



# THE OBSERVER

January 2008

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Daniel Hudson, PE

NHSPE President

How many times have you heard that New Hampshire is a small engineering community? I know I've referred to it that way many times, usually while talking about someone who has switched companies one or more times. It seems that the players in the NH engineering community remain the same, but what team they're on tends to change. Such changes create a ripple effect throughout the community, with people switching to fill the voids that have been left and thereby hopefully advancing their careers at the same time.

Although NH's diminutive engineering community lends itself to titillating, albeit unproductive gossip about who's happy, who's not, who's moved,

*A Word From The President  
continued on Page 3*

## DINNER MEETING



**TOP:** William H. Smagula, P.E. of PSNH discusses the Northern Wood Power Project at the December dinner meeting



**RIGHT:** Trucks emptying wood-chips into a hopper at Schiller Station

## The Northern Wood Power Project *Renewable Energy for New Hampshire*

On December 11th, engineers from a range of disciplines gathered at Fratello's Restaurant in Manchester to learn about the Northern Wood Power Project from William H. Smagula, P.E., Director of Generation for Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH). The project included replacement of an existing 50 megawatt coal-fired boiler with an environmentally friendly system that uses wood chips and other clean, low-grade wood materials for fuel. The fluidized-bed boiler, located at Schiller Station in Portsmouth, uses approximately 450,000 tons of clean wood annually, primarily obtained from forests in New Hampshire.

The genesis of the project was driven by several factors, including: the need to comply with regulations requiring reduced air emissions; an emerging market for "green power" in the region; and a New Hampshire forest products industry assessment (with a downturn in the pulp and paper industry, New Hampshire was growing more wood than was being used). Given the environmental and

political factors, the project gained widespread support.

After completing a one year approval process, the project construction notice to proceed was provided in June 2004, and the first commercial operation of the new boiler began on December 1st, 2006. Even with the \$75 million project cost, the venture was designed to have no negative impact on PSNH utility rates. This is accomplished, in part, by selling Renewable Energy Certificates to nearby states (Massachusetts and Connecticut) where they are in large demand and sold for a premium. The project success has led to numerous awards, from the 2007 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention, to the international Green Apple Environmental Award.


If you would like more information about this project, please visit the website at [www.psnh.com/Energy/EnergyProject/NWPP/overview.html](http://www.psnh.com/Energy/EnergyProject/NWPP/overview.html).

Submitted by: Erin Wood, PE

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# JOINT ENGINEERING SOCIETY UPDATE

Mark your calendars now for October 9, 2008 for the 2nd Annual Joint Engineering Society Conference! For anyone that did not have an opportunity to attend in 2007, this was a wonderful conference that was chaired by NHSPE and sponsored by ASCE-NH, SENH and IEEE. The topics were very diverse and of interest to engineers from all disciplines of the profession while providing a great opportunity to network with a range of professional engineers that are not normally found in the same room together. We began planning events for the 2008 event with a kickoff meeting on January 10th, 2008. At this meeting we reviewed feedback received from the first conference and began discussing topics for speakers. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 7th, 2008. If you have interest in participating in the planning of this event, please contact me at rlarochelle@cmaengineers.com, we would love to have the added support and fresh ideas for another great program for 2008. 

*Submitted by Roch Larochelle, PE*

## THE OBSERVER

*The Observer* is published quarterly by the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers for its members. Its purpose is to inform members of NHSPE activities and related topics.

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# NHPSE State Scholarship Program

Once again we have kicked off our annual John Alger Memorial Scholarship Program for the spring of 2008. Here is how it will come together for this year:

- Solicitation packages have been sent to numerous professional firms throughout New Hampshire to plead for continued support of this great program through tax-deductible donations... so keep watch for yours in the mail and thanks in advance for your generous contributions! We will also be posting an announcement on the state legislator's web site.
- In early January, local and regional high schools, guidance departments as well as our state universities will be notified that NHSPE Scholarship applications are available on our web site.
- April 11, 2008 will mark the deadline for all scholarship applications.
- All applications will be reviewed and

notifications are sent out within a week.

This is my fourth year of chairing this worthwhile event. During our short history, the first 2 years we had five and twelve applicants, awarding one \$500 scholarship the first year and \$1,000 the second year. The next 5 years averaged 55 applicants and we awarded an average of three \$1,000 scholarships each year.

Last year seemed to be an off year for donations, so we are optimistic this year will be better. But it will only be better if we can count on your support. Next spring we plan to fund \$1,000 scholarships for at least three deserving students for the 2008 season. Watch for your notice in the mail and be sure to send in your tax-deductible donation to "NHSPE, State Scholarship Program, PO Box 1146, Amherst, NH, 03031" to help ensure the success of our future engineers! 

*Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE*

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Continued from Page 1

and who's going where next; I would submit that it also has a positive affect on the engineering practice in this state. Having grown up in a small town where everybody knows everybody else's business, I understand how one's reputation often precedes them. If you've wronged your neighbor, your family, or your business associates; soon everybody knows and it affects your future interactions and potential for success. News about bad apples seems to spread wide and fast and often they'd be better off moving somewhere where no one knows them to try to overcome a previous transgression.

What this means is that we here in NH have a self-regulating engineering community, where unethical and/or unprofessional conduct isn't tolerated. You can't afford to treat someone poorly or take a

shortcut to make a quick buck, because your circle of business associates and pool of clients will quickly shrink as word gets around. Similarly, if your reputation is tarnished you can forget about making a jump to another local firm when your current employer gets fed up with your act. We all have each other's back so to speak and there is strength in our small numbers. Beneficially, if you're one of the stars amongst this community new employment is easy to come by, as everyone seems willing to make room for good people.

I enjoy working in this environment where you're only as good as your last project and where relationships matter. It keeps us all honest and on our toes and I trust that you all will resolve this year to follow the golden rule and be a good member of this community. 

## Legislative Update

### Joint Board to Increase License and Application Fees


The Joint Board of Professional Engineers proposes to increase the biennial fee for all individual licensees to \$150, which is an increase of \$20. The application fee for licensure will go up to \$150 from \$100, and the exam fee will go up to \$225 from \$160. The Joint Board has proposed the increases in the Rulemaking Register because Engineering Credential Evaluation International no longer exists, and has been replaced by Professional Engineering Education Services. A hearing on changes to rules Eng 302.02, 302.03, and 302.04 will be held at the Joint Board office, 57 Regional Drive, in Concord, on 2/15/2008 at 9:30 AM.

In the state General Court, HB 1282 has been introduced to amend the pre-engineering technology curriculum in public schools to include grades 6 - 12, and not just high school. The bill is in the House Education Committee.

HB 582, relative to a bridge over the Merrimack River, is left over from the 2007 session. In this bill, \$7.1 million is appropriated for preliminary engineering over four years.

HB 1295 establishes a commission to study issues related to storm water. One of the members must be a representative of ACEC. The bill is in the Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee.

The U.S. House introduced the STEP Act: The Strategic Technology/Engineering Program Act of 2007. The bill would determine the eligibility of individuals for student loan forgiveness for PEs and engineering students to provide incentives to pursue engineering education. Presently, the bill is in the House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness.

Finally, the Good Samaritan Protection for Construction, Architectural, and Engineering Volunteers Act remains alive but in the House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill is H.R. 2067. 

*Submitted by Phil Decker, PE, Esq.*

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*What do you think happened here?*



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## Photo Caption Contest winners for November 2007 issue:



*Following the idea of cell phone towers designed to blend in with surrounding trees, urban designers attempted a less successful variation with the "stoplight tree."*

*The electric bill was high, but the new signal was very effective at "traffic calming."*

*This signal is the first to be installed under the new Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards requiring 5 signal heads per approach.*

**We're also looking for more photos. If you have entertaining engineering related photos you'd like to share, please email them to [info@nhspe.org](mailto:info@nhspe.org). Photos must look good in black and white and should not include people.**



## Teacher Awards to Undergo Facelift


Over the past few years, NHSPE, with the assistance and support of the New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics (NHTM), the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association (NHSTA), the University of New Hampshire College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (UNH CEPS), the New Hampshire Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers, and the New Hampshire Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-NH) have awarded deserving New Hampshire teachers of mathematics and science at three different school age levels (elementary, middle, and high). Awards have been presented to teachers as part of the festivities at the annual Engineers Week Banquet in February. This year, our awards will take a brief hiatus and get a makeover as part of a revamping to engage more support across the engineering community and to redefine the purpose and intent of the awards. Over the past six months, NHSPE has coordinated extensively with NHTM to

redefine the awards which were being confused with other mathematics awards that NHTM endorses. Through our discussions and meetings, it became clear that our teacher awards needed to be overhauled to eliminate the confusion and so that the school systems throughout New Hampshire would be able to more widely promote the awards program.

