

ENGINEERING STANDARDS UPDATE

Standards are serious business, but this newsletter isn't.

Topics this month:

- **Building Department Org Changes**
- **Apps for Engineers**
- **Nuclear Workers Behaving Badly**
- **Document Numbering**
- **Why do engineers stay in the field? Share your insights in a survey**
- **LANL Standards Issued in March**
- **DOE Technical Standards Actions**
- **When Good Conduct of Engineering Isn't Followed**

The Standards Homepage: <http://engstandards.lanl.gov/>

BUILDING DEPARTMENT ORG CHANGES

Sometimes inspiration for a topic just falls in one's lap. Seems someone Googled "LBO" and connected it to "large bowel obstruction." Perhaps, but at LANL it stands for LANL Building Official. Now, some may think our program obstructs movement just like a GI problem, but there's a "load" of evidence that it greatly improves design and construction quality -- though we still have a little ways to go. Having a building department is universal in the developed world since they're effective: last night's Chilean quake was an 8.2 but only three were crushed. Building departments are catching within DOE: Sandia now has a program and Livermore is modeling ours. So, in fact it's a "regular" process – but NOT alimentary, my dear Watson.

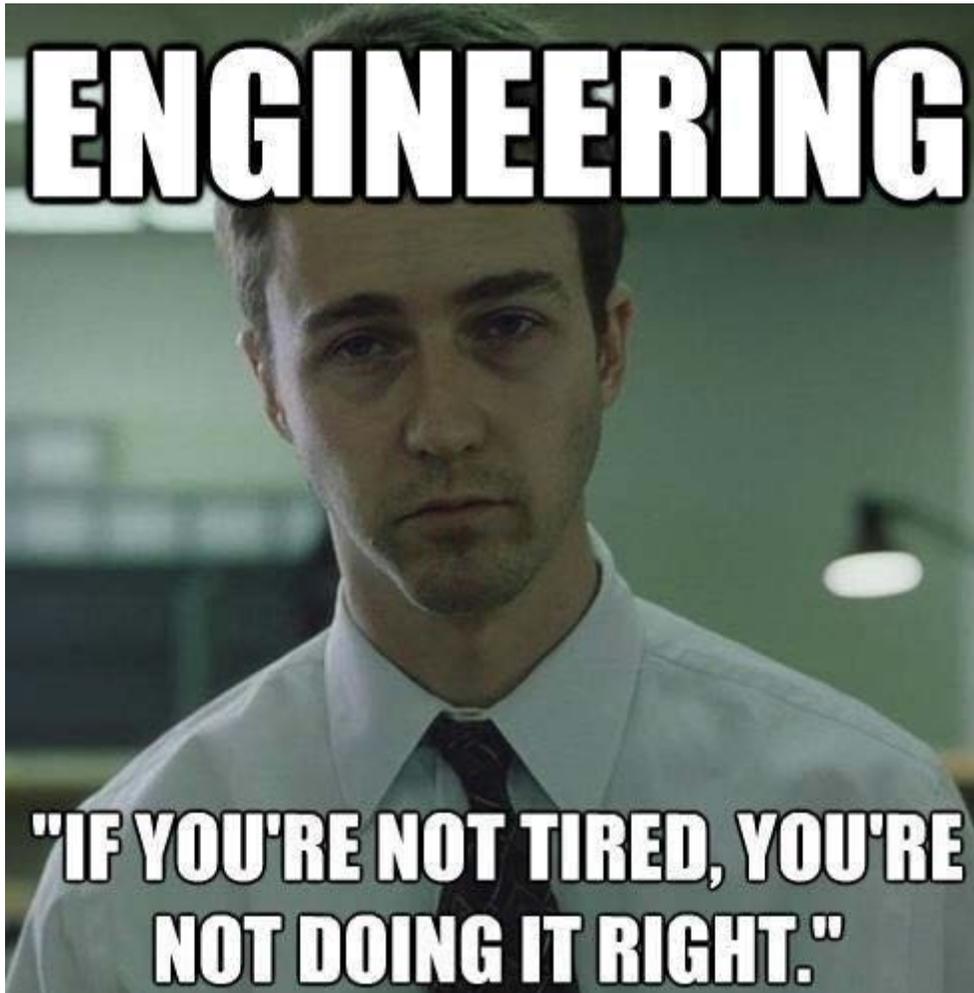
Moving on: The LANL Building Department under Larry Goen is undergoing some personnel changes. Richard Trout retired in March; he'd been doing the bulk of the permitting approvals since the program began in 2006 – making sure all design reviewers were satisfied before approving for construction with the LBO stamp. Now, his long-time alternate David Smith will do this with Scott Richardson as his backup. Also, new-hire Joni Weamer will be the new ES-EPD Group Leader effective April 7, making her the main Deputy Building Official acting when Larry is out.

