

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

The Drawingboard

October 2010

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President's Message

*By George Tavoulareas, P.E.
President*

gltp@msn.com

I would like to start this month's President's message with a question. How valuable is your professional engineering license? Make no mistake about it. It's extremely valuable and many non PEs know it. Do you know that there are people out there who would lie, deceive and steal in order to have and use your license? There are people in today's society impersonating professional engineers and other licensed design professionals in order to make a profit. I spoke to a home owner several days ago who needed some A/E design services for a building project. After signing a contract with this imposter for A/E design services and paying him thousands of dollars, the homeowner later learned that the imposter was not a licensed design professional but was using a licensed design professional to stamp the drawings and file them with the Building Department. After doing some research I was able to ascertain that this imposter is a DOB expeditor with many jobs at the building department. I have been told this expeditor has been filing drawings and using a rubberstamper for years. As you know rubber stamping and providing a/e services by non licensed entities is against State law and we as Engineers need to understand the value and importance of our license. We also need to understand that there are individuals out there who are tarnishing our image and giving us a bad name by performing these illegal activities. The state bestows a major trust upon us when they issue our license and in turn we are obligated to protect the health and safety of the public. This rubberstamper is a disgrace to the profession and should be punished severely. The imposter should lose his expediting privilege and go to jail for fraud. This matter has been referred to the NYS Education Department for action and if

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you know of other similar cases please let me know or refer it to the NYS Education Dept. Our reputation is at stake.

On September 27, 2010 past presidents' **Bob LoPinto, Brian Flynn** and I attended a NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) meeting with Commissioner **Cas Holloway**. We were informed by DEP's Deputy Commissioner, **James Roberts**, PE that DEP will be making major changes to their house connection (HCP) and site connection (SCP) application and procedures in the coming months. According to Commissioner Roberts, these application guidelines will be the first to be updated and modified to be more user friendly and will be web based. I refer you to the DEP's website where you can read the proposed draft and complete their online survey. Tell DEP what you think about the new procedure by completing their survey.

On October 12, 2010 the Chapter sponsored a lecture with Tim Lynch, PE, Director of the Forensic Unit for the NYC Dept. of Buildings. Mr. Lynch's topic was building in a dense urban environment and the lecture was well attended with sixty engineers and architects. Mr. Lynch in his true form showed how through web based applications his unit can determine the conditions of a site a hundred years ago.

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Rudi Sherbanski's, President of the PEs in Construction Division special inspection seminar at NYC Tech attracted more than one hundred engineers and architects. Rudi was able to sign up twenty-four new members to the society, congratulations Rudi on a job well done. The previous DOB special inspection rule change I discussed in last month's edition has not been adopted and according to the DOB, another amendment, yes another amendment will be proposed within the next month clarifying the previous requirements for special inspections. Our previous letters to DOB has had an impact.

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The Queens Borough President, **Helen Marshall** is seeking a professional engineer to fill Tom Campagna's position as Chief Engineer. I knew Tom for close to fifteen years and Tom was respected by his peers. Tom passed away late last year. The RFP has been issued and it can be obtained at the Borough President's office in Queens. Proposers must pick up the RFP between 10am-4pm, Monday October 25, 2010 through Friday, November 19, 2010, at the Office of the Queens Borough President, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 250, Kew Gardens, NY 11424; Pat Horan, telephone: 718-286-2660.

November 2, 2010 is Election day. I urge all our members to participate, participate, and get involved. In order for our elected officials to respect us, we need to show them that we are involved in the political process. Go and vote and let your voice be heard.

I look forward to seeing you at our next general membership meeting on October 28, 2010 at Ft.Totten; 6:30pm.

Next Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28 at 6:30PM

Tonight's dinner is courtesy of **Kenneth Schmitt V.P. Exterior Wall Products LTD and there is no charge for NSPE Queens members**

There is a \$15 charge for NSPE members and a \$25 charge for non NSPE members.

One continuing education credit for engineers and architects.

The presentation is: "Designing and Detailing Masonry Wall Systems" topics will include:

- Wire Reinforcement for CMU Veneer Walls,
- Seismic and Wind Load Requirements,
- Anchor Systems,
- Expansion and Control Joints Placement and Spacing,
- Flashing, Drip Plates and the Effects of Moisture,
- Weep Holes and Vents, and
- Why Masonry Fails

Fire Alarm Inspections and the Letter of Defect:

By: George Tavoulareas, PE

The New York City Fire Department, FDNY has announced that they will no longer accept Self-Certification of Fire Alarm Letters of Defect as of December 31, 2010. This means that a re-inspection must be scheduled with FDNY to resolve Letter of Defect issues within 90 days of the original inspection. The average lead time for a FDNY inspection (regular time) is 3-4 months. This will extend the time required for TCO/C of O approval on a new building.

