were carefully screened for substantial industry experience (2-5 years) or less experience with a two year AAS degree (or better). Despite their excellent work records, the average pre-test score was 66 points: 70 is considered passing. Taking into account the handful of candidates drawn from structural, wastewater and process flow sheet domains, there were a substantial number of experienced pipers who performed poorly on PPD content. The poor performance of some experienced pipers indicates that they are not getting PPD knowledge through their degree programs or through their employer training.

On the other hand, about half of the students, e.g., mainly those with moderately or very experienced pipers *did* make passing scores on the PPD Level I exams. Eighteen of the 33 students who took the final exam achieved passing scores on their PPD pre-test. All 18 improved their scores and two took the PPD Level III exam instead of the Level I. Because their post-test is even harder (Level III vs Level I) the two advanced test takers are included in the date presented here.

There is about a 30% overlap between the two test question banks. This seems to indicate that many years of experience does convey the knowledge tested for by the PPD Level I exam.

As we should expect, the eight modules of specialized lectures and labs effectively increases the knowledge and skills of candidates at all levels of experience. Training makes a difference, i.e., a 21 point difference.

This is particularly true if the training is focused on the body of knowledge underlying an industry-consensus exam.

GPP training is currently in its 3rd cycle with one additional cycle funded.

Dr. William Beazley, Executive Director

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Green Process Program Ramps Up for Fourth Cycle July 26th

The Green Process Piper Program, sponsored by the Texas Workforce and the Houston-Galveston Area Council, will begin Cycle IV on July 26th with 15 seats available. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the GPP Program is free training designed to upgrade the skills of displaced Process Pipers with a focus on Green Skills for efficient use of materials and energy in the life cycle of Process Plants.

The Society of Piping Engineers and Designers (SPED) and Houston Community College (HCC) collaborated to create 160 contact hours of instruction covering four lab topics; Plant Processes and Technology, Applications for P&ID's CAD, Pipe Routing Fabrication ISO & Spool, Advanced Plant Modeling and four lecture topics; Proper Pipe Routing, Fluid Flow Components, Plant Equipment and Layout, and Advanced Piping Design: Project, PPD Level I Review and Exam.

Students who successfully complete the GPP Program can receive three credentials in 2010 to assist with employment:

- HCC/SPED GPP Certificate of Completion
- HCC Marketable Skills Award Certificate in Green Process Piping Design

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- SPED Professional Piping Designer (PPD) Certification Level I or III

Students enrolled in the GPP Program receive assistance in job placement and interview preparedness.

Prospective candidates are:

- unemployed
- eligible for work in the US
- have an AAS degree in Drafting and Design
- have a minimum of 2 to 5 years work experience in Process Piping Design or related field.

If you are unemployed and interested in the GPP Program, send your resume to gpp@spedweb.com for consideration or call the GPP Hotline: 713-718-8086.

Interested in recruiting one of our graduates for your company?

For more information, contact Andrea Macejak, GPP Program Coordinator, at spedexec@spedweb.com.

Ashtead Technology and Texas Surveys Host Open House in Houston July 28, 2010

Ashtead Technology and Texas Surveys are hosting an open house for SPED members on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 6 P.M. The open house will be at Ashtead's office: 19407 Park Row, Houston, Texas 77084. map

Ashtead Technology will give an overview of their company and its wide range of products. They will also discuss:

- Benefits of rental as oppose to buying
- Equipment QC
- Specific details in regards to equipment directly related to the Pipeline survey/inspection industry.

A Q&A will follow.

Texas Surveys will:give an overview of their organization and the services they provide. A presentation on the following topics will follow:

- Laser Scanning: Data Capture Techniques and Correct Procedures
- How to Plan and Manage a Laser Scanning Project
- What to look for in a Laser Scanning Service Provider
- Software Overvierw: LFM Viewer & LFM Server

Refreshments will be served. RSVP by Monday, July 26th by emailing spedsrvs@spedweb.com.

