

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Open House</i>	1
<i>User Guide for the PESR</i>	1
<i>New Assistant Deputy Minister</i> ...	2
<i>ABSA's Board of Directors</i>	2
<i>Reference Tool</i>	2
<i>Revised 1st Class Syllabus</i>	3
<i>Grade C Pressure Welder Certification</i>	3
<i>Alberta Student received Highest Marks</i>	3
<i>Quebec Applying to join SOPEEC</i>	4
<i>Procedural Error</i>	4

This Newsletter is a publication of ABSA. ABSA grants readers permission to make photocopies of this Newsletter for free distribution to employees and business associates. Articles may be copied in part or in whole provided credit be given to ABSA.

OPEN HOUSE

ABSA moved to the new head office building in the Edmonton Research Park in March. We are settling in and are planning to have an open house for our friends and clients in September.

Thursday, September 14th, 2006 is the day we have picked for our grand opening. If you are in the area that day we would be pleased to have you visit.

Watch for more details on our website toward the middle of August and plan to join us. ❖



USER GUIDE FOR THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT SAFETY REGULATION

The Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR), Alberta Regulation 49/2006, came into effect April 1, 2006. The PESR is posted on the Queen's Printer website. You can access this Regulation at www.absa.ca under "Acts, Regulation and Codes".

To assist with the implementation of this new legislation, the PESR User Guide ([ABSA Ref. AB-516](#)) was developed. The purpose of the User Guide is to provide a better understanding of the intent and requirements of the PESR in order to promote safe operation of pressure equipment installed in Alberta. It is also intended to provide guidance on what the stakeholders should do to comply with the requirements of the Regulation.

In the User Guide, text within boxes is quoted from the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation or the Safety Codes Act. The text outside the boxes is unofficial and provides guidance information.

ABSA intends to update the User Guide as issues or improvements are identified. If you have any suggestions for improving the User Guide, please contact ABSA at Litvinchuk@absa.ca.

You may download and print a copy of the PESR User Guide or part thereof from the ABSA web site for personal use or for free distribution to other regulation users, but information so distributed must be attributed and be credited to the source document. The current revision of the User Guide is Rev 1 dated 2006-04-18. The most up-to-date version will always be the one that is on our website at www.absa.ca. It must be noted that any downloaded version is only valid to the date when the downloading takes place. ❖

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS



We wish to thank Denis St. Arnaud who retired from the position of Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) for his support and advice and we welcome Ivan Moore to his new role and look forward to continuing to build our partnership.

Recently appointed as the ADM for the Public Safety Division of Municipal Affairs, Ivan has worked in support of Alberta's safety system for several years. In his previous position as Executive Director of the Safety Services Branch, Ivan worked closely with stakeholders in all aspects of the safety system and is proud of the relationships he has established through close ties with the Safety Codes Council, the Fire Service Advisory Committee and municipal safety services personnel.

In his new role as ADM, Ivan is focused on working even closer with these organizations in their efforts to maintain safety in their communities. His long-term goal is to ensure that Municipal Affairs has the proper support structures in place to assist municipalities in looking at the big picture of community risk management and developing innovative new ways of delivering the best possible safety services to their residents. Ivan is also committed to building on the success of ABSA and the other Delegated Administration Organizations to continue to improve the manner in which safety services are delivered throughout the province.

Ivan joined the Alberta government in 1998 following a 26-year career in the Canadian Air Force as an aircraft maintenance officer and aircraft weapon specialist. A mechanical engineer specializing in machine design, Ivan also has extensive education and experience in accounting and strategic management, as well as practical experience in almost every safety discipline ranging from industrial health and safety to nuclear accident response. ❖

ABSA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ABSA, the pressure equipment safety authority, is pleased to announce Mr. Dave Rushford's appointment to the Board as a Director. Mr. Rushford is currently Vice President - Canadian Plains Region Business Services, EnCana Corporation. Dave is a petroleum engineer with 24 years of experience covering all aspects of the upstream industry with a strong focus on managing interdisciplinary teams. We thank Dave for his willingness to give leadership along with the rest of the Board and welcome him to ABSA.