Also, while not LBO staff per se, Scott Richardson is now the Drafting Manual POC vice Richard, with Ed Seawalt his alternate and David Smith assisting. We'll update the website names next week when Joni arrives.

APPS FOR ENGINEERS

Techie types may like this. Of course, you can't use apps for nuclear tasks since there's no software QA, but then you probably don't have a decent smartphone behind that fence anyway.

["Apps for Engineers"](#) is an 'app of apps'... It contains links to nearly 150 iOS and 90 Android mobile applications created by a number of companies... Apps for Engineers is loaded with various calculators, catalogs, file viewers, measurement tools, and more. Version 1 of Apps for Engineers will allow the user to sort by "Category" or "Type," navigate to a list of apps under each of these menus, view an app profile for each, and link to either the App Store or Android Marketplace to download the app. The app is designed so engineers can review, rate, and post comments about the apps they downloaded within the app itself..."



NUCLEAR WORKERS BEHAVING BADLY

Last month I mentioned the NRC's "deliberate ignorance" rulemaking. For the full Fed Register text, click [here](#) (thanks to Matt Cover).

New topic from the NRC:

"The NRC investigated the incident in which senior reactor operator Michael J. Buhrman, planned to rob an armored car and recruited the assistance of another senior reactor operator, Landon E. Brittain. The plan was not carried out. However, Buhrman was apprehended for aggravated vehicular carjacking and fled the country after being released on bail. He was tried and sentenced in absentia. Brittain has a number of criminal charges pending against him.

The NRC concluded that Buhrman's and Brittain's actions while offsite demonstrated they could not be relied upon to adhere to NRC requirements to protect plant and public safety. In addition, Dresden personnel who knew about Buhrman's plan to commit an offsite crime failed to report the situation to plant management, which is an NRC requirement for workers who have unescorted access to the plant.

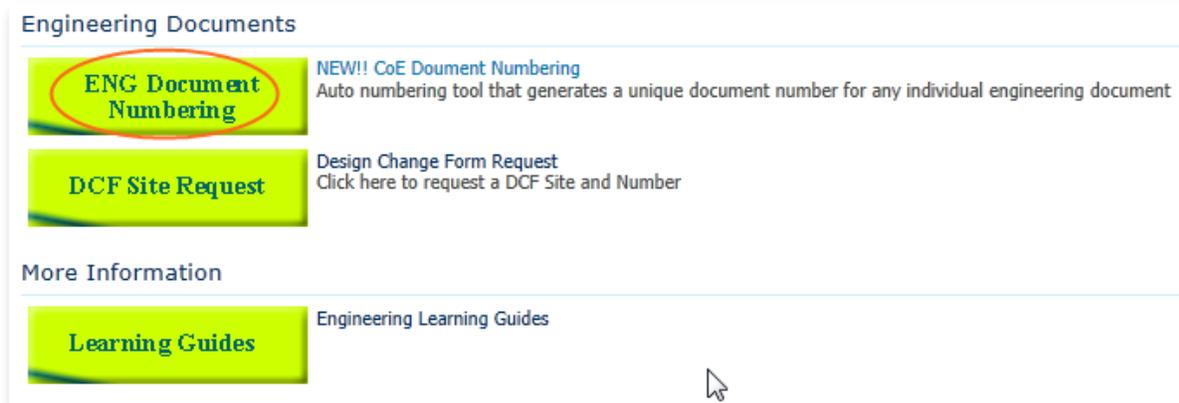
"We expect nuclear workers to be trustworthy and feel responsible for plant safety. This includes alerting management should they encounter questionable behavior in other workers. Plants must have effective programs and training to make sure employees adhere to these standards," said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson. "The incident at Dresden shows a failure to adhere to NRC requirements. This situation was unusual; we do not normally encounter this type of egregious behavior in plant workers. For this reason, the NRC has taken strong regulatory action against the individuals involved and the plant.