Have you Renewed your PPD Certification? It's easy! You can renew online at www.spedweb.com.

Designer/Drafter Wanted

The Fallon Group is looking for a Designer/Drafter for a one-year position with a prominent client in Orlando; Florida.

Details for the positions are as follows:

Duration: 1 year
Location: 11950 Corporate Blvd., Quad 2 Orlando , FL
Max Pay Rate: $26.50/hour
Number of Openings: One (1)

Key Accountabilities:

- Create, revise and maintain Piping models in PDS 3D Intergraph Environment.
- Create, revise and maintain Equipment models in PDS 3D Intergraph Environment.
- Familiar with Structural models in Intergraph Frameworks Environment.
- Create Piping and Structural Drawings using 3D models.
- Create equipment layout drawings using 3D models.
- Create AutoCad Sketches as required.
- Create and revise as needed various foundation drawings.
- Handle complex drafting assignments under minimal supervision.
- Understand and incorporate engineer's redlines.
- Must be able to predict time required to complete assignments and communicate with engineers and schedulers to meet required schedules.
- Understand the operation and customization of the PDS ISOGEN package, and be able to modify option files, customize isometric drawing contents, and create user-defined symbols and MTO neutral files

Experience Requirements:

- Approximately 7 Years of Computer Aided Drafting with Min 4 Years of Intergraph PDS 3D.
- Experience with Smart Plant 3D is a plus.
- Proficient use of Microsoft Office Package.
- AutoCAD latest version.
- Ability to convert AutoCad data into Intergraph Microstation.
- Familiarity with Gas Turbine Power Plant Design.
- Piping Designer experience will be plus.
- Familiar with drafting standards, symbols, nomenclature, engineering terms, proper use of materials, reference books and catalogs.
- Use of Lotus Notes databases and Microsoft Outlook for e-mails

Educational Requirements:

- High School Graduate with technical drafting certificate.

If you are interested in hearing more about the position please respond to this email or contact me at 214.677.6005. Please forward this email to any friends or colleagues as we do offer a Referral Bonus for any candidate hired.

Canadian Corner

The First Members' Meeting of the Calgary Chapter of Society of Piping Engineers and Designers (SPED)

Attend and become a Charter Member of SPED Calgary!

The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 7, 2010 from 11AM until 2PM at the Sun Life Plaza's SunLife Conference Center. Lunch will be provided.

Address:
Sun Life Plaza
2nd Floor, +15 level
144 - 4th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P-3N4

Event Sponsor: AVEVA Canada

Schedule:
11AM: AVEVA Technical Presentation

The AVEVA session will feature a 1.5 hour demonstration of AVEVA PID, AVEVA PDMS and AVEVA NET with three CAD demo stations of the above applications for people to "play" with.

12:30 PM: SPED Calgary Info and Future Plans and Member Sign-Up

The SPED Calgary portion will focus on explaining what SPED Calgary is and what we hope to achieve. We will be asking members and prospective members what they would like to see in the organization. SPED annual membership dues are $70 USD plus Calgary Chapter dues.

RSVP to http://pipingdesign.com/spedcalgary/rsvp_07_july_2010.html

See You There!

Welcome New Corporate Members!

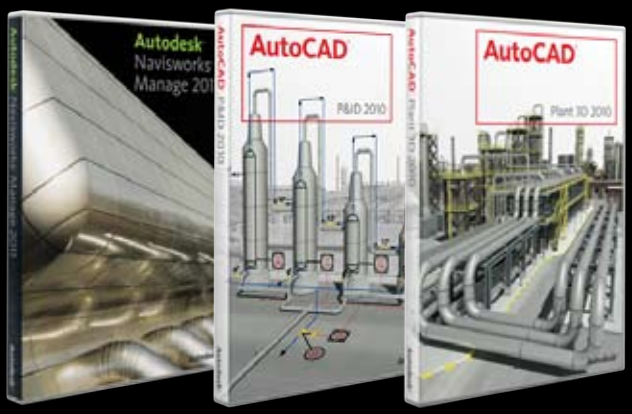
Pipeline Seal & Insulators, Inc. is located in Houston, Texas. Pipeline Seal and Insulator is a worldwide manufacturer and marketer of a wide variety of high quality products used to guarantee the safe flow of fluids through pipeline transmission and distribution systems. Wherever you find pipelines that carry the fluids to electrify factories, energize cities, fuel transportation systems and quench the thirst of nations you'll find the products of PSI. Read more at www.pipelineseal.com

