

NEWSLETTER

2024 - 25 VOLUME 4



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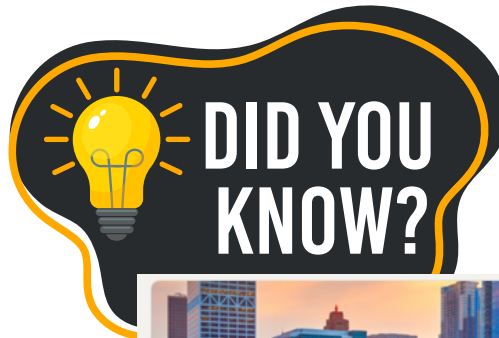
Jon Millard
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JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING MEETING:

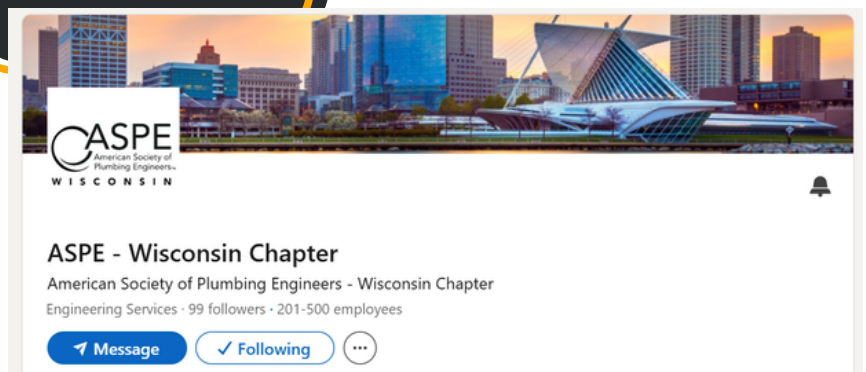
DOMESTIC HOT WATER RECIRCULATION
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MARCH
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ASPE WI IS ON LINKEDIN!
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AND STAY CONNECTED.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY: JON MILLARD, PE



For this month's article, I thought I would write a little bit on Toilet Paper.

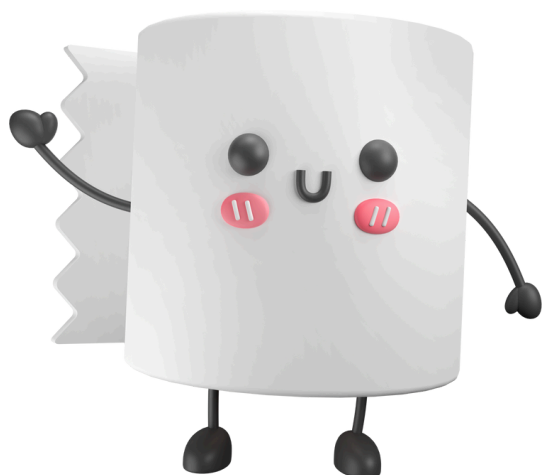
I'm sure if you talk to any of the various water closet manufacturers, they could tell you about the various tests that they run to determine how many squares of toilet paper can be used in a single flush – especially with ultra-low flow fixtures. With all the various styles of toilet paper (1-ply, 2-ply, scented, recycled, square patterned, circular patterned, etc.), I'm sure there's quite a bit of variables that can be tested. There are also discussions to be had on 3" vs. 4" toilet drains lines, and the optimal slope to ensure that toilet paper is properly carried away from the toilet. For rural locations with septic systems, there can also be a discussion on what brand of TP works best with the septic, and what brands cause problems.

Something that often doesn't get discussed in the plumbing engineering community relates to the Toilet Paper Dispensers themselves. These can come in many different styles but are almost always either recessed into the wall near the toilet, or surface mounted near the toilet. If these are being recessed into the wall, it's a pretty safe assumption that a plumber won't be able to put any pipes where these are located and will need to go around in the field. Similarly, with surfaced-mounted TP dispensers, they obviously need a way to mount to the wall. Ideally, the contractor will install some blocking so the dispenser has something solid to mount to. There are also a multitude of various drywall anchors that can also be used for mounting.

What can happen if a pipe gets installed in the wall where a TP dispenser needs to go? Well, there's a reasonable chance that the person installing the toilet paper dispenser ends up accidentally drilling a hole in the pipe, causing damage – especially if it's a water pipe. To make matters worse, this usually would take place after the bathroom has been completely drywalled, painted, and flooring installed.

For engineers, it's not always easy to predict where TP dispensers are going to get installed, and the detailed coordination required to make sure that pipes don't conflict with wall-blocking typically falls onto the contractor team. However, as engineers, if you happen to see these in backgrounds, it doesn't hurt to adjust piping in your design to avoid these problems in the field.

