November Chapter Meeting
November 17, 2015

Tour:
Huron Campus Chiller Plant Tour

Tour Guide:
Art Studer (Postler & Jaeckle)

Presentation:
TBD

To register, visit the Chapter website: http://twintiers.ashraechapters.org and select the “Programs” page.

Please send all newsletter comments to:
Andrew Nice, Editor
c/o Meier Supply Co.
275 Broome Corporate Parkway
Conklin, NY 13748
Email the Editor
Dear Twin Tiers Chapter Members,

Thank you Petros for putting together a well-rounded Fall Symposium. If we could just skip over Winter in NY and get to your Spring Symposium I think we’d see lots of hands in agreement. Topping off the night after the Fall Symposium was a huge table at Galaxy Brewing, with a few of our YEA’s. Thank you Travis for putting this tour together with the father/son team of the Weisel’s. I’d also like to thank the outpouring of unexpected CTTC donations that night, basically free dinner from these active BOG members; Travis LeBrun (Victaulic, BOG), Rob VanSkiver (H&V Equipment Sales, Refrigeration Chair), Andy Nice (Meier Supply Co., Inc., Resource Promotion, Newsletter, Publicity), and Jacob Schatz (Trane Co., Chapter Treasurer). I’d like to further say thank you to our past Presidents; Andy Nice for drinks at Galaxy Brewing, and Glenn Roberts for drinks at our BOG meeting. I’d encourage anyone interested in observing one of our BOG meetings to do so. This month we will be hosting Bill Walters from the CNY Chapter and Region 1 Director.

This month Travis Fisher and our Refrigeration Chair Rob VanSkiver have set up a tour of the Huron Campus in Endicott. The chillers serve over 800,000 sq.ft. for tenants such as BAE in the old IBM campus. So please check out the Chapter Meeting information page for the details and bring your good walking shoes. There has been a few updates to the calendar of events for the year, and remember, we’re giving out polo shirts for those attending at least four chapter meetings this year. If you make the next four in a row, you may get yours in time for our June Golf and Clambake.

Now that the colder months are upon us, settling in with wood fires at home on the weekends, and planning for family holiday get-togethers are being initiated, one would think that Legionella is no longer a concern. That every piece of equipment has been checked and water has been sampled since mid-September. So it surprised me to hear the news that St Joseph’s Hospital Health Center (Syracuse, NY) may have a possibility of the bacteria in their water system, not the cooling towers. A detail, that I was not aware of, in the water sampling is that sometimes it may produce a false-positive. The additional testing is required by the state health department due to the number of cases occurred within one month. Further culture testing of St’ Joe’s water is ongoing and they should have the results by Nov 2nd. Two cases of legionella are being treated, contracted from the hospital’s drinking water system. The third patient passed away on Monday Oct. 26th, believed to be exposed from outside the hospital. Travis is lining up a presenter for proper water treatment and legionella for January. I hope everyone is available to make it, and please, bring a new member with you for an added bonus of a free meal at this Membership Promotion event in January.

Sincerely,
Doug Breese
Twin Tiers Chapter President
### Presidential Award of Excellence (PAOE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Membership Promotion</th>
<th>Student Activities</th>
<th>Research Promotion</th>
<th>Historical</th>
<th>Chapter Operations</th>
<th>Chapter Technology Transfer</th>
<th>Grassroots Government Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIN/PAR</td>
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<td>300/500</td>
<td>800/1050</td>
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<td>Current</td>
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<td>270</td>
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<td>135</td>
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</table>

100 POINTS CURRENT AS OF 11/06/2015

### Chapter Committee Chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology Transfer</td>
<td>Travis Fisher</td>
<td>(607) 255-5608</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Activities</td>
<td>Petros Papathomopoulos</td>
<td>(607) 723-9421</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigeration</td>
<td>Rob VanSkiver</td>
<td>(585) 591-8168</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf &amp; Clambake Outing</td>
<td>Michael McGinnis</td>
<td>(607) 727-3168</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Promotion</td>
<td>Chris Wolak</td>
<td>(484) 350-1954</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
<td>Andrew Nice</td>
<td>607-760-5960</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Reception</td>
<td>Jacob Schatz</td>
<td>(315) 234-1543</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.O. Ward Scholarship</td>
<td>Jason Gilbert</td>
<td>(607) 777-2240</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Promotion</td>
<td>Andrew Nice</td>
<td>607-760-5960</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activities</td>
<td>Jason Gilbert</td>
<td>(607) 777-2240</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Directory</td>
<td>Chris Wolak</td>
<td>(484) 350-1954</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albern Education Fund</td>
<td>Richard Sanguinito</td>
<td>(607) 231-6605</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors &amp; Awards</td>
<td>Andrew Nice</td>
<td>607-760-5960</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Richard Sanguinito</td>
<td>(607) 231-6605</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium– Fall/Spring</td>
<td>Petros Papathomopoulos</td>
<td>(607) 723-9421</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing</td>
<td>Rick Sanguinito &amp; Jason Gilbert</td>
<td>(607) 231-6605</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Mike Colwell</td>
<td>(607) 724-8282</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Andrew Nice</td>
<td>607-760-5960</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEA: Young Engineers</td>
<td>Travis R. Fisher/Devin Shapley</td>
<td>(607) 255-5608</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Andrew Nice</td>
<td>607-760-5960</td>
<td>Email Me!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Twin Tiers Chapter – Monthly Meeting Information

