



Volume 1, Issue 6

The 4th Dimension

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
 Victoria Branch Newsletter
www.apeg.bc.ca/vic

New Energy Without New Dams

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Hydroelectric power is a valuable universal resource that contributes to human health and happiness among many countries on planet earth. But although they are costly and sometimes controversial physical assets most hydroelectric projects are not operated as effectively as possible. Now with a deregulated competitive energy market there is a rising premium on increasing the energy output of existing projects – an optimization virus is spreading rapidly throughout the world of hydropower. Projects in Brazil, China, Canada, the USA, and Vietnam illustrate difficulties and opportunities for improvement.

An example close to home is the program of engineering efficiency improvements currently underway in the US Federal Columbia River Hydroelectric System. This ambitious program will not divert a cubic centimeter of water or string a meter of conductor. Yet it will produce large quantities of new energy without building new projects or conflicting with existing operational targets and



environmental constraints. Bonneville Power Administration's program includes cooperative efforts from the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to upgrade existing machines, to improve their operation, and to enhance water management among the dams in the system.

Charles D. D. Howard is an engineering consultant in the field of water resources systems analysis. He has provided advice and expert testimony on water operations and planning for citizen groups and for many water and power utilities, provincial, state, and federal governments in many countries. In 1998 he received the Julian Hinds Award of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and was awarded Life Membership. He is currently an advisor on computer based decision support systems for Optimizing Operation of the Columbia River System by the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Howard earned his B.S. and M. Sc. degrees from the University of Alberta and an M.S. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the founder and past president of Charles Howard & Associates, Ltd., now Powel Group, Inc. in Victoria, B.C. He plays jazz trumpet in the Vancouver Island Big Band. 🎺

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When: Thursday, April 24, 2003
 5:30 pm Social
 6:00 pm Dinner
 7:45 pm Presentation

Location: Caddie's Pub, UVic

Cost: Pre-registration \$20.00
 At the door \$25.00
 Students \$10.00
 Presentation only \$5.00

Please pre-register by TUESDAY, April 22 via the answering service at 721-8896. Provide the names of those whom you are registering and your telephone number. To cancel your registration, leave a message at 882-4482 by NOON, April 25. The branch must pay for no-shows. 🎺

Meetings Around Town



APEGBC, Victoria Branch

Victoria Branch dinner meetings are held the last Thursday night of every month from September to May excluding December. Meetings are usually held at Caddie's Pub in University of Victoria and start at 5:30 p.m. Next month's meeting is scheduled for May 29.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Branch Executive meetings usually held every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00am at Redd's Café in the Holiday Inn on Blanshard St and Finlayson Ave. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29th.

ASHRAE, Vancouver Island Chapter

The next event is the ASHRAE Chapter #145 Golf Tournament in June 2003. What better way to relax than with a golf tournament and a dinner to follow. Keep this one in the back of your mind, and let us know if you would be interested. Members and non-members are invited.

RSVP by email to Paul R Mazzulli at paul@burrmech.ca or call Paul at (250) 385-6234 to reserve your spot. For more information, please link to the regional web site at <http://www.ashrae.bc.ca/vi.htm>.

Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS)

The monthly luncheon meeting series has paused for the year. Regular meetings will resume in September. For more information, please link to the CGS web site at <http://www.cgs.ca/english/reg-div/vic-loc.html> or contact Steve Bean by email at sbean@thurberggroup.com or by calling (250) 727-2201.

Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE)

If you are interested in joining, please e-mail CSCE at info@csce.ca. For more information, contact Gerry Buydens at 356-9449 or Gerry.Buydens@gems2.gov.bc.ca.

Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC), Vancouver Island Branch

The EIC Vancouver Island Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, May 2, 2003 following the regular luncheon scheduled for 12:00 p.m., at the Traveler's Inn, 1961 Douglas St. Anyone who is interested in serving on the executive should contact Gerry Buydens at 383-4808 or at gbuydens@pacificcoast.net. For more information, please link to: <http://civil.camosun.bc.ca/vib-eic/>

Engineer's Wives Association

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2003. The topic will be announced. For more information please call Caroline Hunter at 595-8658.

Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE), Vancouver Island Section

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at Traveller's Inn on Discovery St. (between Blanshard and Douglas)

The featured presentation, entitled "Shared Vision", is a talk presented by Robert Wickson on a recently completed study on the economic, social and environmental benefits of a rail-based integrated transportation system. The study dispels the belief that Victoria is too small for LRT. Robert Wickson is President of IslandTransformations.Org, a new umbrella organization promoting sustainable development, Chair of the Victoria Advisory Transportation Committee and a recent Past President of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

Please register by calling: Paul Butterfield at 250-978-9995 or e-mail Paul Butterfield by Tuesday, April 22nd at cite@adeptweb.ca. For more details, link to the CITE website at <http://www.citebc.ca>.



The Lighter Side: A Good Whisky Story

You know about that admirable practice amongst retailers of making little Christmas gifts to commercial travelers who call upon them?

Well, it seems that last year a certain traveler was presented at various places with bottles of Whisky. In all he had twelve given to him, but when he took them home, his wife's teetotal instincts were with this unhappy task and in his own words, this is what happened.

"I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I extracted the cork from the second bottle, emptied the contents likewise, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I then withdrew the cork of the third bottle, and emptied the good old booze down the sink, except a glass, which I drank. I pulled the cork from the next, drank one sink out of the next glass, and poured the cork down the bottle and drank the glass. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and drank the pour. When I had emptied everything, I steadied the house with one hand and counted the bottles and corks and glasses with the other; there were twenty-nine. To be sure, I counted them again when they came by and I had seventy-four, and as the house came by I counted them again, and finally I had the bottles and corks and glasses counted, except one house and bottle which I drank."



Acknowledgements to the unknown author. ☞

Have Your Say!

Do you have concerns or comments you would like to voice? We'd love to hear from you and welcome any contributions to this newsletter, humorous or otherwise. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is May 2, 2003. Please send them to Joyce Liu, EIT at jliu@powelgroup.com.


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