

Comprehensive Power Engineer Training increases Safety, Production and Plant Performance at Montenay Inc., British Columbia, Canada: A Case Study

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Disastrous boiler and pressure vessel incidents result in loss of property and life. Most accidents are due to individual or human error, not equipment. It is important for plant supervisors and management to know how training has been implemented in a plant that has not had any accidents, and has also increased production and overall plant performance.

Important points on this topic?

- A survey was conducted in Fall of 2002 of Pressure Vessel Accidents since 1994 in all British Columbia organizations that have Power Engineers on staff. Of all respondents, zero reported having any pressure vessel accidents.
- Why 4th Class Power Engineer Training should be a mandatory entry level qualification to work on pressure vessels in a power plant.
- Why the cost of upgrading current employees with 4th class Power Engineer Training should be considered as an investment in Operations, not as a professional development employee cost.
- The presentation will include a live Question and Answer discussion with representatives from Montenay Inc, and the BCIT Power Engineer faculty to review the following:
- How safety, productivity and plant production are related to comprehensive power engineer training.
- How 4th Class Power Engineer Training is delivered to plants that cannot send employees to classes on campus. Plants without access to local Power Engineer graduates can provide training through distance education, with more or less support from a live instructor according to the ability of the employees to learn.
- The presentation will include a live demonstration of an instructor teaching a Power Engineering lesson to the conference room using internet and speaker phone.

Commitment must come top down to remove all barriers to training and the adoption of the learning to on the job. Employees properly trained to a Canadian 4th Class Power Engineer Certificate level, achieved through Distance Education or Classroom based study contribute to fewer boiler incidents and power plant safety issues, plus improve plant productivity and efficiency.

Vicki Asada has worked in public and private Education and Distance Technologies since 1986, and has designed, implemented and managed training and training centres in heavy industry and manufacturing for such firms as Toyota Motor Manufacturing, IBM, Celestica, Dow Chemical, Uniroyal, Weyerhaeuser and many financial and other pulp and paper and petrochemical organizations. She has recently joined BCIT to further develop this Canadian polytechnic institutions' worldwide reach to provide education services to Manufacturing and Industrial Mechanical sectors, as BCIT's impact on provincial plant safety, productivity and performance has been remarkable. She is certified as an instructor, an ex-model and television hostess, has an undergraduate degree in Health Studies and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree at University of British Columbia.