Although the essence of the award programs remains to publicly recognize teachers in our school systems that inspire and nurture the young engineers of tomorrow, the program will undergo a name change and we hope to add the endorsement of engineering societies throughout New Hampshire to our already esteemed list of sponsors. Formerly known as the New Hampshire Math and Science Teacher of the Year Awards, the program will be known as The Joint Committee of New Hampshire Engineering Societies Excellence in Teaching Awards going forward. NHSPE is in the beginning steps of coor-

inating with the other New Hampshire engineering societies such as ASCE, IEEE, SAME, ITE, SENH, ASHRAE, ASME as a means of generating support for the program. Our vision at this point is that this award program will be administered in a similar fashion to the current Young Engineer of the Year Award and Engineer of the Year Award which is facilitated by the Joint Committee. We have recently gained full support from NHTM for this model and expect support from all other groups in the near future. The lack of issuing awards this year is not viewed as a step backward for the program and we are optimistic that next years program will be a giant step forward in its continued success. NHSPE proudly supports our teachers and we very much look forward to recognizing these important individuals at the Engineers Banquet in February 2009.

*Submitted by Matthew J. Low,  
PE, SECB*



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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Members since November 1st:

**Wendell T. Smith, III, PE**  
**Jeffrey L. Duncan, PE**  
**Brian V. Gilman, PE**  
**Kristopher M. Houle, EIT**  
**Richard D. Beati, PE**

At last check, the active membership of NHSPE was 240 strong! We have seen consistent growth in the membership numbers this calendar year. Since I began tracking our state's membership data in July, we have grown by approximately three members per month. As we transition into 2008 (I am still trying to figure out where 2007 went), we eagerly anticipate another year of growth for this organization. Events like the Engineer's Week Banquet are an excellent way to recruit new members - so be sure to invite your colleagues. If you have any questions about your membership or need to update your information, please don't hesitate to drop a quick note to membership's email address at [membership@nhspe.org](mailto:membership@nhspe.org). Wishing you the very best for a safe and productive year ahead. 🍀

*Submitted by Walter Durack, V, EIT*

## 2007 Northeast Regional Meeting


The NSPE Regional Meeting this year was sponsored by the New Jersey State Society of Professional Engineers and was held November 8 through 10, 2007 in historic Princeton, New Jersey. Approximately 120 engineers from throughout the region were in attendance for 3 days of networking, social events, educational programs and NSPE business. Nearly all areas of the region (which includes Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont) were represented. NHSPE Vice President Larry Dwyer, P.E. and House of Delegate Representative Matt Purcell, P.E. were in attendance representing the NH Society.

Thursday and Friday included a broad range of technical and governance seminars offered at the hotel. Topics included: History, Development & Operation of the New York City Water System, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Infrared Thermography and


Process Engineering, Engineering Ethics - You be the Judge, and Introduction to Forensic Engineering. In addition an extremely interesting tour was conducted of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory; you'd be amazed what has been and is currently going on in plasma research. The tour was conducted by the lead researchers at the lab, and I must add they are an extremely dedicated staff. The technical presentations were well attended and generated enthusiastic dialog, particularly the ethics session by Art Schwartz; it always seems to be a crowd pleaser.


The Friday luncheon was highlighted by a keynote address from Mr. Bernard (Bernie) Berson, P.E., LS, PP, F.NSPE, NSPE President. Bernie's address discussed the history of professional engineering and focused on how NSPE evolved and where it is today. He also discussed the importance of being involved in NSPE and the associated mutual benefits and said we are in good hands with Mr. Brad Aldrich, P.E. of the

Vermont Society who will assume the position of national President in 2009-2010.

Saturday was highlighted by the regional business meeting which kicked off with a presentation by Craig Musselman, P.E. on the status of the proposed Bachelors degree plus 30 credits prerequisite for licensure. In a nutshell, unlike medical, legal, and accounting professions, engineering has been stagnant in its educational requirements to achieve professional licensure; and the number of credit hours to satisfy a BSCE has eroded. Therefore NSPE supports increasing the academic requirements to a BSCE plus 30 relevant credits but this likely would not be in effect until 2015. The New Jersey Society did a nice job planning the event; the Maine Society was already handing out promotions for next year's regional meeting to be held in Portland. See you there. 

*Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE*

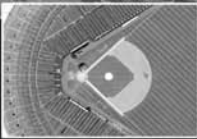






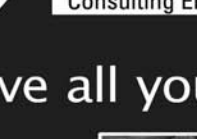




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# Looking back to 1970 Engineers Week

## Excerpt from the Dec 1969 - Jan 1970 NHSPE Observer:

### *Engineering... Environmental Design for the 1970's*

"Americans cannot continue much longer pouring poisons into the air at the rate of 142 million tons a year without suffocating in the kind of killer smogs that have already taken lives in Los Angeles, New York, and London. By 1980, we will be producing enough sewage and other waterborne wastes to consume, in dry weather, all the oxygen in all 22 river systems in the United States, while the need for fresh water will have almost doubled. And even if this impending crisis in domestic water supply should be averted, the bleak outlook remains that the vast interference with plant and animal life caused by the ceaseless growth in population threatens to disrupt the very balance that makes the earth habitable to man."