## 2015-2016 Meeting Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Tech Session Topic, Tour or Meeting Info</th>
<th>Attendance:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>Jason Gilbert / Rick Sanguinito</td>
<td>Dickinson Hall VRF HVAC, Plumbing, FP, and Structural Installation Tour &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>Various / TBD</td>
<td>Fall Engineering Symposium - Daytime</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Brewery Tour</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-Nov</td>
<td>Art Studer (Postler &amp; Jaeckle)</td>
<td>Huron Campus Chiller Plant Tour Themes: Refrigeration Night &amp; History Night Region 1 Guest: Region 1 Director &amp; Regional Chair – Bill Walter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Dec</td>
<td>Casey Bernhard, PE, LEED AP (Labella Associates)</td>
<td>Re-commissioning Theme: Past Presidents/Albern Lecture and Donor Recognition</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16-Feb</td>
<td>Byron Horak (Intertek)</td>
<td>Joint Meeting with Syracuse Chapter, Presentation and Tour of Intertek facility Theme: Research Promotion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Mar</td>
<td>Jason Gilbert (Binghamton University)</td>
<td>Binghamton University Building Tour &amp; Presentation Theme: Student Night &amp; YEA Night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Apr</td>
<td>Multiple/TBD</td>
<td>Spring Engineering Symposium—Daytime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-May</td>
<td>Lanny Joyce / Mark Howe (Cornell University)</td>
<td>Cornell University Building Tour &amp; Presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Jun</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: Speakers and topics are subject to change based on availability.*
Chapter Membership Promotion

Chris Wolak

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall season. As membership promotions chair, I would like to give an update on the current membership numbers:

- 142 Total Members
- 55 Associate Members
- 54 Members
- 33 Student Members

I would also like to welcome the following new members:

Mr. Harshuli Satyendra Singhal
Miss Victoria Ann Kramer
John Evangelista

We are looking to grow the chapter by 2% this year so please tell everyone you know to join ASHRAE!

Chris Wolak
Twin Tiers Membership Chair
Chris.Wolak@Victaulic.com
November Meeting Announcement

November 17, 2014

November Chapter Meeting

EVENT: Huron Campus Chiller Plant Tour
(More Information to Follow)

DATE: Tuesday, November 17th 2014

TIME: 5:30 PM

TOUR LOCATION: Huron Campus
Endicott, NY 13760
(Meeting Location TBD)

TOUR GUIDES: Art Studer (Postler & Jaeckle)

AGENDA:
5:30 – 6:30  -  Tour
6:45 – 7:15  -  Dinner and Brief Chapter Meeting

MENU: TBD

REGISTRATION: $25.00 Early Registration (By 11/13/2015)
$30.00 (After 11/13/2015)

CONTACT: Travis Fisher (Please call, text, or email me at below with any questions or if you get lost)
E: tf222@cornell.edu
C: (607) 972-1342
Twin Tiers Chapter—October BOG Meeting Minutes

AShRAE American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
TWIN TIERS CHAPTER (http://www.twintiers.ashraechapters.org)

MEETING MINUTES
The meeting was called to order at:

Board of Governors Meeting
Date: Tuesday 10/20/2015 @ 4:00 PM
Location: Binghamton Holiday Inn restaurant lounge

1. Call to Order and Attendance: Called to order at 4pm
   a) Attendance: Travis Fisher, Andy Nice, Glenn Roberts, Chris Wolak, Doug Breese, Rob VanSkiver, Jacob Schatz

2. General Announcements – Doug Breese
   a) Approval of September Meeting minutes: Motion by: Travis
   b) Quote for the meeting
   “The Buck Stops Here”, was from President Harry S. Truman, in which he derived from passing of the buck at a poker game, to which a person would stop passing the responsibility to someone else.