NYSSPE Fall Development Conference

Additional Information: www.nysspe.org

November 12-13, 2010: NYSSPE Fall Professional Development Conference

Up to 5 PHDs

Location: Holiday Inn, 205 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY 12205 ([MAP](#))

Room Rate: \$124.00 – 1-800-Holiday or www.hialbanywolf.com, room reservation due by Oct. 10th

To register and for more information please click [HERE](#)

Friday, November 12, 2010

8:30am – 4:00pm Seminar offered

3:00pm-4:00pm PIE Evaluator Refresher Training

4:00pm – 6:00pm NYSSPE Committee/Task Force Meetings

6:30pm-10:00pm Reception and Dinner

Saturday, November 13, 2010

8:30am-10:00am Nominating Committee Meeting

8:30am-10:00am The Foundation for Engineering Education (FEE) Meeting

8:30am-10:00am Practice Division Meetings

10:15am-1:00pm Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Sponsorship Opportunities available: Click [HERE](#) for more information

All sponsors will be listed on the meeting announcement, on our website, posted at the meeting and published in the New York Professional Engineer.



Environmental
Protection

October 1, 2010

George Tavoulaareas
NYSSPE – Queens Chapters
172 Clinton Road
Garden City, N.Y. 11530

Caswell F. Holloway
Commissioner

RE: Long-term Plan to Improve Customer Service

Dear George Tavoulaareas:

James J. Roberts, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Water and
Sewer Operations
jroberts@dep.nyc.gov

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has begun an agency wide initiative to improve customer service. Initial efforts are focusing on the review and processing of Engineering Approvals, starting with the Regular House Connection Proposal (HCP) and Site Connection Proposal (SCP) Application Guidelines.

59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373

As part of this initiative, we invite you to take part in an industry outreach effort regarding proposed revisions to its Regular House Connection Proposal (HCP) and Site Connection Proposal (SCP) Application Guidelines by taking our online survey. You have been selected to participate in this important undertaking because you or your firm has submitted an HCP or SCP in the last five years, or you represent an industry group that is one of our key stakeholders. The revised draft application guidelines are designed to make the HCP and SCP application process clearer and more transparent with the goal of making the entire process more user friendly and efficient. *Your professional feedback is critical to make this initiative a success.*

To access the online survey and download the draft revised guidelines, click on the "HCP/SCP Outreach" button on the DEP Water and Sewer Forms webpage. Follow these instructions to access the DEP Water and Sewer Form webpage:

- Go to the DEP website at www.nyc.gov/dep,
- Click the "Forms and Permits" link from the list in the left-hand column,
- From the drop-down menu under "Forms and Permits," Click on the "Water and Sewer Forms" link.

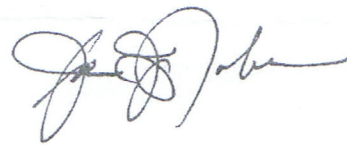
We also encourage you to familiarize yourself with the new layout of the DEP Water and Sewer Forms page, as the placement of applications and guidance materials has changed. In addition, a number of new guidance materials, marked "NEW"!, are available. *The online survey will be available until November 5th, 2010.*

Following the close of the comment period, you will be invited to attend a DEP meeting to be held in each of the five boroughs (Please check the DEP Water and Sewer Forms webpage for dates, times and locations). The purpose of these meetings will be to respond to the comments we have received and to inform the final HCP and SCP Application Guidelines.

If you have any questions or concerns about this HCP and SCP outreach effort, please contact Caroline Forger at cforger@dep.nyc.gov or 718-595-3237.

Thank you in advance for helping us to improve our Engineering Approvals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Roberts", written over a horizontal line.

James J. Roberts, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Water and
Sewer Operations

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PRESIDENT



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PUBLIC NOTICE:

The Office of the Queens Borough President intends to issue an RFP for Engineer - Consultant for the Queens Borough President's Office. It is anticipated that the term of the contract awarded from this RFP will be from January 30, 2011 through January 29, 2012. The contract may include three one-year options to renew. The Office of the Queens Borough President reserves the right, prior to contract award, to determine the length of the initial contract term and each option to renew, if any. It is anticipated that the available annual funding for the contract awarded from this RFP is approximately \$50,000 to \$95,000. However, the actual amount to be encumbered for the contract may be substantially less. This is dependent upon the agency's budget allocations and projections. Final amount will be determined at the time of award of the contract. Greater consideration will be given to proposers that propose more competitive prices in combination with a high quality program.

The RFP can be picked up between 10am – 4pm
Queens Borough President's Office
120-55 Queens Blvd., Room 250
Kew Gardens, NY 11424.
Tel: 718-286-2660

Monday, October 25, 2010 through Friday, November 19, 2010

Bids must be returned by 4pm, Monday, November 22, 2010.

For more information, please contact Pat Horan at the Queens Borough President's Office, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Room 250, Kew Gardens, NY 11424. Tel: 718-286-2660, Fax: 718-286-2647 or email at phoran@queensbp.org

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