Chevron Angola
Chevron is ranked among Angola's top petroleum producers. We continue to move forward, investing billions of dollars in major energy projects intended to dramatically increase oil production and conserve natural gas for use in Angola.

Among the most important of these are the offshore Benguela Belize–Lobito Tomboco and the $3.8 billion Tombua-Landana projects that began production in 2009. First oil also was announced for Mafumeira Norte while construction continues on a 5.2 million-metric-ton-per-year liquefied natural gas plant. Read more.

Maximize Productivity, Accuracy and Coordination.

We can help you find the BEST solution that fulfills your company's needs.



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Autodesk Navisworks Manage 2011

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U.K. & Eire CHAPTER NEWS

June 2010

Review Training day planned near London

The state of the UK Process Industry economy meant that sign up for the Review Training Day was insufficient to proceed. Perhaps we may have done better if we had gone for a Level I course. We have since contacted all UK people known to be interested in SPED at some time in the past. Nearly all of them are private contractors so perhaps strapped for cash at the moment and unable to persuade employers to provide support or host a venue, in return for a couple of free places. We said last month that we were grateful for the support of North American corporate-members and we hope that they will continue to encourage their European brothers to show a positive attitude to SPED. I will approach all our prime cotacts again seeking "a vote" on the three key options, Place, Day (weekday or weekend) and Level I or III.

UK Process Industry Energy News

I am personally organising a 2 day conference in October on Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) on behalf of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The first day is devoted to regulatory issues and key aspects of the technology that condition policy making. The second day is dedicated to case studies of existing projects that are commissioning or operational.Energy related projects of capturing carbon; storing LNG and Nuclear remain our best hopes for a pick up in the UK piping engineering market.