Of course, this doesn't just apply to toilet paper dispensers – there are a multitude of things that need to get mounted in restrooms that the plumbing engineer should at least be aware of, and understand the potential conflicts. These can include ADA grab-bars, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, robe hooks, baby changing stations, etc.



YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

Did you know that NFPA 99 Chapter 5 is currently in its next update cycle? The code has gone through the first round of public input and is now ready for the second round of public comments.

As experts in the field, your voice matters. There are some proposed changes that will have a big impact on how we design, how our clients need to operate their facility and what manufacturers need to provide.

Visit the NFPA website below to see the proposed changes and click on the red "Submit Public Comment Online"

<https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-99-standard-development/99>

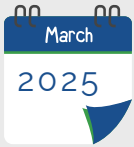
The screenshot shows the NFPA website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'About NFPA', 'For Professionals', 'Education and Research', 'News and Articles', 'Membership', and 'Events'. The main content area features a large image of the NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code cover, which is green and white. To the right of the image, the text reads 'NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code' and 'Status: Active'. Below this, there is a description of the code and a 'Current Edition: 2024' label. A red button labeled 'Submit Public Comment Online' is prominently displayed. At the bottom of the page, there is a section for 'First Draft' with a 'Public Input Closing Date: June 4, 2024' and a 'First Draft Report Posting Date: February 26, 2025'. A red button labeled 'First Draft Report' is also visible.

The deadline for submitting public comment is June 3, 2025.

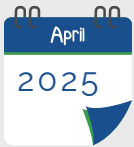
If you have any questions on the process or what the proposed changes are, please reach out to Jill Imig, jimig@hga.com.

Upcoming Events

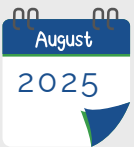
VISIT ASPEWI.ORG TO SIGN UP



12 | LUNCH MEETING | MADISON
13 | DINNER MEETING | MILWAUKEE



10 | ASPE WI & PHCC JOINT PRODUCT SHOW & EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR



21 | ASPE WI GOLF OUTING | BROADLANDS GOLF COURSE

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Award of Merit

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CONTACT: JUSTIN MONK FOR SPEAKING OPPORTUNITES



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LET'S GET TECHNICAL WITH VP TECH

BY: JUSTIN MONK, D.E.S.



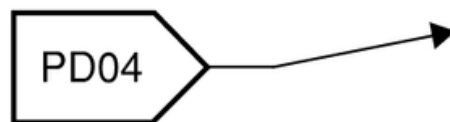
WHO ARE YOU DESIGNING FOR?

Has that question ever crossed your mind? I remember asking this question to a junior engineer who was modeling the existing plumbing for a project that all the existing piping was to be demolition. The modeling was at a 400 Level of Design (LOD) for these demolition drawings which could have easily been mistaken for installation shop drawings. If this LOD rate continued, we would have ran through our design fee in a very short period of time. So, the question, **"Who are you designing for?"**

Some may say, "Detailed modeling is a good thing!" I agree, but "Who are you designing for?" The project mentioned above was a Design-Assist project, in which the plumbing trade partner was already selected. The project's scope of work was a complete gut and renovation of the existing building, where all new plumbing were to be installed. Reminding the junior engineer of the question, could have meant a keynote that stated to clear the site of the existing plumbing. This keynote would have taken a fraction of the time to show on the drawings, especially since the plumbing trade partner was performing the field verification of existing conditions and investigating potential new pipe routes. Understandably keynotes are not the remedy for all projects, so the question must be asked, **"Who are you designing for?"**

Our fellow Wisconsin Chapter members cover a wide array of design professionals. From the project designer / engineer, the engineering consultant, the Virtual Design Construction (VDC) plumbing designer, the pipe / shop fabricator, and the manufacturer's representative sales engineer. For all these professions, we must ask the question so that the information we are trying to convey is clear and understandable.

For much of my professional design career, I served as a plumbing engineering consultant. Most of the project delivery methods were Design-Bid-Build, where the building designer and construction manager both had individual contracts with the owner. Each entity was concerned with their own interest and in keeping their relationship with the owner in good standing. This was especially the case when issues arose, and human nature prompted you to protect yourself. There have been times when this type of delivery method answer to the question was the "the ENEMY, who wants to blame you for all errors and omissions". So, we put every type of "field verify" notes, an engineering consultant favorite phrase, on the drawings. We also provided very detailed drawings, similar to the junior engineer at the onset. Yes, this took additional time, but it was in an effort maintain our reputation as engineering consultants.



THE CONTRACTOR SHALL FIELD VERIFY...

