Army Abandons LEED Certification

The following article is taken from an update article from Chris Cheatham with Green Building Law Update.

“We have entered a new era of green building policy. The Army is abandoning LEED certification.”

According to Chris Cheatham in just the short time of a couple of weeks, the Army support and requirements for LEED certification had turned 180 degrees. On February 28th 2012 the Army had reiterated its commitment to LEED certification despite DoD re-authorization legislation that banned LEED Gold and Platinum Certification from being an acceptable method for construction quality assurance method. Just a couple of weeks later the Army announced it is abandoning LEED certification. The Army is launching
its own building code modeled off of ASHRAE 189.1 in lieu of pursuing LEED certification.

The following quote from Dr. Dorothy Robyn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) were comments that were made to the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veteran Affairs and Related Agencies:

“In addition to retrofitting existing buildings, we are taking advantage of new construction to incorporate more energy efficient designs, material and equipment into our inventory. In the past, all new construction was required to meet LEED Silver or an equivalent standard and/or to comply with the five principles of High Performance Sustainable Buildings. This year my office will issue a new construction code for high performance, sustainable buildings, which will govern all new construction, major renovations, and leased space acquisition. This new code, based heavily on ASHRAE 189.1, will accelerate DoD’s move toward efficient, sustainable facilities that cost less to own and operate, leave smaller environmental footprint and improve employee productivity.”

According to the Green Building Law Update, the repercussions of this announcement will be widespread. For Federal Contractors the LEED AP credential will be less valuable and past performance highlighting LEED may have less value or even become insignificant. The Construction world will now have to relearn construction to build to ASHRAE 189.1 standards or some deviation thereof as the DoD provides the base line for their new standard.

It is obvious that the Army is taking the LEED Ban seriously and all signs indicate that the Navy and Marine Corp will follow closely behind in following and mandating the transition through a heavily rumored overhaul of each of their specification, RFP and BOD templates.

According to Chris Cheatham, “Federal Agencies have long been one of the most important supporters of LEED certification. The Navy was the first agency to adopt the certification. After the Army, Navy and Air Force stop pursuing LEED Certification, how long do you think it will take for other agencies to respond? For the US Green Building Council (USGBC) this could be a devastating blow. Can the USGBC and LEED survive without the support of the Federal Government? This is a game changer!”

Chris Cheatham
Green Building Law Update
New photo capture feature!

Remember what issues and equipment look like with photos.

Capture photos in the field with your iPad or Android device and synchronize the photos back to your main project log.

We support Apple iPad™ and netbooks, laptops or tablets running Windows. Android Support now available!
On Friday, February 22, 2013, the Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter will be hosting their 2013 Annual Meeting at InterContinental The Clement Monterey in Monterey, California. Registration is now open to all interested industry leaders. Registration can be found on our website at www.nocalhawaiinebb.org or by contacting the Chapter at akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org.

SPEAKERS: We have an exciting line-up of speakers this year.

Tom Myers, NEBB National, Director of Technical Services, will present Title 24 2013 Acceptance Testing Certification.

Martin Burke with TSS, Inc., will speak on Nitrous Oxide vs Sulfur Hexafluoride in ASHRAE 110 Standard (NEBB FHT).

Brent Baird with Instrument Direct will cover Optimizing Your Ultrasonic Flow Meter for TAB and Commissioning Applications.


Art DeLeon with Final Air Balance will cover Fire Life Safety Testing.

Jason Huffman, with Pacific Test & Balance, Inc. and our Chapter’s Technical Committee Chair will cover Reports.

Robert Seals with Aeroseal, will present The Obvious. The question is NOT does the air distribution system leak, but HOW MUCH does it leak and if we can verify the sealing, WHAT is the potential savings.
NEBB 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Monterey offers iconic California experiences. Experience the top road trip in the United States as you wind along the breathtaking Big Sur coastline on Highway One. Explore the shops and attractions of iconic Cannery Row. Sip handcrafted wines at tucked-away tasting rooms where the winemaker might just be the person pouring. Play 18 holes at legendary golf courses, or just hang out at the 19th hole and watch the pros practice. Monterey County has something special for everyone.
New for Cleanroom Certified Professionals

New this year for Cleanroom Certified Professionals who hold cleanroom certification only, is a change in attaining your recertification hours. Cleanroom Certified Professionals must attain their hours by attending seminars that have been pre-approved by the National Cleanroom Committee. A list of seminars can be requested from your local Chapter. Only those topics given at the local Chapter Recertification meeting that specifically cover cleanroom will count towards your cleanroom annual continuing education hours. Attendance at the Chapter Business meeting is still mandatory and the registration form reflects an option of attending the business meeting portion only which is held during the lunch hour. Any question on this should be directed to your local Chapter.

Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Has a New Website

As of September 1st, the Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter introduced a new look to our website. If you haven’t had a chance to view it be sure to log onto www.nocalhawaiinebb.org.

Additional Training for our Chapter Technicians

Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter’s Board of Directors are looking at instituting additional training for all Chapter NEBB Certified Technicians starting in 2013. Additional information will be forthcoming at our February 2013 Annual Meeting.
Western Allied has been a leader in the Bay Area for more than fifty years! Western Allied Corporation was founded as a heating, ventilating and air conditioning contractor in 1960 and moved its facility to Santa Fe Springs, California in 1961. An office was established in Northern California in 1972 in Belmont, California and moved to its present location, Menlo Park, in 1977. In 2003, the owners of Western Allied made a decision to reorganize the company into Northern and Southern Divisions. A new company, Western Allied Mechanical, was formed to operate in the Northern California area. The reorganization has allowed each separate company a better opportunity to grow as they both do similar work, but each having a different market place.

Western Allied Mechanical has 63 office personnel consisting of 7 full time senior partners and 4 junior partners, project managers, project engineers, administrative support and 13 professional engineers. They have over 100 sheet metal workers and pipefitters in the shop and field, 10 start-up technicians, including 2 balancers, and 30 service mechanics. Western Allied continues to see growth in the company, and, on November 1, 2012, they will be moving their sheet metal and pipe shop to a newly acquired third building at the Menlo Park location.

Each Western Allied project is under the direct leadership of a company principal. This assures superior client liaison and the ability to bring any resource to bear on a problem. Western Allied’s goal is to stay on the forefront of emerging technologies and blend those with their long-term experience to consistently provide superior systems.

Western Allied has been NEBB certified since 1993, but for a short hiatus was put on inactive status when their NEBB Certified Professional left. Daniel Wong recently passed his required testing and became Western Allied’s NEBB TAB Certified Professional in March 2012. This has allowed Western Allied’s NEBB certification to become active again.

Aside from being a NEBB TAB Certified Professional, Daniel Wong is a California State Licensed Professional Engineer. He graduated from San Jose State in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering degree and was offered a position at Western Allied Mechanical after interning there for several years. Daniel is a member of ASHRAE and has been since 1999. Daniel’s role at Western Allied Mechanical is to assist the executive project management in the oversight of the construction activities, as well as, estimating and documentation support.

One of the current projects Western Allied Mechanical is working on, and...
Daniel has been involved in, is the USGS Menlo Park facility. It is nearing completion of HVAC and BAS upgrades. One of the main parts of the project is overhauling the McKelvey Building, a 150,000 square foot multi-use facility containing offices, laboratories and a library. It involves converting the main air handling systems from constant air volume to variable air volume control and converting the chilled and hot water systems to variable speed systems. Strategies for the laboratories, such as volumetric offset and adaptive offset, are being implemented while keeping some laboratories under constant air volume control. Western Allied Mechanical controls and air balance technicians are programming the parameters for the laboratory controls and taking air measurements as part of performing point to point verification. Final testing, air balancing and commissioning will be a combined effort between Western Allied Mechanical, a commissioning agent and a third party NEBB Certified TAB agency.

This summer, Western Allied Mechanical was part of a construction team spearheaded by Chevron Energy Solutions that performed an HVAC upgrade for the South San Francisco Unified School District. At the Baden High School campus, Western Allied Mechanical removed and replaced 32 rooftop package units, including all of the distribution ductwork. Western Allied Mechanical personnel performed the sheet metal, piping, start up, as well as the test and balance of the new rooftop package units, during which Daniel was able to perform his NEBB TAB Certified Professional duties.

