



The Chemical Consultant

Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc.

Scientific, Engineering, Business & Management Consultants

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Jan.– June, 2007

FUTURE MEETINGS

Please hold these dates

SEPT 25

TBA

OCT 23

Annual Meeting

New York City

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers (ACC&CE) is a network of senior-level consultants with a broad range of functional expertise and many years of experience in the chemical and allied industries.

The purposes of the organization are:

To furnish support to its members as they conduct their consulting practices.

To offer prospective clients a “clearing house” which they can use to find the most qualified consultants or team of consultants whatever their particular problem may be.

This newsletter is intended to support those purposes as well as to educate prospective new members and prospective client organizations about ACC&CE, and how we can be most helpful to them.

The ACC&CE has an interactive website – www.chemconsult.org, that allows prospective clients either to input their problem or to search for those consultants most skilled in their area of concern. This website also allows prospective members to access information on the organization, including back-issues of the newsletter, meeting notices, etc. It also obviously serves as a resource for the Association’s members, including allowing each member to have his/her own webpage, which benefits from the visibility of the entire ACC&CE website.

IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue, we are continuing the feature begun in our last newsletter, presenting descriptions of assignments carried out by a number of our members. The goal is to illustrate the wide variety of talent and experience contained in the membership of the Association. For our members, this should serve to help each of us better market our own portfolios of experience and expertise. For our non-member readers, who may from time to time need or be aware of needs for expert consultants, this should be an encouragement to keep the Association on his or her short list.

We are also taking an opportunity to recognize the publication of an article by Dr. John C. Bonacci, our member Number 821, as well as to recognize a new member who has joined since the last newsletter

I am trying a new software for this issue of the Chemical Consultant. Please let me know what you think. Joe Porcelli, Newsletter Editor

Our Congratulations to John C. Bonacci, Ph.D., P.E., Certificate #821 (and Current Vice President)

An article by one of our members, Dr. John Bonacci, appears in the January, 2007 issue of Chemical Engineering Progress (CEP), the AIChE Member Magazine, on page 47. The article is designated as dealing with Environmental Management and is entitled "Improve Catalytic Oxidizer Operation", and describes a very clever concept for revamping these units in a low-cost way while achieving substantially improved performance, AND, at the same time extending the useful life of the expensive oxidation catalyst.

Those familiar with catalytic oxidation will know that in many applications, a thin layer of a ceramic multilith is installed upstream of the oxidation catalyst, to protect the catalyst against fouling by trace components in the vapor being oxidized. The concept described in the article is the replacement of that ceramic layer with one that has been impregnated with a low level of oxidation catalyst, but while maintaining the main catalyst bed inlet temperature at the level mandated by the environmental permits. The net effect, while still protecting the main catalyst, is to take advantage of the smaller exotherm over the "pre-catalyst" and lower the gas temperature leaving the preheater to while keeping the main catalyst inlet temperature at the desired level. This has two beneficial effects—it lowers the fuel consumption of the furnace, and it lowers the outlet temperature of the main catalyst bed, by essentially the same amount as the temperature rise in the pre-catalyst bed.

The article includes data on operation before and after adding this feature, as well as information on operating cost savings due to the longer catalyst life achieved and the reduced number of cleanings of the main catalyst bed.

For Bonacci, this article is a valuable marketing tool—CEP reaches over 40,000 chemical engineers around the world, and if any of them will need help with VOC abatement or other catalytic oxidizer applications, or if they hear of someone who does need that help, there is a reasonable chance that John will be contacted. This should give all of us the incentive to consider what articles we might write about our own areas of expertise, that would be of general interest to the technical public. Particularly today, with web searches, articles such as this one will lead the web searcher right to Bonacci's email address.

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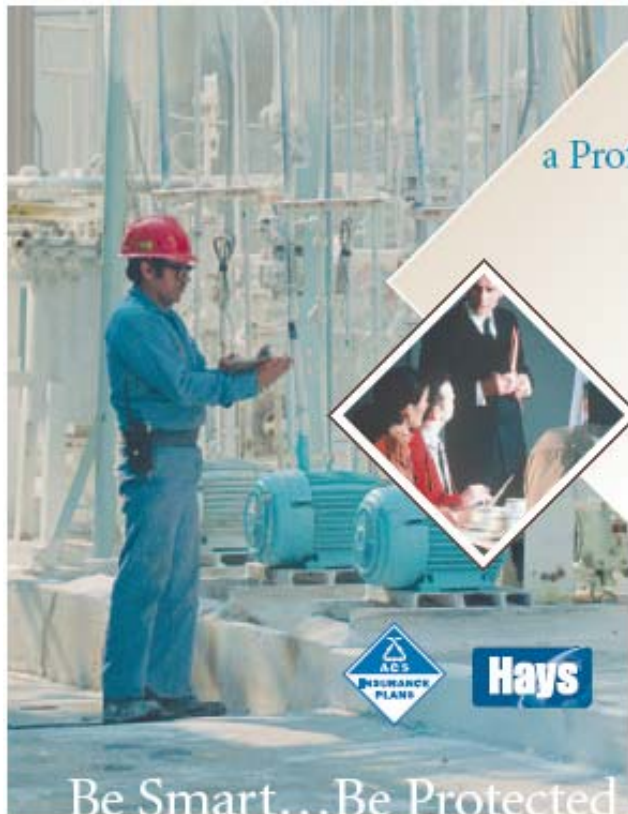
NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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YOUR NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW LOOK!

