



MDC Advisor[®]



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Several of MDC's key team members will be presenting at this year's "Design on the Delaware" conference sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA. Such hot button topics as building envelope performance issues and risk management for green building projects will be covered. Register for the whole conference or just attend the sessions that catch your eye!

Presentation Date: Thursday 6 November 2008

TY4: Hygrothermal Building Envelope Modeling and Analysis
10:25 am to 11:55am

PM8: Risk Management Issues on Green Building Projects
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

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Solar Analysis Report

by Amal Kabalan

Today there is a lot of dialogue about 'being green', 'energy efficiency', and 'carbon footprints'. One of the main promises of the campaigning politicians is investing in renewable energy technology. Every other commercial on TV or in a magazine speaks about green energy. Solar power is a major component of the renewable energy mix. By now, most people know that solar energy is a pollution free technology; it has the potential to reduce your carbon footprint and provide clean energy for future generations. In 2010 state imposed rate caps on electricity are set to expire, and utilities are positioning themselves for massive rate increases in Pennsylvania. Before deregulation, Pennsylvanians paid 15 percent more for their electricity than the national average. With current caps those customers are paying 2 percent less than the average. Amid all these promises and buzz one would think that it is

time to invest in solar energy. A closer analysis is needed to figure out if such an investment is sound and profitable. A solar system has a lot of advantages; however, its profit depends on many different factors such as location, tax, rebate incentives, and the size of the system. Thus, a generalization cannot be made for such systems a case by case study is needed to conclude if this system is a cost-effective investment.

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The Donning of the "Green" Getting accustomed to new "customs"?

by E. Mitchell Swann, P.E., LEED AP

A day doesn't go by without hearing of the next new green building project in almost all sectors - from major owners to the one-off office park on the highway. Everybody wants to be 'in,' but it is important to understand what one is getting into before one is deep into it. Not recognizing the landscape can lead to problems, misunderstandings, and claims. A common thread in the analysis of construction claims is a comparison of 'the work done' by one participant with what a 'comparable' practitioner would do on a similar project. This is commonly referred to as "custom and practice," or the Standard of Care.

Historically, this comparative approach has been applied to design professionals, contractors, and lately even construction managers [treatment of CMs as "professionals" is a relatively new concept but is gaining traction as their role in the project delivery process broadens]. No such standard has yet to be applied to owners.

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Primavera Scheduling

by Robert C. McCue, P.E.

Recently, MDC made the jump from Primavera P3 (version 3.1) to P6. However, the landing was a little rough-initially, erroneous information was received from a Primavera representative and then outside IT consultants had to be brought in to resolve issues with the server installation. If the installation experience is any indicator, it seems likely that P6 will require more IT overhead on an ongoing basis. This is in addition to the learning curve for the new features and capabilities of P6.

MDC has been using Primavera to analyze and manage projects since the days of DOS (Disk Operating System for non-geeks and newbies). The advent of Windows and the GUI (Graphical User Interface) versions of Primavera Project Planner, through version 3.1, afforded an easier scheduling experience for the user. It is this experience which has allowed Primavera to grab the lion's share of the market for project management software.

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Report from *The McKinsey Quarterly*: Managing Capital Projects for Competitive Advanagtage

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