Continental Shelf
Exploration Risks

On November 15, Mr. Dan Patton, Chief of Division of Environmental Assessment of the New York Outer Continental Shelf Office will speak on the "Risks Associated with Outer Continental Shelf Exploration and Production Operations". This meeting was scheduled because of the current energy shortage and the fears expressed by environmentalists concerning the consequences of offshore oil exploration, particularly after the North Sea blowout. Exploration development & production operations encounter many geological and meteorological hazards, which along with equipment failure and human error can lead to blowouts of exploratory wells, damage to production platforms, spills from pipelines and tankers and loss of human life.

The meeting is sponsored by the NY-LI Chapter of the IEEE Reliability Group, and is open to IEEE members and non-members. For further information, contact Joseph Dravetine (212) 752-3530.

Time: 7:45 PM, Tuesday, November 15, 1977.

Place: IEEE Headquarters, 345 East 47th St., NYC, Conference Room 110.

Trends In Local Digital Switching

A seminar on Trends in Local Digital Switching will be sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society, New York Section, on November 15, 1977, from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, at the United Engineering Center, 345 E 47th St., N.Y.C. Advances in digital technology have made a major impact on the design of modern switching systems. This seminar will explore transmission considerations and recent developments in switching systems.

The program consists of:

- "Transmission Planning for the Evolving Digital Network", by W.L. Ross, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Holmdel, N.J.

- "A Class-5 All-Digital Office", David Hindaw, Sizemore Carlson, Sanford, Fla.

- "Digital Switching Applied to Automatic Call Distribution", Dennis Kaliber, Rockwell International, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

- "Integrated Transmission and Switching", Tracy Streer, TRW/VODAR, Mountain View, Calif.

- "Trends in Local Digital Switching", Nick Skaterda, Siemens, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Round Table Discussion, Speakers & Audience.

The fee, payable to IEEE COMSOC, is: $40 members, $45 non-members. Mail to: P.M. Paterno, Chairman Education Committee, N.Y. Telephone, Rm. 1436, 1095 Ave. of the Americas, N.Y.C. 10036. For further information contact: P.M. Paterno (212) 395-2109.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me in the seminar on Trends in Local Digital Switching.

Name

Fee

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Please register me in the seminar on Trends in Local Digital Switching.

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IEEE T-SHIRTS

T-shirts may be ordered from IEEE Service Center, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, N.J. 08854. They are very attractive and cost $3.75 each in quantities of 1 - 9; $3.55 each in quantities of 10 or more.

The sizes are S, M, L and XL. Make checks payable to IEEE. New Jersey residents add 5% sales tax. Allow 4 weeks delivery.

Microprocessor Field Trip

The N.J. Computer Society will sponsor a Microprocessor equipment display and demonstration. On display will be the microprocessor hardware support products of many of the major manufacturers. In addition there will be a lecture, and a question and answer session relevant to this display.

The speaker will be Mel Katzman of Sheeber Electronics, Director of the Microprocessor Center.

Time: 7:00 PM, November 17, 1977.

Place: Schweber Electronics, Westbury, Long Island, N.Y.

Further Information: Call Kristy, 212-627-6207, Artistic Products Eng.

NUCLEAR CONTROVERSIES

Dr. Benjamin Stevenson will discuss from a technical point of view the issues that are now stalling a massive increase in available nuclear energy. The meeting will be at 7:30 PM, on November 9, 1977, in the Punchbowl Room at Jersey Central Power and Light, Morningside. This will be a combined Multigroup-North Jersey Section meeting. Issues such as the breeder reactor: thorium vs plutonium, safe handling of fusable material, waste disposal, thermal pollution, security and other topics will be discussed.

Electrical Engineers should be particularly careful to keep informed on these sensitive topics. If U.S. runs short of energy and suffers industrial decline, the national consequences will be tragic. See you there!

Time: 7:30 PM, Wednesday, November 9, 1977.