Ever since I took over the Newsletter job from Peter Hay, when he moved from the Northeast to the Southwest, I have been struggling to put out a newsletter that would be of interest to our members and to our other non-member readers (a great majority). It has been my intention to get out three newsletters a year, and I've been successful in that until this year. This newsletter, the first for 2007, has taken over six months to issue.

Fortunately for me but unfortunately for ACC&CE, it has been an extremely busy time for me, both with respect to consulting and to personal matters. My work load is coming down (maybe too far), and I have finally had some time to work on my "volunteer" activities and, for the first time this year, to play golf! It is my intention to still issue three newsletters in 2007, but as a practical matter, the second and third will issue at the end of the third quarter and the end of the year, respectively.

The second challenge that I have faced in getting newsletters out is the one Peter Hay warned me about—content. I have repeatedly asked members and particularly officers, to contribute items of interest to our readers, with mixed results at best. We've had some interesting items on what our members do, and we've recognized some achievements by members, and discussed to some extent the presentations made at some of our meetings. But this year in particular, content has been pretty sparse—I would welcome even non-members to send me content that, if appropriate, we might share with the rest of the readership.

The third challenge to getting a newsletter out is the job of cutting and pasting of ads and articles and laying them out. Up to this issue, I've struggled with Microsoft Word, and if any of you have tried to place files in Word, you will recognize how difficult that is, particularly if you are not an expert user of that software. Everytime a file is inserted, it disrupts all of the content including pages before and after the point of insertion. Perhaps someone else can tame the MSWord tiger, but I have not been able to. This time, after hearing complaints about uneven ad sizes, numbers of columns, etc. I decided to try out MS Publisher, and as of this writing, I'm very encouraged. I'm still very early on the learning curve but I'm hopeful that the nuts and bolts problems of publishing a newsletter are soon to be behind me.

I welcome your comments on this newsletter including suggestions for improving future issues. But most of all, I would welcome CONTENT, CONTENT, CONTENT!

Thanks for reading.

Joe Porcelli—Editor, The CHEMICAL CONSULTANT

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Experiences of our Member Consultants

Merrill Cohen, Certificate #920, submitted the following description of his work for several clients.

Recent consulting experiences have been to follow the chemical literature and report on the latest developments in nanotechnology relating to polymer chemistry and new developments in polymer and composite technology of interest to products of three organizations .

One company is in the flexible film solar power field, where I am also on the Technical Advisory Board (with two Nobel Prize winners). Recent recommendations have related to commercially available (or being developed) transparent moisture diffusion resistant films and also electrically conducting films,the latter using carbon nano-tubes and other technologies.

Another is for a U.S. branch of a European polymer company making products for the aerospace and related industries. The consulting is also concerned with reporting on developments in nanotechnology and polymers for improving the properties of composites used in aircraft, with possible applications in other fields where fiber reinforced composites are used, such as automotive applications, wind turbine blades, power generation equipment, etc.

Ned Forbes, Certificate #896, sent in the following account of the type of work his consulting company, Lonach Consulting, LLC, has been performing for his clients.

Lonach Consulting has been active recently in Technology Scouting for overseas firms wishing to invest in new high-tech businesses. A recent assignment included searching for new businesses in the areas of MEMS, Nanotechnology, Fuel Cells and Energy Storage, Optical Devices, Dyes, Advanced Computer Memory Arrays, and new processes for Semiconductor Processing. Lonach also remains active in the area of polymer properties and surface modification.

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Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of
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NOTES TO OUR READERS

We encourage any of our members or other readers who wish to advertise their services in our newsletter to submit your ad or a business card for inclusion in future issues. Please contact Linda Townsend at 973-729-6671 or at accce@chemconsult.org for our rates and other information.