



AICHE Orange County

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SECTION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

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March 2004

Orange County Meeting MARCH DINNER MEETING

ARMING THE ROAD WARRIOR
AND STRENGTHENING THE
CASTLE (HOME OFFICE)

Pete Nick

Tuesday, March 23, 2004
5:30 PM

So you gave up the commute and now work from home.....or your car.....or an airport.....or whatever Starbucks or Barnes & Noble you can find that has a cheap broadband connection. Or, maybe you would LIKE to give up the commute and become a "remote" employee or consultant. Come and listen to Pete Nick discuss how he works (ostensibly) from home and on the road (a lot). Pete will discuss all the ins and outs of establishing and using a home office and working on the road from that office, whether you are an independent consultant or a "mobile" employee.

Topics will run the gamut from the technical, to the personal and family issues, into productivity enhancements, and finally touching on the tax consequences. The talk will cover what you are really likely to need to work from home and some of the other goodies that make lone-wolfing or telecommuting more lucrative.

Pete is a principal with Process Systems Engineering, a multi-discipline technology consulting firm and has been a member of this section for 22 years. Pete has been working from home for the last seven years; five as a

consultant, and two working for such high tech IT firms (IBM, INDX) as a remote employee. He is still married, his kids still talk to him, and his dog still loves him even after his being around the house all this time.

Meeting Schedule:

5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:30 p.m.	After-Dinner Program

Place: Wyndham Garden Hotel,
Costa Mesa

Directions: From Interstate 405, go north on Bristol Ave., right on Anton, left on Avenue of the Arts. The Wyndham is on the right at 3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa.

Reservations: *Please make a reservation at (949) 261-2622 by voice by Friday, March 19, 2004. Or, you may email your reservation to west@research.ge.com.*

Cost: Members, \$20 with a reservation, \$25 at the door; Non-Members, \$25 with reservation, \$30 at the door; Students Free with reservation, \$5 at the door, Unemployed/Retired, \$5 with reservation, and \$10 at the door.



Starting with the month of January 2004, every third meeting a member attends is FREE with reservation



Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Orange County Section - Upcoming Events

1) 20th Anniversary Planning Meeting

Friday, 3/19/04

**Time: 5:20 p.m. in the lobby if you would like to tour the
Location**

6:30 p.m. for dinner and the regular meeting

Location: Ayers Country Inn and Suites,

325 Bristol, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RSVP: Charlotte at Charlotte.Wagner@swe.org

2) Girl Scout Badge Day -- Volunteers Needed!!!

Sat, 3/20/04, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Boeing, Huntington Beach

Contact: Kellee Bartha at (562) 883-4659 or

kelnspc@yahoo.com

3) Salary Negotiation: "Are You Being Paid What You are Worth?" -- by Joyce Taylor

Tuesday, 03/30/04, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Karl Strauss Brewery

901A South Coast Dr.

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

(714) 546-2739

Cost: Members \$20, Non-members \$25 , students are free

**RSVP: Vicki Gaston at vjgaston@earthlink.net or (562) 761-
2393 with dinner choice**

Legal Corner

Federal Appellate Court Rules That Sentences Should Be Enhanced Based On Substantial Cleanup Costs

**Peter Hsiao and Siegmund Shyu, Morrison &
Foerster LLP**

Confronting the issue for the first time, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which covers California, ruled that courts must enhance sentences and may increase penalties for convicted polluters who cause the government to perform cleanups requiring substantial expenditures. (*U.S. v. Phillips*, Case Number 02-30035). The defendant had bought land along a Montana creek for a new subdivision, and had workers dig twenty ponds and fill the ponds from the creek without permits. Water that flowed off the property and back into the creek carried mine

tailings and other pollutants. The defendant was found guilty of violating the Clean Water Act, and was sentenced to five-year's probation and ordered to pay \$43,000 in restitution. The trial court refused to enhance the defendant's sentence based upon a provision in the federal Sentencing Guidelines that required a four-level enhancement when the government's cleanup "required a substantial expenditure." The trial court had stated that the hundreds of thousands of dollars in extra cleanup costs were incurred because of Superfund and not the Clean Water Act. The government appealed the sentence, and the Court of Appeals found for the government. It stated that the plain meaning of the Sentencing Guidelines, the overall purposes of environmental laws, and case law from other circuits required courts to enhance the sentence because the Guidelines do not limit cleanup costs to the statute of conviction.