These remarks were made by Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. They point up the fact that the protection of our living space and natural environment is one of the most vital requirements of the decades ahead. We need to assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings. The broad scope of environmental problems and the increasing impact of technology in the next decade places a tremendous challenge before the engineering profession --- to understand


and evaluate the social, ecological, and esthetic impacts of our work on society and its inhabitants.

During this National Engineer's Week it's a good time to call attention to what the 1970's will mean for man, his technology, and his environment. This decade will see a major turning point in how we use technology to help protect and conserve our environment. Professional Engineers in the 1970's are going to design machines and systems in which people and their human needs are part of the equation. Engineering will be in the center of the environmental action as we move into the new decade... engineers will point toward creative technical design --- but only under conditions that protect and preserve our wildlife, our rivers, lakes and seashores, our whole living environment. These are the people who will design a significant part of the heritage which Ameri-

ca will pass on to the next generation.

The American people will no longer be satisfied with mere lip service. It is imperative that the question of environmental quality be treated at the highest levels with the effective concern that the subject demands. It is imperative during the observance of this 20th Annual National Engineer's Week that the engineering profession demonstrate -- and it has before -- that our waters will not be made into a cesspool; our air will not be made a depository for poison; and our good earth will not be made into a mass of rubbish.

New Hampshire has seen the start of both of the above forces at work -- pollution and anti-pollution. Many projects have been monitored closely to insure that the Granite State will maintain its many natural beauties secure from the infiltration of those to whom the almighty dollar means more than his neighbor, town, city or State. A recent newspaper article noted the formation of a group of lawyers to support the forces of anti-pollution. The New

Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers can do no worse than to pool its many resources in the fight for tighter controls and professional conduct in activities affecting our environment. 

HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
 Dec - Jan 69 70  
 New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers  
 THE OBSERVER  
 VOL. 1  
 NO. 6

## APPLAUSE AND LAUGHTER AT 2008 E-WEEK BANQUET

The 2008 New Hampshire Engineers Week Banquet promises to be twice the fun this year. We will celebrate excellence in our profession and we will laugh at the humorous side of engineering!

The annual celebration will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel at the Center of New Hampshire.

The engineering societies of New Hampshire will present the coveted Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year awards to the best of the best. These awards recognize exemplary talent, effort and spirit in our profession and in

our community. A long list of legends in the history of New Hampshire engineering are on the roster of previous winners.

The evening's keynote speaker will be Mr. Brian Brenner, P.E., a project manager and structural engineer with Fay, Spofford & Thorndike in Burlington, Massachusetts. He also teaches at Tufts University. Brenner is the author of *Don't Throw This Away!*, a witty perspective on life as an engineer. You are sure to leave laughing!

Look for registration details at [www.nhspe.com](http://www.nhspe.com). 

Submitted by George Fredette, PE

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**February 6, 2008**

NHDES Update

**February 21, 2008**

Engineers Week Banquet  
and Exhibition

**March 8, 2008**

MATHCOUNTS State Competition

**March 20, 2008**

NH National Guard  
Joint Force Headquarters

**April 2008**

New PE Dinner

**June 27, 2008**

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Induction of Officers

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NSPE Annual Conference  
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## 57<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ENGINEERS WEEK BANQUET AND EXHIBITION

*Thursday, February 21, 2008*

*Radisson Hotel*

*The Center of New Hampshire*

*Manchester, New Hampshire*

### AGENDA

4:00 pm Exhibit set-up

5:00 pm Exhibits open

5:30 pm Social hour  
Cash bar and Hors d'Ouvres

7:00 pm Buffet dinner

8:00 pm Presentation of Awards

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Follow Canal Street about one mile (8 lights) to Granite Street (Bus Terminal is  
on your left). Go left on Granite Street, hotel garage in on the left.

From Points South of Manchester: from 293 north take exit 5. Turn right off  
ramp, through two set of lights, hotel garage is on the left.

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## **57TH Annual Engineers Week**

### **Awards Banquet And Exhibition Registration Form**

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**New Hampshire Society  
of Professional Engineers**



*Radisson Hotel  
The Center of New Hampshire  
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February 21, 2008*