

Training branch may give meteorology courses for scientists

A popular AES training course: Introductory Descriptive Meteorology (IDM), given once or twice yearly at AES Downsview headquarters, is currently being re-evaluated.

A questionnaire went out in December to some 80 AES managers asking them to assess the usefulness of the training for their staff and to suggest possible changes to be incorporated in future courses. An accompanying memorandum signed by Philip Aber, director, Training branch, said that the current IDM course attempted to satisfy the requirements of both scientific and administrative staff, "whereas two distinct courses would now seem to be required." The memo added that an AES Training Sub-committee meeting October 22 had approved in principle that all scientific and technological staff acquire a minimum level of meteorological knowledge.

Trevor White of the Co-ordination and Development Section, organizer of the course, said there was now a greater need than ever to have scientific staff familiarize themselves with basic meteorology. "For example", he said, "there are chemists who have recently joined AES in connection with the Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants program (LRTAP) who could benefit greatly from taking a revised IDM course." But he added that replies from directors about splitting the course in two were so far inconclusive. "Giving courses on two levels would be rather difficult at present. For one thing we would have to devote more staff to the project. (Currently the IDM course has two instructors).

Mr. White reported most managers as saying the course was valuable for their staff because it enabled them to relate more effectively both to their work and with other employees. He thought the present content of the course was "about right" pending major re-organization.

The current 76 hour course, extending half days over a five week period is descriptive, and contains no mathematical equations. The course is divided into lectures, laboratory exercises, tours, map

discussions and weather observing.

Looking back on five years successful operation of the course, Mr. White said, "We are proud of the fact that we have given some 150 AES employees a sound introduction to meteorology." He added that staff members who wished to be nominated for the course should try to convince their supervisors that this type of training would increase their work effectiveness and be beneficial to AES as a whole. □



Graduates and instructors of last year's IDM meteorology course (September 8 - October 17) are front row left to right: Desrene Paige (ACRP), Lynne Pepin (AIA), Olga Kowal (ARQA), Lynda McCallum (Instructor-Met Tech ACRT), Myrna Headley (AFOC), Lynda Smith (CCRN), Dorothy Neale (executive assistant to ADMA, Ottawa). Back row, left to right: Russel Crook (AFFS), John Keeffe (AAG), Mike Duffy (ARMS), Aldo Missio (Instructor), Trevor White (Course director).