EPA Issues Final Rule Increasing Maximum Fines By 17.3 Percent

On February 13, the US EPA issued a final rule increasing the maximum penalties for civil violations of environmental laws by 17.3 percent to account for inflation. The EPA stated that the action was required by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA). EPA had proposed to increase the same penalties by 13.6 percent in June 2002, but withdrew the rule after the US General Accounting Office objected to the EPA's method of rounding the adjusted penalty amounts. For this final rule, the EPA stated that the increase in penalties rose from the 13.6 percent in the previous rule to 17.3 percent because of changes in the consumer price index. It noted that seeking further public comment on the penalty increases was unnecessary because EPA had no discretion under the DCIA. Under the new rule, the highest maximum penalty would be \$1 million for violating the Safe Drinking Water Act by tampering with a public water system.

Something Completely Different

Perhaps Michigan wolverines are not limited to those on the college football field, after all. According to Associated Press, a Michigan biologist confirmed the sighting of an actual Michigan wolverine, almost 200 years after the animal was last seen in the state. Coyote hunters saw the wolverine about 90 miles north of Detroit, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources biologists were able to take pictures of the animal. The wolverine is a member of the weasel family and



grows about 25 pounds. Known for its ferociousness, it was once seen in large numbers in the United States, but is now usually seen only in Canada, northern Idaho, and Alaska. The last spotting of a wolverine in Michigan occurred in the early 1800s by fur traders. A Department of Natural Resources spokesperson called the sighting "unprecedented" which is "up there with having a caribou or a polar bear turn up." A biologist speculated that the animal could have traveled to the state, or been released or escaped from captivity.

Legal Corner reports on recent news, and is not intended to be legal advice. The reader should consult an attorney about the specific facts before acting upon this information.

Newsletter Contributors Wanted

The newsletter editor would like to hear from you if you have one or more brief articles to contribute, especially a review or brief discussion of a good website, technical book, etc.

Professional Engineering Employment Update

Job Seeking Members can receive a list of web sites of area companies that sometimes hire ChEs. Contact the Senior Member Everett Knell at EWKnell@aol.com to receive this list by e-mail. Put "OCAICHE Company List" in the subject line of your email request.

Job Opportunities

1) Project Engineer

Job Description:

Technical projects from start to end and interacts with clients, prime-contractors, and subcontractors on project-specific issues. Maintain and manage clients and participates in business development activities. Provide technical and engineering field support on assigned projects, this also includes on-site project work. Develop and implement technical reports/proposals. Other duties as assigned.

Skills Requirements:

Minimum of Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering. At least three to ten years experience in the following fields:

- Manufacturing or process engineering;
- Water/Wastewater Engineering;
- Design/Built Engineering experience

Ability to understand technical issues in applicable subjects. Ability to supervise junior staff on project-related issues. Interested candidates may reply to mweinrich@ppint.com or fax a resume with cover letter to (949) 757 2715, Attn: HR.

2) Process Technology Development Manager

This person should have major food industry experience.

We also have **2 project mechanical engineer and packaging engineer positions** in the Los Angeles area. Overall we have over 25 engineering positions around the country.

The Process Technology Development Manager acts as a liaison between R&D, Franchise and Manufacturing regarding MTP priorities, R&D resource allocation, project feasibility, manufacturing infrastructure, technology planning, and product quality. The primary focus is the development of creative and unique applications for existing technologies to improve or expand the flexibility of existing processes.

Primary Duties:

- Prioritizes objectives and allocates resources for the Process Technology Development Team in the wet and dry process areas. Primary responsibilities lie in the following areas; MTP, factory process specifications and CVS, technology platform development, pilot plant operation and infrastructure, and divisional capital budget.
- Participates in technology planning on a global basis as a member of technology development teams across all company units (technology platforms, process optimization, process specification development, profitability, etc.)
- Manages thermal process development and maintenance for the US wet sites and importation of wet products from abroad.
- Coordinates performance development plans of direct reports, including process development engineers, pilot plant supervisor, and pilot plant maintenance manager.
- Coaching and mentoring of 20 associates, including the pilot plant team.
- Coordinates scientific documentation, Intranet communications and intellectual property for process developments.