Dave fills the vacancy being left by Owen Baker who joined the Board in 2000 as a member representing the upstream oil and gas industry on ABSA's five-member board. Owen has served two 3-year terms which is the maximum allowed by the Bylaws. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Owen for his significant contribution and valued leadership.

Dave joins Yves Tremblay, Vice President, Syntech Enerflex; Warren Fraleigh, Business Manager and Secretary Treasurer for the Boilermakers Local Lodge 146; Dr. Brian Larson, past President of Lakeland College and Don McFarlane, President, Cessco.

Board members are selected through a 3-member nominating committee process that consists of a Board member, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, and a member of the public. ❖

REFERENCE TOOL

The Alberta Energy Utilities Board (EUB) has just published a Reference Tool for Interpreting Jurisdictional Relationships for Pipeline, Pressure Equipment, and Pressure Piping. This Reference Tool provides aid in the interpretation of the interrelationships of the Alberta Oil and Gas Conservation Act and Regulations; the Alberta Pipeline Act and Regulation; and the Alberta Safety Codes Act and the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation. Specifically for pressure piping, the Reference Tool describes where CSA Z662 Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems applies and where ASME B31.3, Process Piping applies.



You can go directly to the EUB website (http://www.eub.ca/docs/documents/directives/Directive056_RegulatoryJurisdictionInterpretation.pdf) to download this document. For your convenience, we have also established a link to the document. ❖

UPDATE ON REVISED FIRST CLASS POWER ENGINEER EXAMINATION SYLLABUS

On September 1, 2006, the Revised First Class Power Engineer Examination Syllabus will become effective and new examinations will be introduced covering the revised syllabus.

A [comparison](#) between the Old and Revised First Class syllabus is available at www.sopeec.org. The change is so substantial that examination papers already successfully completed in the Old First Class syllabus cannot be integrated into the Revised First Class syllabus.

A 6-month transition period will begin on September 1, 2006, and end on February 28, 2007. During this transition period, all examination applicants will have the option of starting examinations under either the old syllabus or the revised syllabus. By March 1, 2007, all applicants who have not successfully completed at least one examination paper under the old syllabus will only be able to write their examinations under the revised syllabus. ❖

GRADE C PRESSURE WELDER CERTIFICATION

Due to the high demand for pressure welders in Alberta, and based on input from industry, the Grade C Pressure Welder Certification Program has gone through an extensive review process to balance the special needs of Alberta industry, while maintaining the level of pressure equipment safety in Alberta.

A Directive on Grade C Pressure Welder Certification was issued as [Information Bulletin IB06-002](#) on July 14, 2006.

The Directive provides clarification on the requirements and process for the Initial Certificate of Competency, Additional Performance Qualifications and subsequent Certificate of Competency for Grade C Pressure Welders.

Here are some of the key information items and processes from the Directive: Generally, the Grade C Certificate of Competency will not be renewable. Renewal will only be considered for Alberta apprentices and, under special circumstances, for journeyman welders. A manufacturer with a welder testing program may issue an additional performance qualification certification to a welder holding a Grade C Certificate of Competency under the conditions established in IB06-002. For other Grade C Pressure Welders, an additional performance qualification certification may be obtained through testing conducted by an ABSA Safety Codes Officer.

The Directive also deems ABSA form AB-76A, Welder Qualification Record, to be equivalent to a performance qualification card under Section 6 of the [Pressure Welders Regulation](#) (AR 169/2002) for the purpose of documenting the additional performance qualification certification of Grade C Pressure Welders. ❖

An Alberta Power Engineering Student Received the Highest Marks in Canada

At the annual Interprovincial Power Engineering Curriculum Committee (IPECC) and the Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee (SOPEEC) meeting held in June, an Alberta 4th Class Power Engineering student won the top power engineering student award from PanGlobal Training Systems Ltd.

