

NPC Industrial Maintenance and Operations Advisory Council
February 23, 2017

Fred Calderon, NPC; Christopher Susag, APS; Jeff LeFevre, TEP; Hugh Moulton, NPC; David Krouse, TEP; Mike Colwell, NPC; Carrie Jordan, NAVIT; Brian Martineau, APS; Lacy Greer, SRP; Curtis Shelley, NPC; Nicole Ulibarri, NPC; Tina Gonzales, NPC; Royce Kincanon, NPC; Scott Newby, TEP; Shawntel Skousen, NPC; Shelly Finch, St. Johns High School; Roger Heap, St. Johns High School

Welcome and Introductions – Kenny Keith.

Minutes from October 6, 2016 accepted.

Kenny also drew attention to the handout packet that included an interview with NPC for CEWD.

Kenny Keith presented a power point that included the following topics:

Enrollment Numbers:

The enrollment numbers from Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 were compared and discussed. Following the testimonials from students at the March 2016 Advisory meeting, more students are seeing the importance of taking both operations and maintenance courses.

N.A.V.I.T Enrollment

A graph indicating the enrollment trend was shown. Carrie Jordan voiced her concern and desire to help with improving NAVIT numbers. There is great concern regarding the IMO program due to the rumor mill and stories of plants shutting down. Shelly Finch requested that current employees/ recent graduates come speak to students to assist in gaining interest at the high school level.

Edison Electric Institute and Other Testing:

Kenny has added EEI Assembly and Figural Reasoning to his curriculum in order to assist students in test preparation. Students are still showing great interest in the NCRC. Along with the soft skills portion of NCRC, Kenny is looking at doing more with interview skills.

Energy Industry Fundamentals:

Kenny stated that NPC's EIF test scores are amongst the highest in the nation.

Hugh Moulton:

Hugh was honored and thanked for his generous contributions to the IMO program over the years.

Other items discussed:

Open Houses:

In lieu of open houses, recent hires at the plants will visit high school classes.

Adjunct Faculty:

There is a great need for new Adjunct Faculty. There is a higher need for more operations faculty but both are welcome. A snapshot of the benefits of teaching was asked for.

Gas Turbine Curriculum

Lacy Greer stated that he has curriculum for gas turbine and asked if there was any interest in offering courses. It could be an elective for whoever wants it. APS said that they use RedVector for those courses.

*Industry Updates***Royce Kincanon**

Explained his role at NPC and stated that he has teachers that can teach just about anything. He encouraged everyone to utilize him for their needs.

Carrie Jordan

She is willing to help in any way to keep NAVIT going and would like to get ahead of the rumors out there. Transportation to classes is a huge stumbling block especially as districts are facing budget issues. She feels that CTE as a whole needs to be promoted more.

Chris Susag

Shared that NCCER has a Building Your Future Program that can help with CTE and is willing to help with NCCER needs. He also stated that Cholla is due to shut down in 2025 and the Four Corners Station is good until 2030 due to coal prices and wishes for gas fueled plants. However, gas plants only need 1/3 or even less personnel to run as compared to a coal fire plant. However, this program is still very beneficial. Other places, such as Purina, need employees that have the knowledge NPC teaches. There were over 70 applicants for the latest opening with 4 getting hired at Four Corners and three at Cholla. The Cholla plant does still need to be kept running so hiring is still happening. Additionally, the Baby Boomers are retiring so there will be a need for 30 more hires at Cholla in the coming years. Chris also stated that the Ocotillo Plant just installed 6 new gas turbines.

Brain Martineau

APS is experiencing a large turnover in the operations area, mostly due to fears of closing the Cholla plant. Apprenticeships for Linemen are offered and those should be up soon for people to apply for them. They are really looking for electrical workers.

Lacy Greer

SRP will be shutting down the Navajo Generating Station in 2019 at the latest; a lot of that due to the cost of coal. Many employees are leaving so a pay raise incentive was offered. CGS appears to be good until 2030 and the idea of shutting down a unit for part of the year to be compliant has been verbally approved but if not Unit 1 will shut down in a few years. He also stated that there are many good jobs and that an operations background is key for many jobs. SRP takes care of good employees.

Hugh Moulton

Feels that NAVIT is important and is a great opportunity. He is still trying to ensure that students are successful.

Kenny Keith

Kenny is trying to keep track of all his students and uses a Where's Waldo file. He needs help from the plants to track current hires. Right now there is a 72% placement rate amongst NPC students finding jobs at the plants.

Mike Colwell

He is pushing students to do maintenance courses and backs up the comments made about how committed SJHS is to NPC and NAVIT. He also thanked faculty for their willingness to work with students and for all their work. He asked if gas conversion for the plants is in the future or if a gas plant has plans for coming to the area. The answer is that no, there is no word of a plant coming and that gas is not feasible in the quantity needed; the infrastructure just is not there.

Roger Heap

Expressed his gratitude for plant support for the high school and talked about the support that SJHS gives to NPC and NAVIT.

David Krouse

TEP is offering an E&I apprenticeship; this August will mark 2 years. They will be offering a Mechanical Apprenticeship this summer for four people in May or June.

Jeff LeFevre

TEP has a very large training department and they are very busy. They are hiring a lot of trainees due to retirements; 20-25 per year. They have hired 10 just this month. Each set of trainees is giving 6 months of training. TEP is working on more in-house control room training to help employees feel more comfortable transitioning to the control room. The plant is fairly new so their outlook is good, way passed 2030.

Nicole Ulibarri

She is new to her position but not new to NPC and the IMO program. She is looking forward to helping in any way she can.

Tina Gonzalez

Tina is also new to her position and is looking forward to helping as well.

Fred Calderon

He is still adding to the tools for the Skills Center. He and a few others took a trip to Kingman to present the IMO program. The people that he met with need NPC's help. He also echoed the idea that IMO is not limited to just the power plants.

Next Meeting:

To be determined.