Qualifications:

- BS degree in engineering (chemical engineering preferred)
- MBA degree is desired
- 5-11 years experience in process design/development, preferably in the food industry.
- 3+ years experience in engineering management.
- Vision setting skills
- Basic knowledge of human resource management and development methods.
- Interpersonal skills with direct reports, peers, top management and vendors at an international level.
- Ability to communicate technical and non-technical subjects at multiple levels. Business presentation skills.
- Knowledge of experimental design and data analysis methods.



- Ability to travel 30-50% of the time.

Contact Mike Graver (Search Consultant The Lee Group)
www.theleegroup.com (757)873-3388

3) PROCESS ENGINEER

Spend everyday around Golf equipment and get paid for it! Search firm seeks Process Engineer to be based in southern California for our client--a premium golf clubs and golf balls manufacturer. Key responsibilities are: • Identify, evaluate and work to resolve manufacturing issues in the daily production process. • Provide leadership in the optimization and troubleshooting of existing processes. • Control engineering activities in the design and implementation of process improvements. • Technical transfer of new products from R&D to product commercialization. This position requires a B.S. in Chemical or Polymer Engineering and a minimum of 4 years experience in process support of day-to-day operations in a process-intensive industry (i.e., plastics). Must have extensive experience with SPC and DOE. Six Sigma black belt preferred. The ideal candidate will be an out-of-the box, disciplined problem solver who takes initiative and is a team player.

Competitive compensation including relocation allowance offered. To be considered for this exciting opportunity, please submit resume and salary requirements to Janice Pinson, JP Associates (Executive Search) via e-mail to Jpinson99@aol.com or fax 877-683-9353.

4) SuperbTech, Ins. is still desperately seeking (2) Process Engineers for our Refinery Client. Candidates should have 5-15 years experience. Must have day to day operations support background, along with capital projects & design. Salary \$80k. 6-12months with potential for Perm.

(2) Engineers needed w/Chemical Engineering Degree. 6-15 years experience. Operations, Process design studies & Capital Projects for Refinery. 6-12months duration, potential for perm. So Bay Area. \$38.00-\$48.00 hourly!!!!

(1) Process Engineer needed to work in field. Must have Plant Operations, PID, Generalist, Experience in Gas Plant, Refinery or Chemical Plant. 2mo-2years \$40-\$48.00

(1) Process Engineer that has worked "perm" in a refinery, Max 20years experience. Must have Proll or Provision & Hex Tran. \$80-\$89k.

(1) Environmental Engineer with Process/Chemical Degree. 5 years in Refinery or Chemical Plants, knowledge in AQMD, especially RECLAIM. Great computer skills needed.

Interested parties contact: Ronnell Valancia e/mail:
SuperbTec1@aol.com

5) Senior Process Engineer (Northwest Los Angeles County)

This position involves the application of process engineering

expertise in the design, specification, construction, startup, and qualification of process equipment and process unit operations for the site. Other responsibilities include technical planning, verification and validation analyses, cost and risk analyses, and supportability and effectiveness analyses for process systems improvements. Ensures the logical and systematic translation of requirements and constraints into process equipment solutions. Employs high level of knowledge in developing, applying and maintaining standards for manufacturing equipment systems. Critical skills include ability to specify process equipment, instrumentation and materials of construction, ability to develop process flow diagrams, piping and instrumentation diagrams, material and energy balances as well as orchestrate project construction activities. Must be well versed in cGMP requirements, change control, unit operation validation, development of policies and procedures, equipment and unit operation troubleshooting and all aspects of equipment project engineering work from initial specification through turnover to operations including drawing development/evaluation, factory/site acceptance testing, development and application of project specifications, conceptual design, detailed design, bid evaluation, installation, startup and validation. Experience with biopharmaceutical production processes from fermentation/cell culture through purified bulk is preferred. Candidates must be well versed in pharmaceutical manufacturing processes, well organized, able to multi-task in project environments, and skilled in technical communication, conflict resolution, collaboration, leadership and teambuilding. Requirements include a bachelor's degree in engineering (chemical engineering or mechanical engineering preferred) with at least five years experience in cGMP production environments or equivalent experience.

Contact: Tom Weed
 Management Recruiters of Huntington Beach
 714-843-6433
 714-843-6993 FAX, tom@hbmri.com

- ① If you have an employment opportunity in Southern California for a chemical engineer, the newsletter will advertise it for free.



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