

**Industrial Maintenance and Operations Advisory Council  
Working Lunch  
Thursday February 16, 2012  
11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.  
Cholla Power Plant  
Conference Room 1 in the Admin Building**

Attendees: Koren Whitmire, Garry Stevens, Todd White, Crystal McPherson, Peggy Belknap, Jennifer, McDowell, Bob Martineau, Paul Clark, Christopher Susag, Sean Nolden, Judy Bratcher, Jerry Keeley, Ken Wilk, Liz Flake, Lisa Aragon, Mike Woods, Hugh Moulton, Von Stradling, Rose Lee Jaquez, Jason Martineau, Kenny Keith

Von opened the meeting at 11:05 with welcome and introductions.  
Von recognized Jennifer McDowell as the new Apache County Coordinator

The minutes of October 13, 2011 were reviewed with no comments or corrections.

Von turned time over to Kenny for the IMO agenda items

Kenny talked a little bit about the need for an Open Houses at the Coronado Plant, APS Plant, and the plant at Page. There is a need to get the open houses done before the NAVIT April 6 registration date. We want to get the public to be aware of our programs and lab sites. Von, Kenny, and Mike Woods will work on doing the Open House in Page. Bob Martineau will be looking for a date for an open house at Cholla. He mentioned that he would like to wait until the new building is completed. Lisa stated that NAVIT is being impacted by law changes that will affect the students with tighter graduation requirements.

Kenny gave a quick update on the Carl Perkins Grant. IMO was allocated \$41,553 for electrical and Instrumentation equipment. This equipment will help increase the lab size from the current 7-12. A big thank you to Bob Martineau for using an ebay account personally buying a lot of the equipment, thus saving the college about \$10,000.

There was some discussion about headphones for tour use. Mike Woods mentioned that he had some for Von to try out. Todd also mentioned he would send Von the information on the headphones that TEP uses.

Kenny informed the group about the coal handling tracks replacing the current IMO 211 distillation tracks. Kenny has submitted the changes to the Instructional council for their approval. For the record the new tracks will be car dumpers, conveyors, coal preparation equipment, coal pile management, dust control,

stackers, and ash handling using the CiNet training tracks. Kenny is working with CiNet with the changes.

Kenny went over the student enrollment numbers for both Spring 2011 and Spring 2011. Kenny informed the group about making the IMO 211 a stand alone lab like the current lmo 210 labs are. The IMO 210 has been stand alone labs for the past 4 years. The labs are too big to have students from IMO 210-213 in them. Kenny mentioned that the IMO 214 Site Specific class which is normally offered in the spring at St. Johns will be offered both fall and spring. The IMO 214 class will also be offered at APS using the lecture and job shadowing program.

Kenny then explained why the NCCER testing site is still on the agenda. He said it was for him to stay focused with the idea of being a testing and performance Plus site in the future. Peggy brought to everyone's attention of a new Skills Center being built in Holbrook and be ready by the fall 2013 session. The cost is around 5 million dollars. The NPC Holbrook welding site has to relocate within the next 3 years. Peggy mentioned the idea of having the Mechatronics program at the new Skills Center. The Skills Center will be located behind the PDC campus on the west side. The next skills center will be located at the WMC in ShowLow. There was some discussion about Cholla as a NCCER sponsor to do skills assessments for new hires at other plants.

Kenny will look into the facility agreements with both sites.

Kenny brought up the lab sizes and concerns of safety and lab capacity.

Kenny turned some time over to Bob concerning the Electrical and Instrumentation program. Bob stated the classes were going well and that the students are learning how to study. Test are given. If a student misses one class then they lose 1 point on their grade. They do not get full pay until they pass off all of the requirements. We have had 11 E&I apprentices in the program in the last 10 years, and 4 have gone to Transmission and Distribution for APS, 2 have gone to other plants at APS, 1 washed out of the program, and we have 4 still here as journeymen. We are presently short as many as 10 E&I here at the time. We have 7 apprentices in the program.