3. Treasurer’s Report – Jacob Schatz
   a) Treasurer’s Report – accounts in good standing. See attached Report
      • 2014-15 Audit: Sent to accountant? Unconfirmed
      • Annual budgets. See attached 11x17.
      • December Audit so far

4. PACE Responsibility – Doug

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chairs</th>
<th>Chair Contact</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>PAR</th>
<th>Max</th>
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<td>Chris Wolak</td>
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<td>800</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jason Gilbert</td>
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<td>Research Promotion</td>
<td>Andy Nice</td>
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<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical Criteria</td>
<td>Rick Sanguinoto</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Operations</td>
<td>Doug Breese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grassroots Government Activities</td>
<td>Petros Paphotomoupolo</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Technology Transfer</td>
<td>Travis Fisher</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travis – Keep a running chapter speaker database and update the CTTC-RVC regularly during the year.
Twin Tiers Chapter – October BOG Meeting Minutes

Chair Updates:

a) Chapter Operations:
   - Bill Walter, our Region I Director, will be our guest next month. Here to observe our BOG and Chapter Meetings.
   - Update to Chapter Bylaws (Add: Grassroots and New Logo) – D. Breese

b) Chapter Technology Transfer:
   - Calendar of Events coming up:
     1. Update Chapter Meetings section of Society Chapter Page for the year
     2. Galaxy Brewery tonight
     3. Huron Campus by Andy and Rob for November
     4. Legionella Disease by Rick Lopez possible for December
     5. Intertek facility for February
   - Engineering PDH’s – Travis to review possibilities

c) Grassroots Government Activities: Petros

d) Historical Criteria: Rick S.
   - History Night – November

e) Refrigeration:
   - Refrigeration Night – November: Tour of Huron Campus and Chiller Plant

f) Membership Promotion:
   - MP Night – Jan-15 and May-16 (Joint mtg – SFPE)
   - MBO Goal #1: Retain and increase membership by 2%, current membership is at 112.
   - MBO Goal #2: Reduce delinquency to 5% or less. Currently 19% are past 6 weeks overdue on renewing their annual chapter memberships.

g) Research Promotion:
   - Donor Recognition/Past Presidents Night – Dec-15 Need to send invitation to Joan Alber and son. Certificate of Appreciation for donations.
     1. Mike to mail invites for PP night
   - RP Night – Feb 15 @ Intertek (Cortland NY) combined with CNY Chapter
   - Full Circle – donations need to be sent in by Nov 15th (High Five goal?)
   - 2015 2016 Goal is $6,500
   - Events
     1. Superbowl donation pool
     2. Wine Survivor night @ Dec. Meeting

h) Student Activities:
   - Student Activity Night - March
5. Committees:
   a) Meeting Reception (J. Schatz): Nametags & Sign-in sheet
   b) Student Committee (J. Gilbert):
      1. Alfred (Jason to contact Dr. Joe C) and Cornell (Travis to take lead) contacts to be notified of end of Student Branch and if they’d like to renew they need to fill out forms from ASHRAE.
      2. Jason to establish BU Student Branch.
      1. (3) Students are required to maintain a student branch and (10) are required to start a branch.
   c) Young Engineers (YEA’S): Event ideas?
      Possibly Water Street Brewery in Feb
   d) Newsletter (A. Nice): Need to include a section for Student Scholarships, see below.
   e) Publicity (A. Nice):
   f) Webmaster (M. Colwell): Need to include a section for Student Scholarships, see below.
   g) Symposium (P. Papathomopoulos): update
   h) Golf & Clambake (Mike McGinnis): June 16th Vestal Hill’s and Mountain Top
   i) Honors and Awards (D. Breese/A. Nice): Chapter Service Awards

6. Old Business
   a) Student Scholarships: General Discussion
      1. How do we make this known to students?
         a. Twin Tiers Website with links and details. – Need to give info to M. Colwell
         b. Newsletter. – Give info to A. Nice
         c. Student Chapters. – J. Gilbert to discuss with BU students
   b) Student Activities: moved to Student Committee discussion
   c) ASHRAE TT to receive a $50 per person credit for each person that attended the CRC from the region.
   d) Management By Objective (MBO): moved to MP Chair

7. New Business
   a) Winter Conference is requesting good quality Photos/Videos of our Chapter Meeting/Tours.
      Send separate files if they are too big. Need to submit by Dec. 1st to acannone@ashrae.org
   b)

Meeting adjourned at 4:45PM    Motion by: Andy    Second by: Mike
What Were They Thinking???

Pure brilliance!

