



The ACEI Delaware Valley Section Presents

“Five Simple Steps to Better Capital Planning”

Mark your calendars now for April 8, 2009

As we all have experienced over the past five years, capital budgets in the hydrocarbon and chemical process industries have increased dramatically. Capital programs for many organizations increased 20 to 30 percent year after year over this time period. Even with recent reductions, capital expenditures for many of these organizations remain well above historical levels.

While much of this increase has occurred through major expansion programs, a significant portion is attributable to the increase in routine in-plant capital/maintenance programs. Capital programs at many plant sites have gone from as little as \$20M/year some 5 years ago to as much as \$100M, with some experiencing plant capital programs as large as \$150M/year. These portfolios consist typically of numerous projects less than \$10M with most projects less than \$1M.

With the current trends in a tightening economy, there is significant pressure to achieve superior performance from these capital portfolios. This requires portfolios with:

- Higher value projects
- More level (less seasonal) spending and resource demands
- No 4th quarter spending spree
- Higher return on a company's capital investments
- Predictable expenditure levels

This presentation looks at five simple steps that can be taken to help ensure these goals are achieved.

Bio-Paul Williams

Paul is currently Vice President of Pathfinder, LLC. He has 30 years of Project Management and Project Engineering experience working for Owner and Contractor organizations in the Petroleum, Chemical Process, Pharmaceutical, Biotech, Microelectronics, and Food & Beverage industries. He has extensive multi-disciplined hands-on engineering and construction experience, along with demonstrated competencies in planning, budgeting, contract review and management of personnel. Paul has worked on both domestic and international projects and has broad based experience in the development of projects from concept through start-up. He has represented owners in many grassroots, retrofit and expansion projects and has first hand knowledge of plant operations, maintenance, environmental/health/safety issues, and management of construction work within an operating facility.

He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Engineering Management from Drexel University. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and has professional affiliation memberships including ACEI International, the Project Management Institute (PMI) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2009; Time: 6:00 Social half hour, 6:30 Dinner, 7:00 Meeting will be called to order.
Location: HILTON at the Philadelphia Airport (Across Rt. 291 from the Sheraton) 4509 Island Ave Philadelphia, PA (Island Ave and Route 291), Call 215-365-4150 for directions; Menu: Chicken Française or Oven Roasted Salmon served with salad, baked potato, vegetables, dessert du jour, coffee, specialty teas and/or iced tea.
Cost: \$27.00 for members and guests, \$25.00 for retirees or emeritus members.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CANCELLATIONS: If you decide to cancel after 4/3/09, you will be responsible to cover the cost the dinner. If a replacement is found then you will not have to pay, and you will be notified.

RSVP: Please call Abhi Basu at 609-828-9022 or Ricardo Aviles at 215-832-3510 or E-mail Ricardo.Aviles@stvinc.com by noon Friday April 3, 2009 for reservations and menu selection. Please visit our website: <http://www.aacei-dv.org/>