Kenny explained how successful it has been by having Jeannie McCabe go and talk to the labs about resumes, applications, and interviews. She has gone to both the St. John and Cholla labs. The students are still email her with their resumes for feedback. In fact, several students have been hired because of the Jeannie's time and effort.

Judy Bratcher mentioned that there will be a Job Fair in Sanders tomorrow.

There was some discussion concerning Boilermaker curriculum. This training would take a welder to a new level. There is a lot of setup and preparation performed before an arc is struck. APS is using the NCCER Boilermaker curriculum for their Qual cards. Zachary also uses this NCCER curriculum.

Kenny is still exploring the mechatronics has a future, especially with the possibility of Potash mining in the area.

## **II. Industry Updates**

***Von explained that they had found some mistakes with some NCCER E/I questions. Chris Susag explained that a punch list of errors have been sent for their review. Mike Woods said that most of the concerns have been corrected. (((((( need numbers of retiring folks))))))***

Bob talked a little bit about the Electrical and Instrumentation apprenticeship going on at Cholla. The program is being run through the college. The students are getting A's. To be hired as a Journey electrician they have 6 months to pass off all requirements. It is one year for the Instrumentation to pass off all required requirements. They do not get full pay until they pass off all of the requirements. We have had 11 E&I apprentices in the program in the last 10 years, and 4 have gone to Transmission and Distribution for APS, 2 have gone to other plants at APS, 1 washed out of the program, and we have 4 still here as journeymen. We are presently short as many as 10 E&I here at the time. We have 7 apprentices in the program.

Jerry Keeley shared that Catalyst Paper Corporation filed for creditor protection on January 31, 2012 under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) in Canada. This required a subsequent US Chapter 15 filing which provides the ability for the recognition of foreign restructuring proceedings in the US. The key message is that Catalyst is operating business as usual and intends to continue operations through the restructuring process.

Jerry also announced that it appears likely that 6-8 operators from the Paper Mill will accept employment with APS in the near future. Given this magnitude of movement as well as general demographics at the Mill and all local Power Plants, it is recommended that the involved parties share future expected vacancies on a regular basis, if able to do so.

Lisa told the group that Chester Crandall has introduced a bill that would fund students only 50% at the beginning and the other 50% after the student completes the course. This will cause a big gap in funding which will only be corrected by the passage of time.

Todd told the group he was retiring. There will be 12 entry level positions as the Control room operator's positions are filled. There are also 3 mechanics, 1 planner, and one contract position open.

Mike Woods stated there are 24 entry positions available in Page. An issue is the Navajo preference. He hopes to hold an open house to get the public aware of the IMO program.

Rose apologized to Catalyst for the record for hiring operators from them. She stated there is normally a smooth transition. They were under the gun to hire operators with experience. She said the process usually involves hiring entry level helpers. With the need of filling positions of those retiring for example, they have E/I, Engineers, and supervisors, there will be more time spent on staffing and dealing with the retirement. They are current spending a lot of time dealing with the Qual card requirements. Peggy asked the question of internships and Rose hoped there would be some paid and unpaid internships coming in the future. Judy said that WIA would help with the funding of internships.

Liz Flake told the group she had attended several Potash meeting. She said there will be a need for Electrician and Instrumentation tech. She also informed the group that Ann Hilliard was absent due to the fact she was helping the welding students with resumes.

Garry Stevens stated that Snowflake Power had made lots of improvements Last May, they added a bag house and cooling tower. He asked the group to provide him with the wages.

Bob informed the committee that APS would be sponsoring the Western Utility Advisory Board meeting in Sedona

***Discussion/Action Items-Boilermaker curriculum invite Zachary***

***Next Meeting April 26 at the PDC***

**Location and date to be determined**

**VII. Adjournment**

**Thank You for Attending!**