



American Institute of Chemical Engineers

The Western Palmetto Informer

October 2024

Volume 24, Issue 2

In This Issue:

- Message from the Chair
- Next Meeting:
October 8th 6:30PM
- Local Section Feedback
- Opportunities to Assist
- 2025 Officers and Executive Committee
- 2024-25 Calendar of Events

Contact Information

Visit our website:
www.aiche.org/wsc

E-Mail us at:
sec@wscaiche.org
chair@wscaiche.org

Message from the Chair

Welcome to October and the changing of the seasons. Finally, everyone's cooling towers are working again. I want to thank our September speaker, Cameron Teaman of Lightnin Mixers, who talked about mixing fundamentals. It was an interesting topic and if you couldn't attend, you missed a good one. Even after all these years I picked up some good information on mixing very high viscosity materials. Never stop learning, because if you do, you'll start declining.

For our October meeting in Earle Hall at Clemson University, Judith Lesslie of aeSolutions will be presenting a talk on dust explosions. Dust hazards can be hard to recognize, and their destructive power is hard to imagine, especially since so many of the dusts that will explode seem so innocuous. Almost everyone knows that coal dust will explode and, since it's burned by the ton for fuel, a coal dust explosion is expected. However, did you know that grain dust, flour, sugar, plastic powder, and sawdust can explode? This problem has been around for a long time, read about the Washburn A mill explosion that occurred in 1878 in Minneapolis, MN. We should all easily remember the 2008 the Imperial Sugar refinery explosion in Port Wentworth, GA adjacent to Savannah that killed 14 and injured another 36. Dust can find some interesting ways to ignite too. I've experienced a dust explosion while dumping granular plastic resin into an inerted vessel. A static discharge within the powder ignited its dust because the void volume contained air providing all the oxygen required for combustion. I know Ms. Lesslie and I'm sure this will be an interesting talk.

We meet at Clemson twice per year to give us a chance to meet and get to know the students. It gives them a chance to meet practicing engineers and learn what we really do day-to-day. Dr. Norfolk is always a gracious host. So, if at all possible, come and join us in Clemson. If anyone would like to carpool, then just email me, and let me know.

Bill Thompson, Chair, WSC AIChE

October Meeting Information

Judith Lesslie is a process and personal safety professional with more than 40 years' experience in health, safety, security and environmental leadership, process safety and instrument engineering, project management, maintenance and operations management, and consultation in the petrochemicals and petroleum industries. She has a wide spectrum of process and personal safety experience, including process hazard analysis; dust hazard analysis; technical auditing; behavioral safety; process data and metrics analysis and action plan development; development and management of industrial safety programs; incident investigations; risk assessment; management of change; SIS design, implementation, tracking, and maintenance; consequence modeling; and OSHA & EPA regulations.

Judith's presentation will cover Dust hazard analysis basics, including ignition sources and energy, dust minimum ignition energy, and dust handling safeguards, past incidents, terminology, including primary and secondary explosions, available technical guidance, standards and RAGAGEP, and a technical parameter review.

TITLE:	Dust Explosions by Judith Lesslie
DATE:	Tuesday, October 8th, 2024
Event timing:	Dinner and Social: 6:30pm Presentation Starts: 7:00pm
LOCATION (in-person event):	Earle Hall 100 S Palmetto Blvd, Clemson, SC 29631
LOCATION (virtual event):	A Link to the ZOOM Meeting will be provided on our webpage HERE .
COST	No Charge for Dinner
RSVP by 10/4/24	RSVP HERE if you plan to attend

RSVP [\[HERE\]](#) - by October 4th if you plan to attend the meeting.

Local Section Feedback

If you have any feedback on what this section can do better in the coming year, recommendations on events you would like to see, or topics for presentations, please let us know!

If you have any feedback, please send an email to sec@wscaiche.org. Any feedback is appreciated. We want to grow and make this section better, and we need your help with that!

Opportunities to Assist

We welcome your participation on any level in this organization. Please reach out to Devon Clymer, sec@wscaiche.org, if you have any feedback on any of the following:

- You or someone you know would like to give a technical presentation at an upcoming meeting.
- Provide meeting topic or location recommendations to the leadership team.
- Provide recommendation or access for a plant tour (usually in the spring).
- You have interest in joining our Officers or Executive Committee.
- Any general question or comments on meeting times, locations, and topics

2023-2024 Officers and Executive Committee

POSITION	NAME	COMPANY	E-MAIL
Chair	Bill Thompson	Ortec	bthompson@ortecinc.com chair@wscaiche.org
Vice-Chair	James Young	Fluor	James.H.Young@fluor.com vchair@wscaiche.org
Secretary	Devon Clymer	Jacobs	Devon.clymer@jacobs.com sec@wscaiche.org
Treasurer	Kevin Pait		kipait100@gmail.com treasurer@wscaiche.org
Webmaster	Conny Walker	Independent	connyw@earthlink.net
Scholarship Coordinator	David Hine		dpkjhine@gmail.com
Newsletter	(open)		
Historian	(open)		
	Karl McCaleb		kmccaleb2@bellsouth.net

POSITION	NAME	COMPANY	E-MAIL
Executive Committee	Donald P Gurney, Jr., ScD, P.E.	Consultant	degurney@charter.net
	Anil Wagle	Retired	Anilwagle123@gmail.com
	Anastase (Tasso) Ghionis	Omega Chemicals	

2024-2025 Calendar of Events

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
September 10, 2024	Jacobs Engineering	Mixing Fundamentals
October 8, 2024	Clemson	Dust Explosions
November 19, 2024	Fluor	Local Chemical Industry Panel. Joint meeting with ACS
December 2024	TBD	WSCAICHe Holiday Social
January14, 2025	Jacobs Engineering	Financial Planning with Bryan Ballentine
February, 2025	TBD	TBD
March, 2025	TBD	TBD
April 2025	TBD	TBD
May 2024	TBD	WSCAICHe May Social