

Construction Contracting From A Power Plant Owner's Perspective

Consumers Energy conducted a seminar entitled, "Construction Contracting, From A Power Plant's Perspective," on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at the Comfort Inn Conference Center in Plainwell. Company executive, J. B. Lewis led the discussion where approximately 50 area labor and management leaders were in attendance.

The purpose of the presentation was to provide information for attendees in order to strengthen the relationship between supervisors/foremen and contractors and their customers, learn the types of training expectations of construction apprentices and strengthen the attitudes and behaviors of rank and file construction workers.

The focus of the presentation was to address lessons learned from construction work that was recently completed during the recent outage at Consumers' J.H. Campbell plant. Through this process, Mr. Lewis referred to the operation, maintenance and modification of existing plants especially using J.H. Campbell as a point of reference.



J. B. Lewis of Consumers Energy in the background leads the discussion regarding Consumers construction expectations.

Power plants are continually under the gun providing energy on demand to customers and at the same time updating old plants and the consideration of buying existing plants and/or building new ones, stated Mr. Lewis. He stressed that this is not altogether easy especially in consideration of new environmental controls and public perception of power generating facilities. Mr. Lewis also introduced the group to advanced design techniques that are starting to take place in the industry.

Mr. Lewis concluded his presentation by identifying the keys to success for power plant construction, including preplanning the work, whether you're the owner or contractor; communicate, communicate, communicate; it's a tripartite system with the owner, contractor and labor; and if skilled trades are important in your work, invest in their training.