Do you have a funny, “unique”, or just plain horrible installation picture? Please send them to the Editor at anice@meiersupply.com

*** All names/brands are removed to protect the guilty. ***
As a licensed professional in New York State, it is your professional responsibility to know the legal and ethical requirements governing the practice of your profession and to be alert to changes in those requirements. The New York State Board for Engineering and Land Surveying, in an effort to help you stay abreast of your professional responsibilities, has developed this short, self-study educational activity in ethics.

This educational activity is based on the New York State Education Law Articles 130 and 145, the Rules of the Board of Regents Parts 1, 3, 17, 18, 28, 29, 31, and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Parts 59 and 68. It is strongly recommended that, prior to taking the self test, you review these foundational materials (http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pels/pelaw.htm) on the engineering web site.

Once you have reviewed the foundational materials, proceed to complete the self test below. When you have completed the self test, click the "Get your score" button at the bottom of the page. You should print this screen and save it as evidence of satisfactory completion of this educational activity. A score of 90% or greater will allow you to claim 1 Professional Development Hour (PDH) of educational activity credit in ethics ONCE in each three-year registration period. Retain your printed screen for no less than 6 years from the date of completion.

Take Your PE Ethics Self Test Here!

http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pels/peceselftest.htm
New York State Professional Engineers

Need a few extra PDH?
FREE Online Courses are Available!

www.aecdaily.com

www.ronblank.com

The above websites offer free online courses that are approved for credit!
## ASHRAE Learning Institute

### Seminars & Courses at ASHRAE’s Winter Conference in Orlando, FL

### Full-Day Professional Development Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Building Energy Audits</td>
<td>Saturday, January 23, 2016</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioning Process in New &amp; Existing Buildings</td>
<td>Saturday, January 23, 2016</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing HVAC Systems to Control Noise &amp; Vibrations</td>
<td>Saturday, January 23, 2016</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Modeling Best Practices and Applications</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 26, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance of High-Performance Buildings</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 26, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</td>
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</table>

### Half-Day Short Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Design: The Basics and Beyond</td>
<td>Sunday, January 24, 2016</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troubleshooting Humidity Control Problems</td>
<td>Sunday, January 24, 2016</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding &amp; Designing Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems</td>
<td>Sunday, January 24, 2016</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variable Refrigerant Flow System Design &amp; Applications NEW!</td>
<td>Sunday, January 24, 2016</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air-to-Air Energy Recovery Applications: Best Practices</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications of Standard 62.1-2013</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Demand Response &amp; the Coming Smart Grid</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Management Best Practices</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding IAQ Problems</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioning Process &amp; ASHRAE Standard 202</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complying with Standard 90.1-2013: HVAC/Mechanical</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation and Control of Legionella in Building Water Systems NEW!</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2016</td>
<td>2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding Standard 90.1-2013 to Meet LEED Requirements</td>
<td>Monday, January 26, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Equipment Design Evolution &amp; Data Center Operation Optimization</td>
<td>Monday, January 26, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing High-Performance Healthcare HVAC</td>
<td>Monday, January 26, 2016</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Registration Information

- **Internet:** [www.ashrae.org/orlandocourses](http://www.ashrae.org/orlandocourses)
- **Phone:** Call 1-800-527-4723 (US and Canada) or 404-636-8400 (worldwide)

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**American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.**

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Since 1977

November 2015
ASHRAE HVAC Design Training
2 Courses, 5 Days of Intense Instruction
Atlanta • Halifax • Hong Kong • Houston
Kuala Lumpur • Miami • Minneapolis • Vancouver

**HVAC Design: Level I – Essentials** - Registration is $1,264 ($1,009 ASHRAE Member)
Gain practical skills and knowledge in designing and maintaining HVAC systems that can be put to immediate use. The training provides real-world examples of HVAC systems, including calculations of heating and cooling loads, ventilation and diffuser selection using the newly renovated ASHRAE Headquarters building as a living lab.

**HVAC Design: Level II – Applications** - Registration is $854 ($699 ASHRAE Member)
*HVAC Design: Level II — Applications* provides instruction on HVAC system design for experienced HVAC designers and those who complete the HVAC Design: Level I – Essentials training. The training provides information that allows practicing engineers and designers an opportunity to expand their exposure to HVAC systems design procedures for a better understanding of system options to save energy.

Visit [www.ashrae.org/hvactraining](http://www.ashrae.org/hvactraining) to register.
Sun and fun make Florida a global destination! The 2016 ASHRAE Winter Conference and AHR Expo serve as similar attractions, drawing industry professionals from around the world to advance personally and professionally. The Conference will have a fresh feel with new tracks focused on design-build practices and residential systems as well as programs that align well with current trends in HVAC&R engineering. Energy efficiency and sustainability are emphasized along with current engineering and construction practices outside of the U.S. and Canada. Come experience Florida’s attractions and ASHRAE’s advances in technology.

