

**The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers  
Newsletter**

**January 2007**

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**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR:**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> is the date  
for the next AEE  
Meeting!**

**Newsletter Editor**

Liz Kimmel, ECI  
(610) 389 3072  
[ekimmel@comcast.net](mailto:ekimmel@comcast.net)

Maryann Donaghy,  
Website  
[mmd@donaghyonline.com](http://mmd@donaghyonline.com)

**Deadline for newsletter  
submissions is 28th day of  
month!**

**Published monthly January-  
June and August - December**

**2007 BOARD**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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**WHAT:** DEP LEED Building Tour

**WHEN:** January 18, 2007

**WHERE:** 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401

**TIME:** 12:00 to 2:00 PM

**CONTACT:** Jim Clark at [clarkenergy@comcast.net](mailto:clarkenergy@comcast.net); 610 325 9229

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED  
RECEIPT AT THE DOOR**

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**COST: \$25 MEMBERS; \$30 NON MEMBERS; \$10 STUDENTS**

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Following a discussion on LEED and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection LEED Building, there will be a tour of the building. The tour leader will be Heather A. Cowley, Regional Pollution Prevention Manager, Office of Energy and Technology Deployment, PA DEP Southeast Regional Office. Heather and Robert Diemer of AKF Engineers, LLP will be giving the presentation.

A green building is one that has been sited, designed, constructed and operated to provide a healthy environment for its occupants and minimize its impact on the environment. Here are some of the ways DEP's SE headquarters helps the environment:

- \* LEED Gold certified building
- \* Innovative HVAC system that initially was problematic. There will be a discussion regarding problems and solutions.
- \* A cistern located in the four-story landscaped atrium collects rainwater from roof drains, which is then used to flush toilets. This system was combined with waterless urinals and other low-flow plumbing fixtures to reduce water usage.
- \* More than 20 percent of building materials by cost-contained, recycled content.
- \* More than 50 percent of building materials manufactured locally.
- \* Use of recycled structural steel, furniture partitions made from recycled plastic soda bottles, floor tiles made from recycled rubber and glass, and paint containing low volatile organic compounds.

**Discussion:**

1. Overview of the LEED Green Building Rating System - What it is, how it is evolving and what is on the horizon for green building design.
2. Case Study of a LEED Gold Certified Building: The DEP SE Regional Headquarters Building - The case study will focus on the systems and strategies employed in the design and construction of the building in order to limit its environmental impact and achieve a LEED Gold Certification level. In addition, the case study will review some of the design and construction issues that had to be addressed during the initial year of operation in order for the building to operate in the manner intended.
3. The Delaware Valley Green Building Council.... What is it and how do I join?
4. A tour of the building will follow the discussion

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**President**

Steven A. Siddal -Fluidics  
(215) 671-7912  
[Ssiddal@fluidics.com](mailto:Ssiddal@fluidics.com)

**Vice President, Randy Haines**  
(215) 503- 6099  
[Randolph.Haines@jefferson.edu](mailto:Randolph.Haines@jefferson.edu)

**Treasurer -John Zuk, PGW**  
(215) 684-6725  
[John.zuk@pgworks.com](mailto:John.zuk@pgworks.com)

**Sec. -Jim Harven**  
Constellation Energy  
(215) 390-2080  
[james.l.harven@constellation.com](mailto:james.l.harven@constellation.com)

**Education/Awards**  
William T. Stewart  
Stewart Associates  
(610) 566-5061  
[STEWARTASSCT@aol.com](mailto:STEWARTASSCT@aol.com)

**Membership**  
Ed Berger, UGI  
[eberger@ugi.com](mailto:eberger@ugi.com)  
**Board at Large**  
James Clark  
Clark Energy Inc.  
(610) 325-9229  
[ja11clark@aol.com](mailto:ja11clark@aol.com)

Hans Greene, Drexel  
[h.greene@drexel.edu](mailto:h.greene@drexel.edu)

Stephen Boyle,  
(215) 875-6900X148  
[sboyle@trigen.com](mailto:sboyle@trigen.com)  
Louis Nazirides  
Siemens Building Technology  
[Louie.nazirides@siemens.com](mailto:Louie.nazirides@siemens.com)  
610 240 9800  
Steve Goldberg,  
PECO 215 841-6838  
[Steven.Goldberg@exeloncorp.com](mailto:Steven.Goldberg@exeloncorp.com)

Mike Sanders,  
Thornfield Energy Associates  
610 836 1864  
[digame05@netscape.net](mailto:digame05@netscape.net)  
Robert P. Scanlan  
Herman Goldner  
215 492 6871  
Tingang Lu, Siemens  
(215) 654-8040  
[Tingang.lu@siemens.com](mailto:Tingang.lu@siemens.com)

