

How Best Practices entries are judged

Objective judging is key to the success of any awards program. The CTOTF Leadership Committee, chaired by John Lovelace of Arizona Public Service Co, Phoenix, selected from its ranks a panel of six judges for 2008.

Note that no Best Practices entries were submitted by any of the judges' plants, and all were scrubbed of company, plant, and personnel names before they were submitted for judging.

Entries were received from gas-turbine-based combined-cycle, peaking, and cogeneration plants. The panel of judges reflected expertise in each of these sectors of the industry to ensure a level playing field for all participants.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of the panel's qualifications:

- Three judges are located at their companies' headquarters sites and have engineering and/or management responsibilities for multiple generating resources; three are

located at plants.

- Of the judges with management responsibilities at the deck-plate level, one is at a combined-cycle plant, one at a peaking facility, and the third at a cogen plant.
- Plant management/operations experience of the panel exceeds 100 years.

Each judge received a notebook containing the entries arranged by category—Management, Environmental Stewardship, Safety, Design, and Operations and Maintenance (O&M)—together with a score sheet. The assignment: Read each entry for a given category and rate it from 1 to 10 for the five evaluation parameters listed below. The weighting factor assigned to each evaluation parameter is in parentheses.

1. Achieved business value—both real and measurable (weighting factor of 10).
2. Complexity of the issue (8).
3. O&M staff involvement (6).
4. Degree of coordination across mul-

iple groups at both the plant and corporate levels (5).

5. Duration of the value proposition (9).

Next step is to multiply the score for each parameter by its weighting factor; then add the results. Entry with the highest point total in a given category is awarded a "1," next highest a "2," and so on. Each judge submits his or her rankings to the editors, who then add them. Lowest point total in each of the four categories is rated The Best of the Best.

This year, as in the past, voting was extremely tight. In the safety category, for example, only five points separated the first and last of the six entries to make the final round of judging (there was a tie for second, one point behind The Best of the Best recipient). One point also separated the first two places in the Management category. Finally, there was a tie in Operation and Maintenance and two The Best of the Best plaques were awarded.

You be the judge

By the time you get to this segment of the Best Practices Awards special section hopefully you've at least skimmed all of the entries and read through, and benefitted from, a couple that were of particular interest. If you have been associated with the GT-based sector of the industry for a few years, your reac-

tion to several entries might be the following: "We did that a couple of years ago." You might also add: "And we did it better." And if that's true, you probably have continued to innovate and have ideas that your colleagues would find valuable. Please consider participating in the 2009 Best Practices

Awards program (instructions at www.psimedia.info/bestpractices.htm).

To better gauge how your entries might be rated, consider evaluating the 2008 entries and see how the results compare with those of the judges. The score sheet below is helpful in this regard.

Category/ Submittal	Business value		Complexity		Staff involvement		External coordination		Duration of value		Total score	Rank
	Score	x Wt	+	Score	x Wt	+	Score	x Wt	+	Score		
Management	1	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Management	2	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Management	N	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Environmental	1	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Environmental	2	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Environmental	N	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Safety	1	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Safety	2	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
Safety	N	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
O&M	1	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
O&M	2	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	
O&M	N	x 10	+	x 8	+	x 6	+	x 5	+	x 9	=	