

# 2007 NCEA Finance & Accounting Workshop Survey

## RESULTS – 45 Responses out of 74 Registrants

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
1. <b>Overall, rate your NCEA Workshop experience:</b>	33%	66%	-	-	-
2. <b>Rate our meeting room facility</b>	29%	60%	11%	-	-
3. <b>Rate the meals -- breakfast, lunches dinner &amp; breaks:</b>	35%	55%	10%	-	-
4. <b>Rate the printed materials, packets, and handouts:</b>	27%	62%	6%	-	-
<i>Comments: Room was cold and uncomfortable ... Reception better than dinner, allowed for our own evening activities (3) ... Handouts with small text hard to read ... Great chance to meet others from utility finance ... Hotel could have been nicer ... Should have had more fruit available ... Meeting room was a tight ... Food was OK ... Breakfast was cold ... Appreciated the hot breakfast.</i>					
5. <b>Please rate and comment on the sessions and speakers (check your answer):</b>					
A. <b>“FASB Update” Kevin Lewis</b>	16%	67%	17%	-	-
<i>Comments: Relevant topics (2) ... More interpretations or guidance ... Easy to understand but a difficult topic ... Good overview but not too detailed ... Good presentation for a dry topic (2) ... Not relevant to my current position in company ... Needed more examples (3) ... A good and quick overview (2) ... Should have focused on one area ... He read his slides ... I liked the fast pace.</i>					
B. <b>“SEC Reporting Update” Adam Krasnoff</b>	27%	62%	11%	-	-
<i>Comments: Relevant and informative ... Good speaker (2) ... Good presentation for a dry topic (2) ... Real world examples are helpful ... Interesting to hear about other companies comments ... Very smooth presenter ... Fast paced and extremely important.</i>					
C. <b>“Midwest ISO – Current Topics” Sidney Jackson</b>	27%	62%	11%	-	-
<i>Comments: I enjoyed the high-level coverage ... Relevant ... Great overview with few details (3) ... Dry subject matter ... To complex a topic for me to grasp in short time (3) ... Could have used more time, a lot to cover (5) ... Great speaker ... Good overview ... Interesting and informative ... More time on mechanics of MISO, I am still confused ... Over my head, basic information better ... Very informative and good presenter ... Make the handouts bigger ... Much better than last year ... Glad he restated the questions.</i>					
D. <b>“NCEA Company Overview” Otter Tail Corp.</b>	53%	40%	7%	-	-
<i>Comments: Entertaining (2) ... Nice to learn about other members (4) ... Good presenter and people person, informative ... Jeff always does a good job (2) ... A valuable piece of workshop is learning about others (2) ... Nice video ... Interesting (3) ... Otter Tail is quite diversified ... Energetic, humorous and informative ... Nice job ... Nice overview (2) ... Continue this ... Nicely done.</i>					
E. <b>“Age Diversity In The Workplace” John Behrends</b>	76%	17%	7%	-	-
<i>Comments: Excellent topic (2) ... We all need this training (2) ... Excellent and engaging (2) ... I left with 8 ideas ... Interesting and interactive ... Thought provoking (7) ... Engaging (2) ... Best session of the event ... Excellent speaker (3) ... Nice break from technical presentations (3) ... Focus on the people side of our business ... Good speaker but I don't agree with his perspective ... Good information for the workplace ... Timely ... Relevant ... Beneficial ... Outstanding (2).</i>					
F. <b>Monday's Workshop Roundtable Discussions</b>	16%	47%	37%	-	-
<i>Comments: Great discussion and wide variety of topics (2) ... Relaxed and free-flowing ... Need ideas to stimulate more discussion, some seemed reluctant to talk ... Need more company participation (2) ... Would have like Xcel in our roundtable (2) ... Consider a “Corporate Accounting” breakout ... Our groups was too large for good discussion (4) ... Didn't need all three hours ... We had only two people but we had a great discussion on SOX, disappointing that there isn't more participation ... Limited discussion due to size ... Good discussion (3) ... Needed more time ... Needed a better facilitator ... Good Plant discussion, but Property Tax issues were discussed ... I received a lot of valuable information about how others budget ... We needed more questions (2) ... We need to align job descriptions and roundtables for better discussion.</i>					
6. <b>What future topics would you like presented at our 2008 NCEA Finance &amp; Accounting Workshop?</b>					
<i>Updates relating to public utilities ... Regulations related to rates and environment ... Enjoyed the topic of leadership and personal growth in addition to the technical topics ... Too much time allocated to roundtables ... Explain what the NCEA does ... Geographic diversity in the workplace – how to work best in a dispersed workgroup ... MISO – new happenings in the markets ... Leading-edge technology ... Best practice technology ... Financial software ... General practice accounting training ... More workplace interaction ... MISO billing and settlement process (from the financial side) ... FERC Accounting ... Continue with MISO Training ... Difference between FERC &amp; GAAP financials ... Electricity or Gas 101 course for new members ... Speaking and/or presentation skills.</i>					
7. <b>For the 2008 Finance &amp; Accounting Workshop, please weigh in on the following:</b>					
<b>Pick your preferred Workshop date for 2008:</b>					
September 22 & 23: 72%, or September 29 & 30: 28%. Avoid quarter-end ... No preference (4) ...					
<b>Would you consider having this workshop at a NCEA member utility and where?:</b>					
Yes ... Allete again ... Minneapolis ... Rapid City (2) ... Fargo (4) ... Fergus Falls ... Bismarck (3) ...					
<b>Provide feedback that will lend itself to a better workshop:</b> Really enjoyed the generational session – nice to learn something other than accounting ... Next year have another interactive presentation like this year ... Consider two full days to offer longer sessions ... Go back to Thursday/Friday events ... Increase registration costs to purchase light jackets for attendees.					
8. <b>Comment on the “Economic Value” of participating in this event and the NCEA in general:</b>					
<i>Comments: All the presenters were very good and relevant, provided good information and ideas ... NCEA provides a great understanding of our utility industry ... Thanks Linda and Dale ... This workshop is an excellent value, cost is low, hotels are fair, and material is direct and relevant ... Great value ... Reasonable cost and a great way to learn from others ... Very good value (3) ... Very economically viable ... I enjoyed the sessions ... Overall, the workshop was great ... Useful topics were again presented ... Well worth my time ... Lots of solid and valuable information this year ... Very good economic value ... Excellent networking and training event for the cost. Discussions offer tips to deal with similar problems, a heads-up for emerging problem areas, and sharing of benchmarking information.</i>					