Place: Jersey Central Power & Light Corp., Punchbowl Room, Madison Avenue at Punchbowl Road, Morningside, New Jersey (Easy access to Madison Avenue via Route 287).

Fusion Power

The November meeting of the North Jersey Power Engineering Society will be a joint meeting with the ASME. The speaker will be Dr. Robert Mills from the Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Dr. Mills will discuss the fusion process, the problems and devices associated with fusion reactors, containment problems at extremely high temperatures and the current work he is doing to solve these problems.

Dr. Mills is a Senior Staff member at Princeton University and is Head of the Fusion Systems Application Group. He received his Ph.D. in Physics at the Univ. of California in 1952. He is the past President of the IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society.


Place: Jersey Central Power & Light Company Madison Avenue (Rt. 24) and Punchbowl Road, Morningside, N.J. 07960.
Satellite Earth Station Tour

North Jersey Chapter MTT/AP is sponsoring a tour of the Glenwood Satellite Communication Earth Station located at Vernon Valley, N.J. The station is owned and operated by Western Union as part of the Westar program. The tour will consist of a group presentation, an equipment tour, and a question and answer session.

For reservation and information, contact Eugene Nemec, ITT ICD, 490 River Rd., Newark, N.J. 07110; (201) 284-2758. A 6 PM premeeting dinner will be held at the Playboy Club at Vernon Valley, N.J.

Time: 7:30 PM, Thursday, November 17, 1977
Place: Glenwood Earth Station, Vernon Valley, N.J.

PAC Committee Meeting

The PAC Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the ITT Conference Center, 300 Washington Ave., Nutley, N.J. Discussions cover professional activities, working conditions, engineering surplus, salary, benefits, promotions, employment, etc.

Call Richard Tax (201) 391-9075 after 7 PM for additional information.

SPOTLIGHT ON NORTH JERSEY

This is the first of a series of columns that is intended to shed some light on how you, a member of the North Jersey Section of IEEE, can get more benefit from your membership in this club.

Frank Reitelli, one of our Members at Large, made an informal survey and concluded that there is a communication gap between the North Jersey Section Executive Committee and the members. Apparently, many members don’t know what the Executive Committee is, what it does, or how it can help them. At least it’s a one-way gap (did you ever hear of one of those?). The Executive Committee worries about how to motivate members and how to enlist (draft?), shanghaï? members into helping to run the section. Our technical groups put together programs, invite interesting speakers and get together a large audience of ten or twelve people. Consequently, there are four thousand five hundred of us out there. Is everybody watching TV? What ever happened to dedication, intellectual curiosity and the necessity to keep current in the engineering profession?

Some members have also complained that they feel alienated from IEEE, that IEEE does too little for them, and that they don’t know how to change things or don’t want to bother. Sure, it’s frustrating trying to deal with headquarters in New York. They are policy makers, they are not interested in your problems and statistics. They are not staffed up to take care of your individual problems. That is our job right here in the section. We don’t really hold our meetings at 3 AM on Sunday mornings in a cave at Lake Hapatocong. Our Executive Committee does not meet behind locked doors. We try not to have when some plain ordinary member who is just a hard working engineer shows up to see what we do or to bitch about how we are doing it.

If you are vaguely dissatisfied about what we are doing or not doing, about what benefits you are getting from IEEE or about any aspect of your engineering profession, and if you have guts enough to talk about it rather than just sitting around and grumbling about it, come to the next meeting and speak up.

I know it’s difficult to walk into a room full of strangers and start talking. That’s one of the reasons for this column. We want you to get to know us as people who have the same concerns, problems and hopes as you do. We want to chop some holes in the bureaucratic barrier that seems to surround any organization. We want you to feel that you really belong to this club and have a right to use its resources for your own personal benefit.

If you want to start by talking to someone individually, call any of our officers. If you don’t know any of them, call 665-2154. And if you just want to listen for awhile, that is O.K. too. Just look for this column in the next newsletter.

