

CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES

TRIP REPORT

SUBJECT: Software Quality Engineering Training Course
(AI No. 06002.01.011.055)

DATE/PLACE: April 15–20, 2007; San Diego, California

AUTHOR(S): Michael Simpson

PERSONS PRESENT:

The author was the sole Geosciences and Engineering Division attendee. Fourteen students attended the course (mostly from manufacturing companies). There were two instructors.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF MEETING/TRIP:

I hoped to obtain introductory software development instruction. This course, sponsored by the American Society for Quality (ASQ), appeared to be the best for my needs and background.

SUMMARY OF PERTINENT POINTS:

The course consisted of five full days instruction on topics related to software quality engineering including software quality management; software engineering processes; program and project management; metrics, measurement, and analytical methods; software verification and validation; and software configuration management.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

The course was a combination of lecture, team exercises, and question and answer sessions.

IMPRESSIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The provided course materials were comprehensive and well written and should provide a good reference resource. While the course provided useful information, it did not entirely meet my expectations. I was in an overflow class because more people signed up than were expected. The original instructor (author of the course material) took one group, and my group was led by another instructor brought in at the last minute. This instructor was not in total command of the course materials, and much information was skipped or skimmed over.

The composition of the class also presented a problem. Of the 14 students, 12 had a background in software and were trying to learn quality procedures, and only one other person and I were quality assurance people trying to learn software development procedures. With this mixture, the course focused on quality principles which was of less value to me. The 12 software developers probably considered the course more useful and may have even benefitted from having the replacement instructor, who was very well versed in quality standards.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

None other than as discussed above.

PENDING ACTIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

REFERENCES:

None.