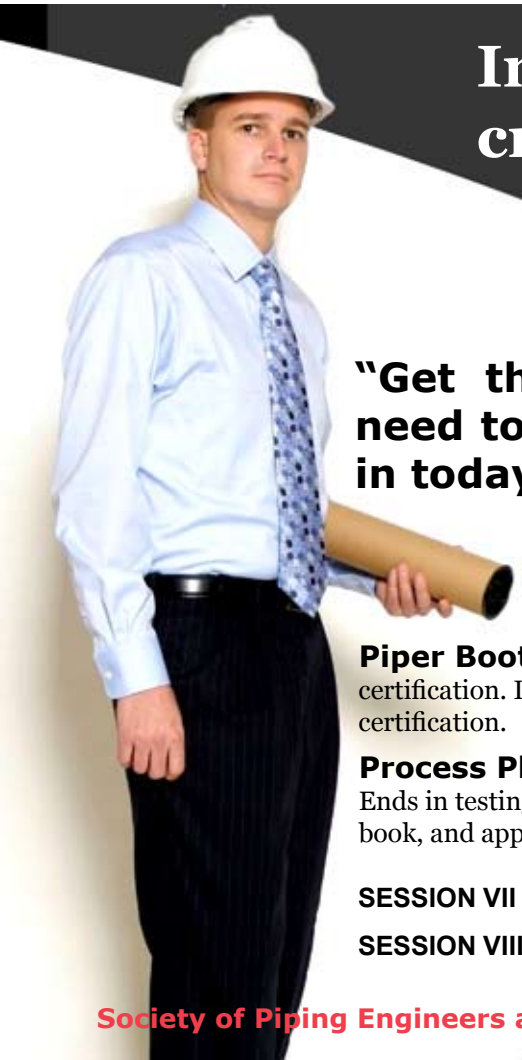
UK Process Industry News

The news here, like yours, is full of the BP problems in the Gulf. And here, like you, it is against a backdrop of ever tightening regulation. There are fears that new U.K. & Eire emission controls could force the premature shut down more UK power stations and aggravate the already real risk that the UK will run out of electricity in late 2015. Now every chemical used in every European location has to be registered by November on pain of large fines. Fifty-thousand corporate registrations are anticipated. This may swamp the European Agency involved, whose systems collapsed in 2008, with a fraction of this final number of pre-registrations.

The report into the Buncefield Oil Depot explosion (the largest ever in Europe in peacetime), has deepened the gloom, with no new projects gaining news reports.

To write this piece I review Professional Engineer (the news Magazine of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers) issued every 2 weeks, The Engineer (backed by the Royal Academy of Engineers) also 2 weekly and Process Engineering only every 2 months.

Norman Harris,
Norman.harris@20cc.co.uk



In life, there some things that are critical, like investing in your career.

SPED Professional Piping Design Online Courses can help you excel.

"Get the training you need to be competitive in today's market."

SOCIETY OF PIPING ENGINEERS AND DESIGNERS SPED

www.spedweb.com

Piper BootCamp for entry level pipers. Ends in testing for Level I certification. Includes practice quizzes, text book, and application fee for certification.

Process Plant Layout for pipers with five plus years of experience. Ends in testing for Level III certification. Includes practice quizzes, text book, and application fee for certification.

SESSION VII 2010 July 16th - September 10th	**$1,650**	Register
SESSION VIII 2010 August 16th - October 15th	**$1,650**	Register

Society of Piping Engineers and Designers ***"Promoting Excellence and Quality in Piping Design."***

2010 CADWorx University

Experience-*Accelerated*

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Experience-*Accelerated:* Learn Now, Apply Today
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Effective Modeling Tips

www.cadworxuniversity.com/2010

Join the SPED PPD 100% Club

100% CLUB
SPED Professional Piping Designer

SPED PPD 100% Club members pledge that 100% of their Piping Designers will become certified as Professional Piping Designers

(PPD). Documenting staff credentials are simple:

• 100% of current Piping Designers get PPD Certified within one year of joining the program.

• New hires become PPD Certified within one year of employment.

Once you sign up and become a member of the PPD 100% Club, you can display the Club logo.

The PPD 100% is exclusively for SPED Corporate Members. SPED supports PPD 100%

Club Members by providing the following:

• A copy of the PPD Review Video to help Piping Designers prepare for PPD exams.

• On-Call testing at the SPED office. (Fees apply.)

• Onsite testing review with 20 or more participants. (Fees apply.)

• Assistance to members in applying for State Funds to defray training and testing costs.

For more information, call 832.286.7678 or email spedmgr1@spedweb.com.

Industry News

EPA Disapproves Texas Flexible Air Permit Program Release date: 06/30/2010

Contact Information: Joe Hubbard at 214-665-2200 or r6press@epa.gov

(Dallas, Texas - June 30, 2010)

Today, EPA announced final disapproval of the flexible permit program that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) had submitted for inclusion in its clean-air implementation plan. EPA has determined that this program does not meet several national Clean Air Act requirements that help to assure the protection of health and the environment.

EPA is disapproving the permit program after determining that it allows companies to avoid certain federal clean air requirements by lumping emissions from multiple units under a single "cap" rather than setting specific emission limits for individual pollution sources at their plants.

"Today's action improves our ability to provide the citizens of Texas with the same healthy-air protections that are provided for citizens in all other states under the Clean Air Act," said Al Armendariz, Regional Administrator.