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The question **"Who are you designing for?"** can also be asked when it comes to the various phases of a project. Are you in the Schematic Design phase, where a written narrative and overall drawings may suffice? Is it the Design Development phase, where fixture and equipment cut sheets better illustrate the design intent than a schedules on a drawing. Or, the Construction Documents or Bid Documents phase, where everything must be shown in order to get a final cost of the project and competitive bids. We even must ask our question when we are submitting for plan review. With so many Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) comes different submittal requirements that must be included in your design documents, such as natural gas isometrics with calculations, ...CITY OF MILWAUKEE...

So, **"Who are you designing for?"** There is no one way to answer the question. One project's drawings will look completed different than another set of drawings dues to the factors above. It takes forethought to consider our question before we set off on our design journey. So, know the project delivery method, know the contract requirement's LOD, know the trade partner responsibilities, know the AHJ, know the client and above all know WHO YOU ARE DESIGNING FOR.



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MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

BY: RICH DAVISON

February was here (when Rich wrote is article...sorry Rich!) and our membership is in full swing! Thank you to all our members for being part of our Society and getting the most out of membership through your participation.

MEMBER BENEFIT TIP #1 - BUILD A KILLER NETWORK One of ASPE's greatest benefits is its members. Everyone is busy at home and at work, but members who attend Chapter meetings, Conventions & Expositions, and Symposiums are more likely to build a killer contact list. Our members are eager to help you in your next plumbing engineering problem, which undoubtedly will make you more competitive in the workforce. Whether you are in sales or engineering, you sell yourself every day. ASPE has many networking opportunities for you to meet professionals who possess the skills and training necessary to help you out of a tight spot or put you in touch with someone who can help you. If you are outside your comfort zone, ask your Chapter Board to make the introductions. Exchange business cards and remember to follow up with a brief conversation or email thanking them for their time. Before you know it, you will be a pro in engaging other members, which will lead to career growth and prosperity. If you are not able to attend a Chapter meeting, ASPE Connect offers you a way to build your network online.

Happy Birthday

Joshua Coppernoll
Matthew DeLuca
Chad Faber
Monique Faber
Robert Hopper
Jill Imig
Charlette Jaegler
Ryan Kandler

Cody Mack
Kevin Masterson
Mike Steinhafel
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TOUCHING BASE WITH VP LEGISLATIVE

BY: AARON BOCK, PE



Hello all,

As most of you know, I made a job change in July. One of the reasons for the change was that I wanted to get more into the business development side of engineering, and I'm happy to say that I'm being immersed in it now. While I'm still active on the design side, writing proposals, pursuing projects, managing projects and resources, and being an information conduit are all huge parts of my job now. On the side of project pursuits, I've discovered that there are many commonalities to writing a resume and getting a job offer (which I wrote about [here in Plumbing Engineer Magazine](#)). If you're involved in work like this, here are a few pieces of advice I've picked up:

- Choose your team wisely. When I was coaching wrestling, we lived by the saying "You need to put your best team on the mat in every dual meet." As I've gotten to know my colleagues here, I've kept track of their strengths, talents, and experience. When trying to win a project, I've chosen the people who are the best match for what it needs. Sometimes that means bartering with other project managers and shifting resources around so you can build the best team for the job.
- Don't be modest. Put the biggest strengths of you and your project team on full display so that a client sees benefits to their project. Those strengths can be highlighted in project work, credentials, involvement in professional societies, and thought leadership.
- Tailor your team resumes to the project. One of the points I made in the article referenced above is that you should craft a resume toward the job you're pursuing. The same is true business pursuits. For example, if you're pursuing a healthcare project, highlight the work your team members have done that most closely matches up. Talk to your team members individually when crafting these resumes—even a five minute conversation can give you awareness on relevant work and skills. Don't rely solely on the generic resumes that your company keeps on file.
- If you don't win a project, try to find out why. There are endless reasons why a project might get awarded to someone else, but understanding why you lost only helps win others in the future. See if the decision-makers are open to a short conversation on why they chose someone else.
- Come through for your repeat clients. I was recently approached by a repeat client that was in a tough spot with missed scope in a project that was already out for bid. While the scope was fairly small, the turnaround time was short and our resources were already thin. We figured out how to execute it and came through for them, and they approached us for a much larger project the following week. While small projects with tight timelines can be stressful, they can yield big rewards down the road.

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- Hole Event sponsorship at the ASPE WI Golf Outing **\$150**

*The term 'year' is defined from the beginning of September through August of the following year.

Contact: Jill Imig - Newsletter Editor
jimig@hga.com

Mark Dahl - Treasurer
mdahl@hydro-flo.com

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- Hole Event sponsorship at the ASPE WI Golf Outing **\$150**

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