**Past President:**  
Joseph Smith, (215) 684-6757  
[joseph.smith@pgworks.com](mailto:joseph.smith@pgworks.com)

**OTHER NEWS**

**ENERGY NEWS:**

**TEXAS**

**A report from the Austin Energy power company in Texas has revealed approximately 20 percent of all its power outages are the result of squirrels.**

**Texans have always had a strange affinity for cow patties. Now, cow manure is about to be used to power homes and businesses in Central and North Texas.**

**Deregulation brought a host of new companies offering electric service to Texas. But for many Texas businesses that have switched retail electric providers, enjoying the benefits of competition also has meant having to deal with new, sometimes complicated billing systems.**

**MARYLAND**

**Residential customers would repay electricity costs over the next 10 years that Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. incurred due to a state- mandated cap on its rates, according to a plan now before state regulators.**

**NEW YORK STATE**

**The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) ([www.nyserda.com](http://www.nyserda.com)) announced that ConsumerPowerline (CPLN) has been awarded the single largest portion of its Aggregated Load Reduction Program grant. Laidlaw Energy Group, Inc. announced that it has launched a new web site, [www.greenenergyfacts.com](http://www.greenenergyfacts.com), to provide information on its development activities in the biomass energy sector**

**The Steel Winds wind farm project is running behind schedule. Eight wind turbines -- designed to generate electricity by harnessing the stiff winds off Lake Erie -- were supposed to be up and running on the old Bethlehem Steel plant site in Lackawanna by Thanksgiving.**

**Public Energy Solutions (PES) announced the launch of Operation Kill-A-Watt in New York, a new program to help selected businesses and residents in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and Westchester County reap the energy-cost saving benefits.**

**NEW JERSEY**

**Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) and Exelon Corporation announced that PSEG plans to resume direct management of the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear generating stations in New Jersey before expiration of the current Nuclear Operating Services Agreement.**

**The lights are back on for virtually all Puget Sound homes, just in time for Christmas. At the peak of the windstorm blackout, more than 1 million customers were left in the dark. By Saturday evening, local utilities reported only a few scattered outages.**

**Just in time for Christmas, residents in the state of Washington received their electrical power back after 11 days of massive power outages.**

**Constellation Energy (NYSE: CEG) announced that Thomas V. Brooks has been named president of a newly created, integrated merchant organization that will leverage the strength of the company's industry-leading competitive platform.**

**A new report from the**

#### **VIRGINIA**

**Dominion, one of the nation's largest energy providers, announced that it has reached an agreement to sell three natural gas-fired generation facilities to a subsidiary of Tenaska Power Fund, L.P., and an affiliate of Warburg Pincus LLC. Terms were not disclosed.**

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Directors of PECO Energy Company have declared dividends on all series of preferred stock, payable February 1, 2007, to shareholders of record at the close of business December 31, 2006.**

**Allegheny Energy, Inc. announced that it has reached agreement with a group of interested parties regarding the financing of flue gas desulfurization equipment (scrubbers) at its Fort Martin Power Plant.**

**FirstEnergy Corp. announced that its FirstEnergy Solutions subsidiary has entered into a 23-year agreement to purchase the 34.5 megawatts (MW) of output from the Casselman Wind Power Project, which is being developed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, by PPM Energy, ScottishPower's (NYSE: SPI) competitive U.S. energy business.**

**Youngstown PA is ending its contract with First Energy at the end of the month in favor of a company that provides a reduced price for electricity to city residents.**

**A Texas utility company's expansion plans could include the construction of coal-fired power plants in Northeastern Pennsylvania.**

**Allegheny Energy, Inc. announced that it has reached an agreement to settle the consolidated ERISA class action litigation currently pending against Allegheny Energy and certain of its current and former directors. The proposed settlement remains subject to court approval, following notice to class members.**

**PUC recently conducted a nonbinding poll on the issues related to the petition for approval of a Rate Transition Plan by Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co.**

**John Hanger, President and CEO of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) criticized the preliminary 3 - 1 decision by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to strip clean energy funding from the FirstEnergy rates. PUC ruled that alternative energy credits included in power purchase agreements entered into prior to the passage of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act (AEPS) belong to the electric distribution companies (EDCs) and electric generation suppliers (EGSs).**

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**Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) concludes that Nevada is now on-track to be producing over 1000 MW of geothermal power -- quadrupling its current geothermal output -- over the next 3 to 5 years.**

**Fitch Ratings' 2007 outlook for the U.S. Power and Gas Sector is generally stable. Natural gas and wholesale power prices, while below recent highs, have plateau at still elevated levels and remain subject to volatility.**

**Governor Edward G. Rendell recently announced that \$500,000 in state funding will support an urgent initiative to aid residents of Philadelphia who are without heat due to the rising costs of winter heating bills.**