"EPA will continue working closely with Texas, industry, environmental organizations, and community leaders to assure an effective and legal air permitting system."

The Clean Air Act ensures that businesses across the country operate efficiently and cleanly to safeguard public health from harmful levels of air pollution. Under the Act, all states must develop State Implementation Plans for meeting federal requirements to protect public health. Those plans must include an air permitting program to set pollution levels for industrial facilities. In 1992, EPA approved Texas' State Implementation Plan but since 1994 the state has submitted over 30 regulatory changes to the air pollution permitting part of the plan. Today's action represents a final EPA decision to disallow one of the most important changes made by Texas for failing to meet the protective measures of the Clean Air Act.

In September 2009, EPA proposed to disapprove the state's flexible permits program and invited public comment. EPA has carefully reviewed comments and decided to finalize its proposed disapproval of the program.

To insure no disruptions for facilities, EPA has reached out to industry, the environmental community and TCEQ to discuss how to convert flexible permits into more detailed permits that comply with the Clean Air Act. One tool proposed by EPA is encouraging flexible permit holders to participate in a voluntary compliance audit program. The program will expedite efforts to identify emission limits, operating requirements and monitoring, reporting and record keeping data. Public comment on the proposed audit program closes on July 2, 2010.

On June 16, 2010, the TCEQ approved proposed revisions to the state's flexible permit rules. The public comment period on the rules package opens on July 2, 2010 and runs through August 2, 2010. The state must then finalize its proposal and submit it to EPA for review. EPA will examine the new rules when submitted but believes that public health and federal law require disapproval of the existing program without further delay.
More about activities in EPA Region 6: http://www.epa.gov/region6

Paris, June 8, 2010

Technip awarded 3 contracts for refinery units in India

Technip has been awarded three lump sum turnkey contracts for Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), worth a total value of approximately €25 million, for the Phase III Expansion Project of its refinery located in Mangalore, west coast of India. This project will allow to increase this refinery's crude refining capacity to 15 million tons/year. The contracts cover the design, engineering, supply and installation of fired heaters in four major units of the MRPL refinery: the Crude Distillation, Vacuum Distillation, Delayed Coking and Petrochemical Fluid Catalytic Cracking units The contracts, which are scheduled to be completed in the first semester of 2011, will be executed by Technip's operating center in New Delhi, India

HOUSTON, June 3, 2010 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/

Bechtel to add liquefaction facilities at Louisiana LNG receiving terminal

Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P., a subsidiary of Cheniere Energy Inc., announced that its general partner's Board of Directors has approved the initiation of a project to add liquefaction services at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in Cameron Parish, LA. Cheniere plans to work with Bechtel Oil, Gas and Chemicals to design and construct the liquefaction facilities, using the ConocoPhillips Optimized Cascade liquefaction technology. Bechtel has designed and built the original Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, one of the world's largest facilities for receiving and regasifying liquefied natural gas. Bechtel has extensive LNG capabilities, having built some of the world's largest LNG production facilities in Australia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, and Trinidad. Read more.

SPED Directory

SPED Membership and Certification
Sales and Accouting
Rachel Nichols at 832-286-7678
spedmgr1@spedweb.com

SPED Update Advertising,
Press Releases, Marketing
Sarah Evans, 832-286-7678
spedsrvs@spedweb.com

