



Building Product Evaluation Report Committee

— Member Biographies —

The PFS TECO Building Product Evaluation Report (BPER) Committee is comprised of professionals with decades of experience in the development, certification, testing, inspection, and approval of new and innovative building products. The knowledge, experience, and expertise of this collective gives building code officials, product manufacturers, and other stakeholders confidence that the subjects of PFS TECO BPERs have been thoroughly evaluated for compliance to the applicable codes and standards.

Zhaozhen Bao, PhD

Senior Scientist

Dr. Bao has a PhD in Wood Science and Engineering from Purdue University, an MS in Wood Products from the University of Illinois, and a BS in Wood Engineering and Technology from Nanjing Forestry University (China). He has over 35 years of experience in R&D, engineering, testing and certification in the structural panel and engineered wood product industries. He has authored and reviewed numerous technical, research and qualification reports. Zhaozhen has published five peer-reviewed technical articles, and is the author of Chapter Six, *Structural Composite Lumber*, of a McGraw-Hill engineered wood handbook. He is also a member of the ASTM D07 (Wood) and D14 (Adhesives) committees.

Larry A. Beineke, PE, PhD

Vice President (retired)

Dr. Beineke earned a PhD in structural engineering from Purdue University with an emphasis on engineered wood-based materials. He has more than 45 years of experience in R&D, engineering, quality assurance, and management in industry and academia. He retired from PFS Corporation after 31 years as Vice President of the Southeast Region. Prior to joining PFS, he developed a wood I-joint as Director of Engineering and Manufacturing for Alpine Structures. He has also been an Associate Professor of Building Construction at Michigan State University; a peer reviewer for the *Forest Products Journal*; a research proposal reviewer for the USDA State Research, Education, and Extension Service; and a member of the Editorial Board of *Wood Design Focus*. Larry has authored a dozen book chapters, articles, and papers having to do with engineered wood products, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Wisconsin.

Abby Davidson, EIT

Building Products Engineer

Abby has a BSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an AAS degree in Architectural Technology at Madison Area Technical College. She has experience with Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses, including inspection and quality control, design of repairs and modifications, code evaluation reports, code development, and technical education materials. Abby represents PFS TECO as a member of the ANSI/TPI 1 Project Committee.

Daniel Hovanec

Panel Products Manager

Dan has an MS in Forestry (Wood Science and Technology emphasis) and BS in Wood Science and Technology, both from West Virginia University. As an undergraduate laboratory technician, Dan assisted Wood Science department faculty with various research projects mostly related to the use of alternate materials in OSB, while his graduate research focused on evaluating adhesive bond quality in low grade yellow-poplar lumber for use in CLT. Upon joining PFS TECO in 2015, Dan work's work focused primarily on inspection, testing, and certification of structural panels (OSB, plywood) and also non-structural panels (MDF, PB, HWPW) subject to the California and U.S. EPA formaldehyde emission regulations.

Brent D. Olson, PhD

EWP Manager / Senior Materials Engineer

Dr. Olson earned a BS in Forestry Administration and Forestry Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, WI, and an MS in Wood Materials Engineering and PhD in Civil Engineering from Washington State University in Pullman, WA. He has held technical positions with Borden Chemical, JELD-WEN, and Katerra CLT before coming to PFS TECO. As a result of academic training and private sector experience, Brent has extensive knowledge in material science, adhesives, fenestration, fiber and particle composites, mass timber, and industrial processing of composites



and bio-based materials. Brent now works for PFS TECO as a Senior Materials Engineer in a position that blends technical topics with providing solutions and support to industrial and academic interests.

James A. Rothman, PE
Senior Vice President (retired)

Jim is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Jim has more than 45 years of experience in structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical and structural testing reviews. He has extensive experience with and knowledge of the codes and standards for construction of products used in the US, Canada, and Europe, and has been an ISO 9000 provisional lead auditor. As Senior Vice President of Quality Control at PFS TECO, Jim had the primary responsibility for making certification decisions to ISO 17065 and PFS TECO listing programs.

Deepak Shrestha, PE, PhD

Director of Building Components / Senior Engineer

Dr. Shrestha earned a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with an emphasis in structures. He has over 27 years of experience in R&D, testing, product evaluation and code certification of thermoplastic composite roofing shingles, siding and lumber, engineered wood products, metal plate connectors, and fasteners. Dr. Shrestha served as a Research Scientist in academia and the private sector, including with Washington State University, Teel Plastics, and Robbins Engineering. Deepak has published ten peer-reviewed technical articles, and currently serves as a subcommittee chair for ASTM E6.11.

Samuel Smidansky
OSB Manager

Sam holds a BS degree in Wood Science and Technology from West Virginia University. His career started as an R&D Intern at Huber Engineered Woods in Commerce, GA, where he studied manufacturing, raw materials, and additives to enhance OSB product performance. In 2015, Sam joined PFS TECO and now has considerable experience in the certification, inspection, and testing of OSB for use in the United States, Canada, and Japan.

Steven Verhey, PhD

Technical Director (Building Products Division)

Steve joined TECO in 2004 and has been involved with ISO compliance audits and panel products certification ever since. Since 2017, Dr. Verhey has been involved with the full scope of certification work in PFS TECO's Building Products Division. He is a member of the ASTM D07 (Wood) and D14 (Adhesives) committees and the Standing Committees for PS 1 and PS 2, the standards for wood structural panels in the US. He has also served as an expert witness in state and federal lawsuits relating to the testing of formaldehyde emission from wood-based composites. Prior to joining TECO, Steve worked as research faculty at Michigan Technological University, where he earned a PhD specializing in preservative treated wood composites and taught classes in several areas of wood science. He also holds BS and MS degrees in Chemistry.

Steve G. Winistorfer, PE
Senior Vice President / Division Manager

Steve has more than 35 years of experience in the certification, testing, marketing, design, and application of structural wood products in the US and Canada, having worked for both public and private organizations such as the USDA FS Forest Products Laboratory, TECO, Champion International, Trus Joist Corporation, and Alpine Engineered Products. He is now Senior Vice President and head of PFS TECO's Building Products Division, representing PFS TECO on several industry technical and marketing committees including ASTM (D07 - Wood), ASABE, ANSI A190.1 for glulam, ANSI/APA PRG 320 for CLT, the American Wood Council's technical subcommittees, and the Canadian Wood Council. Steve holds BS and MS degrees in Agricultural Engineering (timber engineering emphasis) and an MS in Business, all from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Wisconsin and Florida.

Michael Yee

Building Products Engineer

Michael has a BS in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology. In 2015, he joined PFS TECO with a primary focus on testing of various building components. As a member of the Building Products Division's technical staff, Michael is heavily involved with planning and conducting tests, analyzing test data, and writing test reports for CLT, glulam, structural panels, and deck board products manufactured by PFS TECO's clients.