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Recent News

Robert McCue of MDCSystems[®] recently spoke at the Project Management Institute (PMI), Delaware Valley Chapter Dinner Meeting on February 19, 2009. The February Dinner Meeting was about exploring the highway automation portion of the Big Dig Project in Boston from a Forensic Project Management perspective. Mr. McCue delved into what went wrong and who could have foreseen the problems. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Information can be found [here](#).

Mitchell Swann & Peter Vander Heide of MDCSystems[®] recently held a seminar at the Jacoby

Upcoming Conference

ABA Forum on the Construction Industry
-Annual Meeting-



click the above image for conference brochure

MDCSystems[®] is planning to attend the ABA Forum On the Construction Industry Annual Meeting in April 2009. It will be held at the Sheraton New Orleans in New Orleans, LA. Stop by our booth for information, giveaways and to meet some of our representatives. MDC looks forward to seeing you in the Big Easy!

April 16-18, 2009

New Orleans, LA
[Sheraton New Orleans](#)

[Register Here](#)

Advanced Energy Design Guide

by Selwin Briggs, Consultant

The Advanced Energy Design Guide was developed to provide contractors and designers with a simple approach to exceed energy savings of ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-1999 by 30%. Without resorting to time consuming analysis, the guide offers a means for construction professionals to provide owners with more value through a combination of optimized process and proven design practice. Written for office buildings no greater than 20,000 square feet, the guide is meant as a supplement to the 90.1 standard, with an outline that reads more like a textbook than code specification. The energy saving goals and means are broken down by building component; envelope, lighting, HVAC, service water heating, and more. Hour-based energy analysis software verified the 30% savings

Donner, P.C. law firm. Their focus was Issues with Green Building along with Time Impact Analysis (TIA). Their presentation can be found [here](#).

in energy. This guide provides detailed tables, climate zone-specific examples, and stepwise methodology.

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Pennsylvania Solar Energy Rebate On Hold: How Consumers Can Still Save Energy

by Amal Kabalan, Consulting Engineer

Last July Pennsylvania state officials announced the \$100 million consumer and small business solar energy rebate program -- part of a \$650 million Alternative Energy Investment Fund -- when it was signed into law. Recently the residential solar energy tax rebate program was put off. Given the current credit market conditions, it was deemed a "bad time" to float the government bonds needed to fund the \$100 million program. "Anything that is tied to Commonwealth Financing Authority ... bond issue is on hold because of the Wall Street financial meltdown," said John Nikoloff, a principal with Energy Resources Group of Harrisburg, who has been following the program. Much of the program, including a solar energy rebate that was promoted as paying for up to 35 percent of the cost of installation of solar panels, was to be funded through Pennsylvania bond issue.

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Avoiding Death by A Thousand Cuts

by Daniel J. Sporer, Consultant

You are a month and a half into construction of a planned one year project. It's a new client and if you do well, you are in line to construct his future projects. However, the Engineers' drawings don't quite match the existing site conditions; there is already an inordinate amount of Requests for Information (RFIs), and the Client is very involved with your construction means and methods. No change orders have been written because 1: You "worked-around" the site layout problems; 2: There is still time to resolve the unanswered RFIs and 3: The finish milestone on the project has not been affected because you used float in the schedule. In any event, you don't want to "nickel and dime" the new client.

If you haven't heard a version of a story like this, then you have not been in the construction industry long enough. It is very easy to submit a change order to a client when you are asked to do additional work that will cost more money. But how do you document subtle delays and interferences that individually do not cause your project to fail?

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MDCSystems® Advisor

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