

A Tribute to John D. Stevenson -
A Great Engineer, an International Expert
and a Good Friend

Aybars Gürpınar

SMiRT 23 Special Memorial
Session - Manchester

First IAEA Activity

The IAEA TECDOC 348 titled:

“Earthquake Resistant Design of Nuclear Facilities with Limited radioactive inventory”

Published in 1985 – External contributors – J.D.Stevenson, G.Duff, H. Shibata

Through its comprehensive yet simple and pragmatic approach, this TECDOC soon became an IAEA “best seller” – used as a contractual document in about 10 RR projects.



WWER's

John took part in the seismic safety of the WWERs from the onset of the IAEA extra budgetary program. In 1990, he visited Moscow on behalf of the IAEA to request the design information for the Kozloduy NPP units. This proved to be difficult. He, then helped the IAEA to write the specs for the subsequent walkdown of the Kozloduy NPP (the first plant walkdown that the IAEA organized).

WWERs and Eastern Europe

John established companies in Eastern Europe (in St. Petersburg, Plzen and Bucharest) and helped local engineers develop these companies as centers of excellence in the region. All of these companies as well as John's US company participated in the IAEA WWER Benchmark program along with many well known international organizations and companies such as AEP, EQE, Siemens, Paks NPP, Kozloduy NPP, Wölfel, Westinghouse, Energoprojekt, etc.





Versatility

John contributed to IAEA activities – both document preparation and safety review missions in a wide variety of topics, including:

- Seismic design
- Seismic re-evaluation and upgrading
- Other external hazards – especially wind and human induced events
- Protection of nuclear installations from sabotage
- NIs other than NPPs – DOE experience
- Cost effects on NPP construction resulting from seismic design level (May 1977)

Always willing to help others

John participated in numerous IAEA missions – never turned down an IAEA invitation. He always provided a wealth of information to the organizations he visited with the IAEA. He was always ready to follow up with free advice to the counterpart. He was a rare example of a true international expert – an engineer par excellence without borders.