Green Process Piping Grant
Amy Voss-Foster, 713-718-8086
gpp@spedweb.com

SPED Piper Video Series
videos@spedweb.com
832-286-7678

General Information
Amy Voss-Foster, 832-286-3404

Calendar of Events

Dates and Times	Day(s)	Location	Cost	Registration
Ashtead Technologies & Texas Surveys Open House for SPED Members July 28, 2010 6 P.M.	W	Ashtead Technologies 19407 Park Row, Houston map	Free	RSVP to spedsrvs@spedweb.com
Intergraph, CADWorx & Analysis Solutions Open House August, 2010	TBD	Intergraph 12777 Jones Rd, Ste 480, Houston 77070 map	Free	TBD
Intergraph 2010 August 30-September 2, 2010	M-Th	Las Vegas, NV	N/A	For more information, visit www.intergraph2010.com/
ECC 2010 - 42nd Annual ECC Conference Sept 1-4, 2010	W-S	Ritz Carlton, Orlando Great Lakes Orlando, FL	N/A	www.ecc.conference.org
2010 CadWorx University Sept 27-29, 2010	M-W	Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel, Houston, TX map	See website	www.coadeuserconference.com/2010/
AVEVA World Summit - Americas October 18-20, 2010	M-W	Planet Hollywood Resort Las Vegas map	See website	www.avevaworld.com/
SPED 2010 Annual General Business Meeting and Corporate Member Showcase November 4, 2010	Th	Marriott Energy Corridor Houston, TX map	$25 Mbrs $35 Non-Mbrs	www.spedweb.com

Join SPED Today!

Join us and enjoy discounts and other benefits.
Visit http://www.spedweb.com.

Individual Professional Membership	$70 USD
Student Membership	$20 USD
Small Corporate Membership	$500 USD
Large Corporate Membership	$1000 USD
Global Corporate Membership	$10,000 USD
Academic Institution Membership	$500 USD

SPED Staff

Dr. William Beazley, Executive Director, Treasurer, Editorial Contributor

Andrea Macejak, Manager of Operations, GPP Grant

Amy Voss-Foster, Education Specialist, GPP Grant

Rachel Nichols, Membership, Certification, Sales

Sarah Evans, Marketing, Graphic Design

Industry Training Calendar

Dates and Times	Day(s)	Location	Cost	Membership
AVEVA Webinars: 12 informative webinars available anytime.		Online	FREE	www.avevawebinars.com
FIATECH Tech Tuesday Webinar Seriesl	T	Online	FREE	http://fiatech.org/tech-connections/techtuesday.htm
Total Cad Systems, Inc. AutoCAD Fundamentals July 6-8, 2010	T/Th	Total CAD Systems Houston office	$595	Register at www.tcadsys.com/training.html
Total Cad Systems, Inc. AutoCAD P&ID Webinar July 23, 2010	F	Online	Free	Register at www.tcadsys.com/training.html
Total Cad Systems, Inc. AutoCAD P&ID Fundamentals July 26-27, 2010	M/T	Total CAD Systems Houston office	$795	Register at www.tcadsys.com/training.html
Total Cad Systems, Inc. Plant 3D Webinar July 30, 2010	F	Online	Free	Register at www.tcadsys.com/training.html
PT&P Webinar: Shock Control, Restraint & Support Devices July 7, 2010 10 A.M. CDT / 2 P.M. CDT	W	Online	Free	Register at http://www.pipingtech.com/news/webinars/webinar_registration.html
SPED PPD Piper BootCamp Online Course July 16th - September 10th	Self-paced	Online	$1,650	Register at www.spedweb.com
SPED PPD Process Plant Layout Online Course July 16th - September 10th	Self-paced	Online	$1,650	Register at www.spedweb.com
SPED PPD Piper BootCamp Online Course August 16th - October 15th	Self-paced	Online	$1,650	Register at www.spedweb.com
SPED PPD Process Plant Layout Online Course August 16th - October 15th	Self-paced	Online	$1,650	Register at www.spedweb.com
SPED PPD Level III Certification Review and Test, Level II Certification Test November 4, 2010 8 A.M.- 5 P.M.	Th	Marriott Energy Corridor Houston, TX map	TBD	Email spedmgr1@spedweb.com

Funds Available for Unemployed Piper Training

If you are unemployed, and wish to take SPED's PPD Review and Test, you may be eligible for reimbursement of up to $200 using the federal program, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). You must be a SPED Member to participate in this program. For more information, go to www.spedweb.com, or email spedmgr1@spedweb.com.