Exelon is taking steps to address the problem and we will evaluate their effectiveness going forward."

DOCUMENT NUMBERING

SharePointMaster Curtis Thompson writes "the automated CoE document numbering site is ready for use, and that Christina put a button on the APs page (see screenshot) and will add some other links at various CoE web pages."

Now engineers can do work with even less human interaction!



The link to the APs page is : <https://coe.lanl.gov/APs/default.aspx> The direct URL for the doc numbering site is: <https://coe.lanl.gov/APs/DocNum/SitePages/Home.aspx>

WHY DO ENGINEERS STAY IN THE FIELD? SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS IN A SURVEY

Some may wish to complete this survey. The promise:

“Contribute your experiences to the first study to document what engineers enjoy most -- and least - about their jobs, workplaces and ultimately, the engineering profession. The researchers behind the groundbreaking study *Stemming The Tide: Why Women Leave Engineering* are conducting a national survey of women and men currently employed as engineers. The findings will help engineering societies, policymakers, and educators create and shape initiatives that optimize engineers' engagement at work and in their careers. [Take the survey.](#)”

I checked it out and it looks legit from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. And with this in the informed consent, you can't lose:

What risks will I face by participating in this study?

While unlikely, it's possible that by participating in this study, you might experience some discomfort as survey items ask you to reflect on yourself and your career experiences. If you do experience unwanted discomfort, you may decline to respond to particular items or decline to continue the survey. You also may contact the principal investigator at the phone number or email address below, who is a trained counselor.

LANL STANDARDS ISSUED IN MARCH

None. This slowdown is partly a funding problem -- though we will be issuing some critical DOE O 420.1C-related ESM revisions this year, plus a few important spec and detail revisions. And while Standards POCs will always give free advice and snark, they'll need a charge code for much more than that.

DOE TECHNICAL STANDARDS ACTIONS

DOE [Tech Stds](#) activity this past month: None

WHEN GOOD CONDUCT OF ENGINEERING ISN'T FOLLOWED

Or even kindergarten math. Thanks to Jerry Gutsell for sending this.

Question # 1
How much does a house weigh?

Question # 2

How much weight can a rural two-lane bridge hold???

.
. **and** .
. .
.





Question # 3
**WOULD THIS BE COVERED BY
HOME INSURANCE,
CAR INSURANCE, OR
DOES IT COME UNDER ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE???**

LAST MONTH'S UPDATE TOPICS

Miss an issue? The archive is at "[Monthly Update](#)" on the Standards [homepage](#). Last month's topics:

- **CoE Hero**
- **CoE Office Director**
- **Systems Engineering PDUs**
- **Nuclear Workers Behaving Badly**
- **LANL Standards Issued in February**
- **DOE Technical Standards Actions**
- **When Good Conduct of Engineering Isn't Followed**

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Tobin Oruch, Engineering Standards Mgr
Los Alamos Nat'l Lab, Conduct of Eng Program Office
TA-16-200 M/S F696 ph (505) 665-8475
oruch@lanl.gov <http://engstandards.lanl.gov/>
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