Ms Sholeh Kazemi, from Keyano College in Fort McMurray, obtained the highest combined marks (95% college marks and 91.7% SOPEEC exam marks) in Canada for last year. The award was presented to Ms Kazemi by John Siggers (SOPEEC Chair), Garry White (IPECC Chair), and Bob Clarke (Chief Operating Officer of PanGlobal). ❖

EXCITING NEWS – QUEBEC IS APPLYING TO JOIN SOPEEC

June 14, 2006, marked an historic event at the 32nd Annual SOPEEC meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan. Quebec is applying to join SOPEEC as a member and Canada may soon be united as a whole with respect to the standardization of power engineering examinations and certification. The application will be forwarded to the Association of Chief Inspectors (ACI) for approval.

In the photo, Yucca Leonard, 6th from the left, is representing Quebec. Other SOPEEC members who attended the meeting, from left to right, are Fred Golar (BC), Parkson Yeung (AB), Chris Selinger (SK), Ray Kolbuch (MB), Paul Annis (ON), John Siggers (NS), Eben Creaser (NB), and Ken Hynes (PEI).



The Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee (SOPEEC) is a committee to develop and promote the utilization of a uniform national standard for the qualification, examination and certification of power engineers, providing for mobility of power engineers within Canada. SOPEEC is delegated by, and responsible to, the Association of Chief Inspectors. SOPEEC is currently comprised of one member from each participating Canadian jurisdiction with the exception of Quebec (which is not a member), and a representative from Human Resources and Social Development (Canada). ❖

EXPLOSION AND FIRE CAUSED BY PROCEDURAL ERROR

An explosion occurred at a gas plant due to procedural error by the operator.

The site was shut-down for scheduled maintenance and all valves and controllers that had had their positions altered during the shut-down were to have been flagged to ensure proper reset before start-up.

In this case, the high limit controller of a pressure vessel (lower temperature separator or LTS) was shut off but not flagged. Upon start up, all of the LTS contents, including natural gas liquids (NGL), were dumped into the glycol flash tank. The contents were drained into the underground storage tank.

The underground storage tank is connected to each of the building floor drains. The vapours from the NGL flowed into the open drain system, and within moments an explosion was heard. Fortunately, the plant emergency shut-down device (ESD) was activated. The small fire was extinguished by plant operators.

Other contributing factors include the fact that the lower explosive limit (LEL) monitors were time de-activated for the shut-down. Also, even if activated, the monitors would not have detected the propane and butane in the building as all the monitors are set to detect methane gas and the vapours would be well above the LEL when the monitors could detect the vapours. It was determined that the source of ignition was the turbocharger on a compressor driver and when the LEL's were exceeded from the floor drains the explosion occurred. ❖

ABSA OFFICES

Edmonton - Head Office

9410 - 20 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6N 0A4
Tel (780) 437-9100
Fax (780) 437-7787

Grande Prairie

#203, 10109 - 97th Avenue
Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V N5
Tel (780) 538-9922
Fax (780) 538-9400

Fort McMurray

Mailing Address:
8115 Franklin Avenue, Box #30
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2H7
Tel (780) 714-3067
Fax (780) 714-2380

Internet address

<http://www.absa.ca>

Calgary

Tower 3,
#590 1212-31st Avenue N.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2E 7S8
Tel (403) 291-7070
Fax (403) 291-4545

Lethbridge

#300, 515 - 7th Street South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 2G8
Tel (403) 394-1011
Fax (403) 327-2483

Medicine Hat

#103, 346 - 3rd Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 0G7
Tel (403) 529-3514
Fax (403) 529-3632

Red Deer

#304, 4406 Gaetz Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta T4N 3Z6
Tel (403) 341-6677
Fax (403) 341-3377