These are just a couple project examples that Western Allied has recently done. Western Allied does a majority of Design/Build work; a quarter of their work is plan and specification projects. Up to 70-80% of their projects are required to be NEBB TAB certified. Their NEBB certification is important to them and they are proud to advertise this.

Angie Simon, one of the senior partners at Western Allied, believes that one of the benefits of their NEBB certification has been how it sets them apart from other mechanical and design/build contractors. They are professionals and engineers. They are not what you think of as a contractor. They are engineers that are also in the field and understand installation. “NEBB fits very nicely into that. NEBB is a very professional organization who takes very seriously what we do and you have to do a lot of work to become NEBB,” states Angie Simon. “We take our reputation very seriously.”
Western Allied Mechanical is a well-rounded mechanical contracting company. They can take a project from concept to commissioning and give the owner peace of mind and a guaranteed quality product. Western Allied engineers want their projects installed the way it was designed and trust that the project manager is ensuring the design is being implemented. Western Allied has checks and balances throughout. It is the final steps that Western Allied has found is important. The balancing and commissioning of a project, if done correctly, will have very few call backs. They have also found that as systems get more complicated, due to energy efficient and green designs, more interaction is needed between start-up and balancing, engineering and controls teams. Because Western Allied maintains in-house departments of sheet metal, piping, start-up, air balance, engineering, and controls, they maintain consistent quality control with single source responsibility.

What benefits does the NEBB certification bring to Western Allied Mechanical? NEBB certification provides a reputable association to a nationally recognized organization that will stand behind their work and assures their clients of their quality workmanship.
Marketing Northern California/Hawaii

We are having a great year with lots new interest in our NorCal/Hawaii NEBB Chapter. I think it is due to a lot of our members passing along the word of what we are all about and also being more active with the marketing functions.

We are still working on our TAB Presentation for the ASHRAE San Jose Chapter Meeting which has now moved to early spring. We will be making a presentation by one of our NEBB NorCal/Hawaii Members and will have a Vendor’s Table prior to the meeting. It would be great to have a good showing of attendance, along with getting to meet a lot of the local Consulting Engineers. If you are interested in attending the meeting or manning the vendors table, please contact Audrey or myself.

If you are aware of any other functions that would be a good opportunity for marketing of our NEBB NorCal/Hawaii Group, please contact Audrey or myself.

Looking forward to our NEBB NorCal/Hawaii Re-Certification Meeting in Monterey, February 22, 2013. Hope to see everyone there.

Check it out our new website, www.nocalhawaiinebb.org.

Thank You, Audrey for putting this together, awesome job!

Have a Great Day!

Your Marketing Committee:

Bill W. Jeffrey, Chair,
DPR Construction

Amber Ryman,
ACCO

Jason Huffman,
Pacific Test & Balance, Inc.

Sargon Ishaya,
Pragmatic Professional Engineers

Why Become NEBB Certified?

There are a number of reasons to become NEBB Certified such as increasing your qualifications and providing NEBB quality assurance on your projects. But the number one reason to become NEBB Certified is to increase your potential work load.

Innovation, high standards and a proven track record have made NEBB the leader in its field. For more information on how to become NEBB certified, contact the Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter.

Did you know?

- that building owners are demanding that their buildings be worked on by certified personnel?
- work completed in Federal Office buildings need to be completed by certified personnel?
- that LEED certification involves NEBB commissioning?
- being NEBB certified allows a firm to compete on projects where NEBB certification is required, like hospitals and schools.

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Upcoming Events

Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter Annual Meeting
February 22, 2013, 7:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monterey, CA
Contact Audrey Kearns for more details at akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org

Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter Annual Meeting

NEBB Certified Professional Written/Practical Exam
March 9, 2013, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., San Leandro, CA
Contact the Chapter to sign up, akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org

NEBB National Annual Convention
May 2-4, 2013, Montreal, Canada
Contact NEBB National for more details at www.nebb.org

NEBB Technician Exam
On Demand Basis
Contact the Chapter to sign up, akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org

For More Training Information visit www.nebb.org.

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