

2742

**Blackburn, Thomas**

**From:** Kocher, Terrie  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2009 1:29 PM  
**To:** Blackburn, Thomas  
**Subject:** FW: PA PE Continuing Education Requirements

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cotchen, Kevin [mailto:Kevin.Cotchen@sms-siemag.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2009 10:27 AM  
**To:** ST, ENGINEER  
**Cc:** tmiller@ncees.org; kcotchen@consolidated.net  
**Subject:** PA PE Continuing Education Requirements

Mr. Gillespie and members of the PA PELSG Board,

Since when were the laws of physics and chemistry changed such that practicing engineers need Continuing Education (CE)?

I disagree with both the PA state board and the NCEES that CE should be required to maintain a PE license.

And I would like to know who is going to pay for this CE. Having a PE license is not a requirement in my present employment, so I doubt that my employer will be willing to pay for my CE. Accordingly, I will have to pay for this out of my own pocket. Furthermore, as a process metallurgist I see no valid reason for the CE requirements that were passed, and this is not only my opinion for my specific area of expertise. Other PEs with whom I associate have the same view, including mechanical and electrical engineers. I would also like to point out that my wife is a licensed pharmacist, and I agree that CE is important for pharmacists. But I totally disagree that CE is required for engineers.

Last year I sat on a NCEES cut score panel for the PE exam for which I could have received CE credit. Although the experience was an interesting review and of value to determine minimum competency for new PEs, I do not believe that this exercise, or any other CE for that matter, serves a valid purpose.

I would like to point out that I am not aware of ANY classes offered that would further my knowledge in my specific area of expertise. As such, I disagree with the stance of the PA board that writing a technical paper (which I do a lot) or being granted a patent is not acceptable for CE credit. In years past I recall that SC accepted paper authoring for CE credit (I am not aware of their present requirements). I believe that authoring an informative, well-researched, peer-reviewed paper is an arduous task and that much is learned in the process. I also believe that developing, filing and receiving a patent is no less noteworthy. I believe the board should reconsider your stance on this matter.

Lastly, I believe that since the PA state board has passed this unfunded mandate, as an absolute minimum it is your obligation to provide all licensed PEs with specific, comprehensive information on who offers CE, as well as where and when it is offered.

Sincerely,

**J. Kevin Cotchen PE**  
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 100 Sandusky Street

8/31/2009

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