

## **COMMENT #10 – NOVEMBER 18, 2008**

Comments on the ASOP #41 Exposure draft

Reading Ken Hartwell's excellent comments on oral vs. written actuarial reports and on identifying the actuary got me to thinking about some cultural items that the ASB may not have thought about, given that until recently their focus has been on communications that, at some point, cross company walls, rather than on internal communications.

The culture at many companies would make it impossible to put one's name as author on a Power Point deck unless one wanted to be labeled "selfish", "not a team player", or various less friendly terms. When is a Power Point deck an actuarial communication and when is it just a prop for an oral presentation that is the true actuarial communication? Is it sufficient to indicate the latter by omitting items (like the author's name) that everyone knows every actuarial communication ought to have? Or is this a case where it would be reasonable for an actuarial communication (the Power Point deck for the internal presentation) not to identify the author?

It would be well if the committee could draft some language to provide guidance for such situations. The test case should not be a well-known-to-all case like the reserving actuary's presentation to the board of directors. The test case should be something more like a presentation of strategic considerations to a product management officer (or a presentation of reinsurance alternatives to the CFO), by an actuary, or, better, by a team that includes an actuary.

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