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The Darn Near the End of Winter Edition

Executive Director Message

I hope that the year has started well for all of our readers. It certainly has started with a "bang" at NABCEP with a huge volume of applications for the March Installer Certification Exams.

As Albany still waits for winter to arrive with its normal vengeance, out on the west coast, where I work and live, spring is beginning to show signs of arriving. As I write this newsletter I'm thrilled to report that the first of the pussy willows are in bloom and better yet my PV array has hit the 100 amp mark for the first time this year; a sure sign that winter is darn near over.

In the coming months, NABCEP will be participating in a number of events and we'd like to see you there. Please visit our booth at Solar Power Colorado, the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association conference in Denver, February 9-10. Later this spring we will be back in Denver for the World Renewable Energy Forum, an ASES conference, which runs May 13-17.

NABCEP Continuing Education Conference

Registration is filling fast for the NABCEP Continuing Education Conference that will be held at the end of March in Malta, NY (Albany area). There are less than eighty registrations still available for this event, which is hardly surprising given the outstanding mix of content that participants will be able to avail themselves of. In addition to the fifteen manufacturers that are offering Continuing Education credits for their technical presentations, there will be:



- Two full-day sessions on the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC) presented by Ryan Mayfield
- Special sessions on fall protection and crane signals
- A session covering the economics of PV presented by Andy Black of OnGrid Power.

All conference registrants will receive a copy of the Mike Holt/SolarPro book *Understanding the NEC Requirements for Solar Photovoltaic Systems*. [Visit the conference website](#), to view the schedule or register.



SolarTech Solar Leadership Summit

We are going to be active participants in the fourth annual Solar Leadership Summit, presented by SolarTech, March 7-8 in San Jose. This event brings together a wide range of industry leaders to discuss such topics as:

- Finance-securitization, standardized credit qualification, education of capital markets
- Permitting-Solar ABCs adoption, statewide standardization, installation quality, private/public resource models
- Installation-safety compliant design, best in class BOS cost innovation, reliability, state of the art, third party certification
- Performance-clearing house for system data, P50/P90 bankability index, commercialization
- Interconnection-best in class, online communications, rule 21, process improvement

Use the special NABCEP code, NABC2012, to get SolarTech member pricing when registering. [Link to the summit](#).

We will also be exhibiting and presenting at PV America West in San Jose. That conference will be held March 19-21. Again we invite you to visit our booth.

Call for Volunteers

NABCEP is seeking expressions of interest from individuals who would be interested in volunteering to serve on the PV Entry Level Exam Committee. The basic requirements are: currently employed in the PV industry with a minimum of five years experience in Industry; PV Installer or PV Technical Sales Certification; PV Entry Level Passing Score Achievement is desirable. Those who are engaged in teaching PV Entry Level Programs are not good candidates for Exam Committee participation.

If you are interested in volunteering for this committee please send a copy

of your resume and a brief letter outlining why you feel you would make a good fit as an exam committee member. Please send your expressions of interest to info@nabcep.org with the subject line "PV EL Exam Committee Volunteer."

PV Exam News

This is an important reminder and notice to those who are candidates for the March 2012 PV Certified Installer Exam. This exam will be based on the 2011 NEC. The September 2011 exam was the last one based on the 2008 NEC. This exam will have ten more questions than previous exams. For the first time, the PV Installer Exam will employ the common practice of "pilot testing" new questions. The March 2012 exam will have seventy (70) questions. Ten of those questions will not be scored as they are being piloted to determine how well they work.



We adopted this practice some years ago in the Solar Heating Certification Exam and it has proven to be an effective way to expand the number of questions in our "item bank," which in turn helps our Exam Committee develop balanced exams that are current with evolving technologies, codes, and best practices.

The next three administrations of the exam (March and September 2012, and March 2013) will have seventy (70) questions with sixty (60) scored. In September of 2013 the exam will increase to eighty (80) questions with seventy (70) scored. We set the September 2013 date because that will be the first administration that all candidates will have achieved eligibility under our newly released criteria.

NABCEP Solar PV, Solar Heating and Small Wind

Certifications - Paper & Pencil Exams

March 24, 2012: 2012 exam date for the solar PV, solar heating and small wind installer certifications.

About NABCEP: The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) is the most respected, well-established, and widely recognized national certification organization for solar professionals in the field of renewable energy. NABCEP is a volunteer board of representatives who are chosen based on their experience and involvement in the solar energy industry. NABCEP's mission is to develop and implement quality credentialing and certification programs for practitioners by supporting and working closely with

professionals and stakeholders in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. To learn more visit www.nabcep.org

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