Highlights!
- ASHRAE Headquarter Hotel is connected to the Orange County Convention Center, site of the AHR Expo. An easy walk to the latest and greatest technology!
- Kick off the Conference with a Welcome Party at SeaWorld!
- Technical Program features fresh feel with new tracks!
More Oil Companies Could Join Exxon Mobil as Focus of Climate Investigations

The New York Times

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS NOV. 6, 2015

HOUSTON — The opening of an investigation of Exxon Mobil by the New York attorney general’s office into the company’s record on climate change may well spur legal inquiries into other oil companies, according to legal and climate experts, although successful prosecutions are far from assured.

Many oil companies have funded lobbying efforts and research on climate change, so prosecutors would most likely be able to search through vast amounts of material. The industry has also resisted pressure for years from environmental groups to warn investors of the risks that stricter limits on carbon emissions could have on their businesses, although that appears to be changing.

“Exxon Mobil is not alone,” said Stephen Zamora, a professor at the University of Houston Law Center. “This is not likely to be an isolated matter.”

Energy experts said prosecutors may decide to investigate companies that chose to fund or join organizations that questioned climate science or policies designed to address the problem, such as the Global Climate Coalition and the American Legislative Exchange Council, to see if discrepancies exist between the companies’ public and private statements.

British Petroleum (now BP), Shell Oil, Texaco (now part of Chevron) and Exxon, along with several manufacturing companies, were all members of the coalition, a group of companies and trade associations that started an advertising campaign in the 1990s opposing Washington’s involvement in strong international efforts like the Kyoto Protocol initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Energy experts said internal documents from member companies about climate change could contradict what the companies said as part of the coalition, which disbanded in 2002.

“There was a concerted effort by multiple American oil companies to obscure the emerging climate science consensus throughout the 1990s,” said Paul Bledsoe, a former White House aide to President Bill Clinton on climate issues. “This group may be vulnerable to legal challenge.”

British Petroleum and Shell Oil left the coalition early on, setting a pattern in which European oil companies took a very different course on climate and other environmental issues than most of their American competitors. Shell announced this summer that it would not renew its membership in the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, a free-enterprise group that has opposed government mandates, subsidies and other efforts to force or encourage companies to develop and use more renewable energy sources.

Occidental Petroleum and several other companies have also left ALEC, but Chevron and Exxon Mobil still support the group.

Big American and European oil companies can point to efforts they have made to support renewable energy, perhaps clouding attempts by prosecutors to paint them as one-sided on the issue of climate change.

Chevron, for example, has been a pioneer in geothermal energy for decades. Exxon Mobil has a project underway to convert algae into a biofuel that can run vehicles and soak up carbon. BP is active in wind power. Several companies in the United States have begun working with the Environmental Defense Fund to limit emissions of methane.

“The oil and gas industry has probably been the biggest funder of research into decarbonization, maybe more even than the federal government,” said Michael Webber, deputy director of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas.

But it has been foreign oil and gas companies, including most recently Total of France and BHP Billiton of Australia, that have been most outspoken about the dangers of climate change.
More Oil Companies Could Join Exxon Mobil as Focus of Climate Investigations (Cont.)

Last month, 10 of the world’s biggest oil companies, including BP, Royal Dutch Shell, Saudi Aramco, Repsol of Spain, Eni of Italy and Total, made a public declaration acknowledging that their industry must help address global climate change.

None of the big American companies joined the group, largely because they oppose carbon taxes and trading of carbon-emission permits — remedies that would raise the price of fossil fuels like oil and natural gas.

Last September, five major European, Asian and Latin American oil and gas companies signed on to a voluntary United Nations-backed program to monitor and disclose methane emissions, as well as invest in technologies to control greenhouse gases from their operations.

The only American company to join was Southwestern Energy, a midsize Houston-based company that mostly invests in natural gas.

“There are times to go off the reservation, and this may be one of them,” said Steven L. Mueller, chief executive of Southwestern Energy, just after his company joined the effort.

Energy experts say it will be harder to make cases against the oil companies than it was against tobacco companies that deliberately hid research from their customers, since many oil company scientists, including those of Exxon Mobil, have presented papers on climate change publicly at conferences and contributed to the research of international groups concerned with the issue.

“Unless they directly lied in Congress, the legal case against them is kind of thin,” said Hal Harvey, chief of Energy Innovation, an energy consultancy. But he added, the record shows that the companies “have walked away from being a credible spokesman on science.”

Twin Tiers Chapter—Employment Opportunities

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