**Pennsylvania will be able to clean up its most dangerous abandoned coal mines -- including a number of sites in the anthracite region -- under a new federal law expected to provide the state with nearly \$1.4 billion, officials said on December 21st.**

**The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the acquisition of Duquesne Light Holdings Inc. by an investment consortium led by Macquarie Infrastructure Partners.**

**Allegheny Energy, Inc. announced that its subsidiary, Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC, has completed the sale of its Gleason generating facility to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for \$23 million.**


**CALIFORNIA**

**California property owners are poised to gain yet another reason to go green. In a decision closely watched by the solar industry, the California Public Utilities Commission recently signaled its intent to award the ownership of credits earned from renewable energy sources to the residential and commercial owners of such systems -- and not to the utility companies.**

**Officials announced completion of California's first megawatt- class hydrogen fuel cell cogeneration plant that transforms hydrogen from natural gas into electricity and water without combustion and captures waste heat to improve efficiency.**

**2007 AEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Date	Time	Meeting Location	Topic	Host/Co-Host
January			LEEDs Discussion – Sandy Wiggins	Clark
February 22,	3:30 pm- 8:00 pm		Trade Show	AEE Team
March 29			Gas/Oil Purchasing	Harven
April 26			Alternative Fuels and Vehicles	Sanders/Zuk
May 31			Wind Generation (Atlantic City?)	Nazirides/
June 21	8:00 am= 4:00 pm		Golf Outing	Siddal/Loveland
July/ August			No Meetings	



**McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC**  
 attorneys at law

**RICHARD T. GILKEY CEM, CDSM**  
 ENERGY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST


24 PATRIOT LANE • THORNTON, PA 19373  
 TEL: 484.840.1412 • FAX: 484.840.1413 • RGILKEY@MWN.COM  
[WWW.MWN.COM](http://WWW.MWN.COM)



**CLARK ENERGY, INC.**  
 Energy Consulting Services  
 James Clark  
 President

2793 Highland Ave.      Business    (610) 325-9229  
 Broomall, PA 19008      Fax/Modem (610) 325-5801

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Philadelphia Gas Works  
 800 W. Montgomery Avenue  
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[MajorAccounts@pgworks.com](mailto:MajorAccounts@pgworks.com)  
[www.pgworks.com](http://www.pgworks.com)



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**JONATHAN S WOHL**  
 Director of marketing

**TRIGEN – PHILADELPHIA ENERGY CORPORATION**  
 2600 CHRISTIAN STREET  
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19146

(215) 875-6900 EXT. 169  
 Fax: (215) 875-6910  
 Internet: [jwohl@tpiphilly.com](mailto:jwohl@tpiphilly.com)

**Falvey Energy Engineering, P.C.**

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**Terence P. Falvey, P.E.**  
 President

142 Decatur Road  
 Phone: 610-449-4988; Fax (610) 449-9779  
 Havertown, PA 19083-1106  
 Email: [fenegy@bellatlantic.net](mailto:fenegy@bellatlantic.net)

**Kimmel Energy Associates**  
**Elizabeth M. Kimmel**  
 PO Box 14  
 Feasterville, PA 19053  
 Tel. (610) 389-3072  
 Fax (215) 357-5631  
[ekimmel@comcast.net](mailto:ekimmel@comcast.net)

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Members are welcome to place ads in the Newsletter:  
**(215) 684-6725: [john.zuk@pgworks.com](mailto:john.zuk@pgworks.com)**  
**Business card: \$75.00 a year /\$90 non-members.**  
Newsletter is a great way to advertise!

### **FUTURE CITY COMPETITION 2007**

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council is proud to host the Philadelphia Regional Future City Competition. Schools from throughout the Philadelphia region are working hard on their cities. Teams made of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are working with their teaches and engineer mentors to:

- Design a city of the future using Maxis SimCity 3000 software
- Build a working model of a portion of their city using recycles products
- Writing an essay about city planning and design issues.

We need many volunteers for the following opportunities:

- Mentor
- Judge
- Available for the competition
- Willing to do whatever task is needed
- Able to participate this year.

Sign up on line at [www.futurecityphilly.org](http://www.futurecityphilly.org)  
Call Jennifer Wetzel at 215 573 3935  
[volunteer@futurecityphilly.org](mailto:volunteer@futurecityphilly.org)

 <p>AMERADA HESS CORPORATION 1630 South 51<sup>st</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA. 19143</p> <p><b>JOSEPH M. CALLAGHAN</b> Senior Account Manager Energy Marketing 215 491 7697 <a href="mailto:Jcallaghan@hess.com">Jcallaghan@hess.com</a></p>	 <p><b>Mechanical-Service Contractors</b> <i>Steven A Siddal, Manager -Business Development - 9815 Roosevelt Blvd. Phila. PA. 19114 - (215) 671-7912 (610) 217 7370 Cell</i></p>
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