

Comments on Peer Review & Instructor Comments

We believe that the peer review that was conducted on our progress report was reasonable and the comments helped us move forward in our project. It taught us what we were doing wrong in our approach and opened our eyes on some of the technical details of the report. Firstly, our progress report did not follow the big format of the report, it only followed the format for each task, so that was the first thing we fixed on our final report. Secondly, some of the tasks, like the Hydraulic Analysis (energy losses) was not done correctly and after our meeting with Prof. Ayla, we realized how to do it correctly, so that was redone on the final report. Also, a lot of our diagrams and drawings were “unprofessional” or rough sketches, so those were changed to be more detailed. They were still hand drawn, but were more accurate with every detail possible. These changes were important to make if we wanted a better grade, and it was a basic requirement of the final report. We realized that the progress report did not look presentable and couldn't be submitted to professionals if asked. If we were to do this project again or had more time to do the project, we would use software to make the drawings (AutoCAD or Inventor) because that is what is done in professional settings and looks neat and well planned. And from a manager's point of view, it would make the contractors look impressive, as well. To make those additional changes, maybe extra points toward the final report would motivate us to put in that extra work.

Reflection on Peer Review

We feel that the peer review process is a vital part of this project. It fulfills a couple of key areas of feedback. First, as reviewers, we were able to see where other teams were in their project. It was helpful to see different approaches. In this aspect the review process serves as somewhat of an idea exchange. Another advantage of reviewing others was that we were able to use the rubric. This allowed each of us to become more familiar with the rubric. This awareness of the rubric was extremely beneficial moving forward. The other key area of feedback was receiving reviews from our peers. After all, these are students going through the same struggles as we were. The reviews we received were very well written and were certainly intended to be helpful. While there are not often rubrics in real world projects, peer review is ultimately how you will be judged in your career. As for negatives about the process, we did not experience any. Really the only way this could become negative is if for some personal reasons, someone lost the objectivity. We feel the chances of this are rare since the teams are assigned numbers and the fact that all of the reviewers are also involved in the same project. In conclusion, we feel the peer review process is one of the most positive features of this project.