

2008 NCEA Finance & Accounting Workshop ~ Survey Results

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
1. Overall, rate your NCEA Workshop experience:	34%	61%	0%	0%	5%
2. Rate our meeting room facility	22%	63%	10%	0%	5%
3. Rate the meals -- breakfast, lunches dinner & breaks:	20%	59%	17%	0%	4%
4. Rate the printed materials, packets, and handouts:	27%	63%	7%	0%	3%

Comments on any of the above: Seemed like the meeting room was not maintained, after the breaks and even through the next day the room was not cleaned up. After coffee and rolls on Monday, no new beverages were brought out... First breakfast could have had bagels or yogurt... The room was pretty good, except I froze on the first day... Breakfast was good, don't like Mexican food - not many food options/choices... Cold meeting room... Room was cold sometimes... Appreciated printed outlines/slides. Thank you... Day 2 - meeting room wasn't nicely done - left over candy from the day before still there and not replenished... Appreciated the printed outlines/slides. Thank you!...

Please rate and comment on the sessions and speakers (check your answer):

A. "FASB Accounting Update" Michael Pratt	22%	73%	5%	0%	0%
<i>Comments: Lots of info, speaker was very knowledgeable... Good update... Good information, limited value to most people at the seminar... Good coverage and review... Very applicable to the utilities industry... Speaker was very knowledgeable and had a nice delivery... Good speaker. Difficult material, but he covered it well...</i>					
B. "SEC Reporting Update" Michael Pratt	24%	71%	5%	0%	0%
<i>Comments: Presenter was good; unfortunately the topic was not exciting... Lots of info, speaker was very knowledgeable... Very professional... Nice overview without being too technical... A live presentation of XBRL would have been good... Good application to utilities... Speaker was very knowledgeable and had a nice delivery...</i>					
C. "Global Warming: Science, Politics..." Geoff Simon	51%	44%	5%	0%	0%
<i>Comments: Thanks for an enlightening presentation! Great job... Not what I was expecting. Thank you... Very good; however it was a one-sided view... Interesting... Interesting statistics in regard to global warming... Very interesting... Very interesting, nice to see the other side... Good common sense, very timely... Interesting perspective - 'not the mainstream opinion'... Gave different perspective... Nice to have the other side of the story and supporting photos/docs... Good information but it seemed one-sided... Very interesting...</i>					
D. "NCEA Company Overview" Black Hills Corp.	32%	60%	2%	0%	6%
<i>Comments: Looking forward to next year's conference... Nice to learn more about member companies... Too much detail, didn't give much of a history of the company, growth over the years would have helped... Excellent - Good job Chris... Interesting... Chris did a nice job presenting the material... Always great to learn about member companies...</i>					
E. "ROEI: The Hidden Truth" A. Jones/J. Kaiser	61%	39%	0%	0%	0%
<i>Comments: Great presentation... The speaker definitely kept my attention. Excellent presentation... Great enthusiasm. Keeps everyone interested. Great job!. Anne did an excellent job... Really got a lot out of this, especially Anne's comments... Great energy - Left us with food for thought... Good to use local talent, nice combination of fluff and hard facts... Excellent... Anne was an excellent speaker... Anne was great... Message was good. Anne's presentation was good, Jim could have upped the pace... Good message/concepts...</i>					
F. "We've Always Done It THIS Way..." T. Rasmussen	32%	49%	12%	0%	7%
<i>Comments: Very insightful, maybe a little long... Topic was slightly drawn out... It would be a good idea to select this or 'The Hidden Truth' to be on the first day, to mix up the facts and people skills... Great material - I'm getting the book... Timely topic with everything each company is going through... Very good idea... Good concept and development of strategies... Tim's message was well taken, the pace was a little slow though... Good definitional beginning... Very good speaker...</i>					
G. Monday's Workshop Roundtable Discussions	17%	63%	10%	3%	7%
<i>Comments: Good discussions... Not many came up with answers to questions... Although there is not enough common ground between companies; I made contacts for future reference... Good discussion on most items... Please ask participants to expand on acronyms in roundtable questions... We had a lot of really good discussion and had a lot of helpful responses to the questions listed... To large of a group. ¼ didn't contribute... Good discussions... Good discussion... Thanks for all the good ideas/comments... Nice discussions... Group was somewhat large... Not relaxed enough... We had some good discussions on the questions and processes... Good discussion. Time was about right... I think that the discussions were great... Good discussion issues/concerns...</i>					

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6. What future topics would you like presented at our 2009 NCEA Finance & Accounting Workshop?

Not sure, however I like the non-accounting topics...Fuel clause adjustment. Rate case issues...State of renewable portfolios. Current regulatory environment...Fraud, latest scams, etc. Current events...International accounting standards...MISO on day 3. Rate case summaries by state. What's new at FERC. Update on rate riders. Presentation by OTP on 100th anniversary...IFRS implementation. XBRL implementation. MISO ASM implementation...I believe we need another round of International Accounting standards as the specifics and timetables are more clearly defined...FASB/SEC update, enterprise risk management, some kind of motivational speaker (Leadership, Work/Life balance, Teambuilding, etc.), communications skills, accounting for emissions allowance...Continue to provide at least one session on leadership topic. Cash flow statement. Format and forensics...I would enjoy having a balance of accounting and non-accounting topics. I would love to hear more on IFRS as it evolves...Like the mix of accounting technical issues along with non-accounting topics related to our business and work issues...

7. For the 2009 Finance & Accounting Workshop in Rapid City, SD, weigh in on the following:

Pick your preferred Rapid City date for 2009: September 21 & 22: 91%, or September 28 & 29: 9%. Would you consider hosting this workshop at your utility and where?: Bismarck...

Provide feedback that will lend itself to a better workshop: *I would prefer Mt. Rushmore over Deadwood... Mt. Rushmore...Mount Rushmore tour... Go to Mount Rushmore!...Yes to Black Hills (Mount Rushmore)...Let's go to the evening lighting ceremony at Mt. Rushmore...Go to Mt. Rushmore...Love the use of local talent at the utility. All organizations have talented people – let's use them...Fun to visit Mt. Rushmore...Mount Rushmore...Pick 4 or 5 questions to discuss as a general session while everyone is together. Then, break into discussion groups by function...*

8. Comment on the “Economic Value” of participating in this event and the NCEA in general:

NCEA is a good organization and a great place to meet peers and discuss issues...Good value – Liked use of MDU's experts as speakers- good use of internal talent! Garret was a gracious host...I think this event is very good value...Very worthwhile to meet with other utilities - we pick up tips - see into other's work day and compare it with ours...Like always on a cost/benefit approach, it is always a bargain...Good value for participant...Deadwood please...High! Always nice to have an opportunity to meet with contemporaries and discuss specific topics...Wonderful discussions...Excellent...Inexpensive CPE credits, Good networking opportunity, Value-added training...Great training value for the price...I enjoy the roundtable discussions. I do find it difficult to decide where to attend. I do reporting at the utility level, so I don't really in with the 10-k,10-Q bunch, but the internal reporting is heavy on a/f, cash transactions...Low cost to network with peers...

2009 NCEA Finance & Accounting Workshop September 21 & 22, 2009

Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza, Rapid City, South Dakota
Chair & Host: Chris Kilpatrick, Black Hills Corporation



Controllers: Schedule your own motor coach Now!
Bring your staff to Rapid City – together as a team!