
Troubleshooting Process Operations

*A 3-Day Seminar with
Online option*

Sponsored by:



When

May 5-7, 2026

8:00 am – 5:10 pm

Where

**Willis Noland Conference Room, SEED Center,
4310 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605**

ABOUT THE COURSE

Norman and Elizabeth Lieberman's **Troubleshooting Process Operations** seminar has been presented to over 23,000 attendees since 1983. The material presented in this seminar focuses on the Liebermans' book *A Working Guide to Process Equipment* (McGraw-Hill) and Norm's book *Troubleshooting Process Operations* (PennWell) and is based on their ongoing personal troubleshooting experiences in refineries and petrochemical plants. This interactive seminar is intended for experienced plant operators and process engineers. Plan to answer and ask questions. Individual process problems can be discussed after class each day.

COURSE DELIVERY

Troubleshooting Process Operations is a 3-day seminar with the option to attend **Online**. Norman and Elizabeth Lieberman will conduct the seminar from the McNeese campus. Participants will have the option to attend the seminar from their work or home office. Light breakfast fare and lunch will be provided at no additional cost.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Experienced plant operators and process engineers.

COURSE LOCATION

Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development (SEED) Center located at 4310 Ryan Street in Lake Charles, LA. The SEED Center is across the street from the McNeese main campus. The event will be held in the Willis Noland Conference Room.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Norm Lieberman is a chemical engineer with over 60 years of experience in process design and plant supervision. He troubleshoots oil refinery and chemical plant process problems and prepares revamp designs. Norm was a Hydrocarbon Processing Lifetime Achievement Award recipient in 2018, and in 2023 he received an award by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers for distillation technology.

Norm Lieberman has taught more than 1050 technical seminars on process equipment and has authored eleven books, which include: *Troubleshooting*

Process Operations, Troubleshooting Natural Gas Processing, Process Design for Reliable Operations, and Process Equipment Malfunctions. To learn more about his books, visit website www.lieberman-eng.com.

Elizabeth Lieberman is a chemical engineer with more than two decades of experience in the process industries. Currently working as a consultant for troubleshooting oil refinery and chemical plant process problems, she also has experience in ceramic clay processing, refractories processing, and the conveying of non-Newtonian fluids (slurry flow).

She holds a Chemical Engineering BSc from the University of Wales (Swansea College), and LRIC in Chemistry and is the co-author of the book *Working Guide to Process Equipment* (McGraw-Hill).

GUEST SPEAKERS

Ed Young is the Technical Service Manager for Calcasieu Refining. He and Norman Lieberman have worked together on troubleshooting refinery process problems, including collaborative projects in Aruba. Ed has worked extensively in Egypt, Kuwait, and other international locations worldwide. He began his career with Exxon in Aruba as a process engineer, building a global foundation in refinery operations and problem-solving.

Gerry Obluda is the co-owner of Polaris Engineering in Lake Charles, a company that provides hydrocarbon process engineering services worldwide. Gerry and Norm first met at the Tenneco Oil Refinery near New Orleans and have collaborated on numerous refinery process challenges and retrofit engineering designs over the past several decades.

AGENDA

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	SIGN IN (at McNeese; Zoom setup at work/home)
8:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Session 1
9:30 AM - 10:40 AM	Session 2
11:00 AM - 12:10 PM	Session 3
12:10 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:10 PM	Session 4
2:30 PM - 3:40 PM	Session 5
4:00 PM - 5:10 PM	Session 6

20-minute breaks will be given between sessions.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DAY ONE

- Purpose of Trays and Reflux
- Effect of Pressure on Fractionation
- Heat Balance - Effect of Pumparounds
- Damaged Trays
- Incipient Flood
- Fouling and Corrosion
- Steam Stripping
- Side Stream Draw-off Problems
- Causes of Unstable Operations
- Troubleshooting Using Temperature and Pressure Profiles
- Packed Columns

DAY TWO

- Thermosyphon Reboilers
- Kettle and Forced Circulation Reboilers
- How Reboiler Problems Cause Tower Flooding
- Shell and Tube Heat Exchangers
- Condensers

- Air Coolers
- Surface Condensers
- Natural Draft Heaters
- Coke Formation in Heater Tubes

Guest Speaker: Ed Young will give a brief presentation on process engineering related topic.

DAY THREE

- Operation of Centrifugal Pumps
- Optimum Impeller Size
- Motor Drives - Amp Loading
- Troubleshooting NPSH
- Steam Turbines - Use of Hand Valves
- Surface Condensers
- Centrifugal Compressors
- Surge and How to Prevent it
- Rotor fouling
- Liquid Seal Ring Vacuum Pump
- Vacuum Distillation
- Vacuum Systems

REGISTRATION

- **Registration deadline: April 14, 2026** (Note: We will continue to accept registrations after this deadline if seats are available.)
- In-person cost: \$2,899; Zoom cost: \$2,499
- **Receive a \$400 discount if you pay on or before March 17, 2026**
- 2.4 CEUs and 24 PDHs awarded to participants
- Register and pay online at:
https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0089-0004-323f2ed50da94deea0edfb3d23197600
- Or, use the QR code below to quickly access the registration page
- Purchase orders accepted.
- To register and pay any other way, please contact Amanda Hext, 337.562.4592, ahext@mcneese.edu
- Billing and receiving address:

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