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Blackburn, Thomas

From: Kocher, Terrie
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 11:05 AM
To: Blackburn, Thomas
Subject: FW: Comment on Continuing Education Requirements

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

From: Evans, Michael P (Addison) [mailto:Michael.Evans@sgs.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 4:50 PM
To: ST, ENGINEER
Subject: Comment on Continuing Education Requirements

Michael Evans PE 032097E

Comments on the Continuing Educational Requirements

I have worked as an engineer my entire working life; the focus on continuing education for practicing engineers raises issues. I have spent my life learning and know I will continue to do so for the rest of my professional life. Almost every job an engineer undertakes requires learning and upgrading of our skills and understanding. As a mining professional in PA for many years I have had close dealings with universities, yearly being involved in hosting students and faculty, and in making presentation or even being asked to give classes on coal preparation. Engineers working in the field are often ahead of the university in practical engineering. It was common to hear the professors want to learn more about what we were doing in industry that was ahead of their teaching. My work everyday is a continuing education at the highest level.

I will find it interesting to see the final list of "approved" CEU. The failure to include technical papers engineers write and present certainly is an under estimation by the board of the amount of learning that occurs when writing a paper or developing training for use within a company. It also deemphasizes the importance we should place on practicing engineers writing papers and providing information that expand and improve our knowledge of the engineering we do. It is interesting how far into the past you have to go to find informative engineering articles. Today we get mainly university or government funded research articles that typically have very narrow focus or cover subjects of little value to a practicing engineer. As professionals we should be working to create reasons for our professional engineers to put their knowledge on paper and in articles so that it is available as educational information to younger engineers.

If ethics is a concern, and it should be, put ethics training on the web site and have us go through it and pass an exam at each license renewal. I do this for my company yearly.

Forcing people who actively upgrade their engineering skills as practicing engineers, to pay for CEU hours in approved class to maintain a license, only increase personnel or corporate costs, and does not insure any one learns something new. Giving examples of the engineering that has been performed or papers or training that have been authored and given should be given CEU credit equivalent to hours of class room learning. If class room CEU is needed it too should be credited

I am also registered in West Virginia that has had continuing education requirements for years. They allow papers, training classes, in house training, etc. to count it just needs to be documented. With CONSOL we held ½ day monthly engineering training classes for our engineers. We used it to upgrade skills and it counted toward the continuing education requirement for their engineering licenses. I would like WV to also recognize engineering done, they do not. However a person who designs a building, designs a coal plant or mine, builds a bridge, etc. are learning everyday. The key to good engineers is practicing engineering. We have too many managers with engineering degrees that do not practice engineering and therefore are not good engineers. Making them attend so many CEU hours will not make them good engineers. I think you should give credit for people who practice engineering, we are learning every day.

Regards,

8/31/2009

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