Don Batheke

Microprocessor Control

On a Floppy Disk

The New York and Long Island Section of the Joint Power Engineering Society and Industry Applications Society will sponsor a general meeting on Microprocessor Control on a Floppy Disk system.

Dr. Bob Bornmann, Associate Professor at Manhattan College, will discuss Floppy Disk storage and the application of microprocessor control to this new medium of mass data storage.

Time: 6 to 7:30 PM, refreshments from 5:30 to 6 PM, Wednesday, November 16, 1977.
Place: Stony & Webster, 1 Penn Plaza, N.Y.C.

Microprocessor Technology

The New York Section of the IEEE Computer Society will, with its November 29 meeting, continue its series of meetings designed to update members with the latest microprocessor technology available from various manufacturers.

During this meeting Cary J. Ringel of Motorola will speak on the 6800 microprocessor family. This meeting is open to the public.

For further information, contact Cary J. Ringel, Chairman, at Motorola, (201) 458-1200.

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Tuesday, November 29, 1977.
Place: United Engineering Center, 345 East 47th Street, N.Y.C.

Protective Relaying

The second and third meetings for the 1977-78 season of the IEEE Industrial and Commercial Power Systems Technical Discussion Committee, will be held on November 17, 1977 and January 19, 1978 in the Stone & Webster Training Room of the 42nd Floor of One Penn Plaza (adjacent to Penn Station), New York City, at 5:30 PM sharp. The topics of these meetings will be Power Plant Relaying. Members and Non-Members are invited.

The November 17th meeting will be concerned with Power Plant Relaying touching on types of protection, types of relays, and applications of relays. The speaker will be D.H. Jackson, who is a Consulting Engineer with Gibbs & Hill, Inc. and is a member of the IEEE Relay Committee.

The January 19th meeting will be concerned with transmission line relaying, touching on definition of voltage classes, techniques for line protection, utilization of communication relay facilities, specially over channel schemes, and future applications. The guest speaker for this meeting is W.D. Connolly, a Supervising Electrical Engineer for Gibbs & Hill, Inc.

IEEE Monograph Answers

Engineers’ Tax Questions

“The Engineer & Federal Taxes,” an analysis of the tax problems engineers can face, has been published by the IEEE through the sponsorship of the United States Activities Board.

The authors are Paul Opulack, a CPA, and Paul S. Richter, a tax and patent attorney. Each author also holds a degree in engineering. The monograph outlines the mechanics of tax returns and details the tax questions IEEE members and other engineers frequently encounter.

Its intent is to “de-mystify” the inner workings of the Internal Revenue Service, as it explains The Tax Reform Act of 1976, auditing processes, specific itemized deductions (e.g., educational expenses), and tax advice.

The 44-page booklet contains information on deductions frequently overlooked by engineers. For example, the amount allowable as a deduction for pre-paying expenses, such as house-hunting trips and temporary living expenses, is $2,500.

Other explained deductions, with examples given, include costs paid to professional societies, such as IEEE (business travel and entertainment expenses, home business, retirement plan, patents and royalties, prizes and awards). The booklet also gives step-by-step advice on what to do if you are audited, including the taxpayer’s rights in dealing with Revenue Agents.

The goal of this booklet is to assist the engineer without the aid of a tax expert—something that is not usually warranted by the dollar values. The issues confronting the typical IEEE member.

The “Engineer & Federal Taxes” (HU10214-14) is published in a paper-bound format and is priced at $3 for members of IEEE and $6 for non-members. The booklet can be ordered by mailing a check or money order paid from the IEEE Service Center, 445 Hoos Lane, Piscataway, N.J., 08854. Payment should accompany the order.

Membership News

Do you qualify for a higher membership grade? The Membership Committee will provide information and applications for Member and Senior Member grades. A list of Senior Members will soon be available to assist applicants for Senior Member grade in locating a Nominating Committee member and in securing information on the educational, technical and professional benefits of IEEE membership. If you don’t know what these benefits are, we will send the literature to you also.