



January 2010

Administrative Update

The last six months of 2009 were busy at NABCEP. During that time, we moved into a new, larger office, hired two additional staff members, and started to develop a new Certification for PV Technical Sales personnel. And those are just the high points. We have also been hard at work on getting the Small Wind Installer Certification up and running.

In 2009, NABCEP welcomed Rex Manchester and Clover van Steenberghe to our team. Joining NABCEP in July, Rex supports NABCEP's volunteer committee members, and runs the "front end" of our organization; he answers the ever-busy phones and responds to [your email requests](#). Soon, Rex will have help: NABCEP will hire an administrative assistant who will assume many of Rex's clerical duties to allow more of his time for critical program support.

Clover van Steenberghe moved all the way from Bellingham, Washington to take the newly created position of Manager of Entry Level programs. Clover, who joined us in September, is charged with executing improvements to the very popular and successful [PV Entry Level program](#). She is also working with committees that are working on Solar Thermal Entry Level and Small Wind Entry Level programs.

PV Entry Level Exam Program Changes

The biggest challenge we have had with the [Entry Level program](#) (other than keeping up with the growth) is clarifying the difference between Installer Certification and the Entry Level Certificate of Knowledge. After much research and consultation with registered Entry Level Providers, NABCEP is no longer issuing Certificates of Knowledge (CoK). Now, NABCEP will provide successful Entry Level PV test takers with a suitable-for-framing Passing Score Achievement document. This document clearly spells out that the recipient has demonstrated their basic knowledge of the principles of the application, design, installation and operation of off-grid and grid-tied solar electric systems. We will now require all candidates who take the PV Entry Level Exam to sign a Disclaimer that acknowledges that they understand that achieving a passing score on the Exam does not make them a [NABCEP Certified PV Installer](#).

NABCEP has a new logo for the PV Entry Level Exam that may be used by [Registered Entry Level Exam Providers](#) and successful Entry Level Exam candidates. Either group may use no other NABCEP logos. [Contact Clover](#) with questions about the PV Entry Level program.

New Certification Programs

>>Small Wind Installer

Timothée Neron-Bancel, NABCEP's Operations Manager, is leading efforts to get our new Small Wind Installer Certification launched this year. Check our website for updates to the availability of the application package which will include The Candidate's Handbook, a Study/Resource Guide and an on-line application. We expect that the package will be available in March, providing plenty of time for potential candidates who want to apply to sit for the September 2010 exam.

>>PV Technical Sales

Rex will be more than busy supporting the work of the PV Technical Sales Certification Committee. This committee is about a third of the way through developing a brand-new Certification program for NABCEP. The PV Technical Sales Certification will focus on the myriad of people involved in the sale and commissioning of a PV system who are not installers and who do the following types of jobs: site visits, energy efficiency analyses, PV performance estimates, cost estimates, component selection, preliminary design, rebate and permit application paperwork, proposals and, of course, sales. As always, NABCEP is fortunate to have the volunteer efforts of a pool of highly qualified subject matter experts from a wide range of positions within the PV technical sales process to assist NABCEP in developing the Job Task Analysis as well as the Exam and Resource/Study guide.

Expect to hear from Rex soon inviting you to take part in an on-line survey that will help validate the Job Task Analysis for the PV Technical Sales Certification. We know how many surveys you are asked to participate in – everything from meals to hotels to airlines, and if you are anything like me, you ignore most of them. But we really want (and need) to hear from you on this survey. If your job involves any part of the PV system sales process, take a few minutes and respond to the survey. It will be very helpful in shaping our new Certification. Thanks in advance.

NABCEP co-sponsors the SolarTech Leadership Summit in April

This year, for the first time, NABCEP will be a co-sponsor of the [SolarTech Leadership Summit](#) to be held in San Ramon, California on April 21st and 22nd. Please visit the [SolarTech Leadership Summit website](#) for more information about the event or to register. NABCEP will be actively participating in a number of the session tracks.

Questions, Comments or Suggestions

Feedback from our stakeholders is vital to the ongoing success of NABCEP in fulfilling its mission to develop and implement quality credentialing programs for renewable energy workers. I always welcome email and phone calls about our programs, problems, successes and suggestions for improvement. Please don't hesitate to drop me, Ezra Auerbach, Executive Director of NABCEP, a line, either [by email](#) to or by phone to 1.800.654.0021, x 304.

On behalf of the staff and Board of NABCEP, I wish you a sunny new year.

