



November 2025 Volume 45 Issue 3

Chapters are not authorized to speak for the Society

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLUMBING ENGINEERS
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November CHAPTER MEETING

Date: TUESDAY, November 11, 2025

Location: Countryside YMCA
1699 Deerfield Rd
Lebanon, OH 45036
Tel 513.932.1424

Cost: \$20 online

Schedule: 11:30PM-1:30PM

Water Treatment Systems

Reservations: Make a reservation and pay for the meeting through the Chapter Website or email Bill Berger at bill.berger@kohler.com or John Fox at jfox@mwspec.com before noon on MONDAY, November 10th, so that a head count can be established. As always, guests are welcome.

All content displayed at ASPE meetings is copyrighted. No one may copy any part of it without permission of the copyright owner. Violation of this rule can lead to monetary damages.

LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Meetings to be held at Countryside YMCA, Lebanon, OH unless noted otherwise.

- Disney McLane Wet Lab Hands On Training – November 7, 2025
Fire Pump Design Practices – December 9, 2025
Industry Panel for ASPE Young Professionals – December 9, 2025
Fire Pump Design Practices – December 9, 2025

The ASPE Newsletter is published by the Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society, the Chapter or the Editor.

Presidential prose...



This Friday we are having additional training beyond our usual monthly meeting. We will be meeting at the Disney-McLane Wet Lab for hands on experience with backflow preventers, pressure reducing valves, pumps, and more. You'll take away a deeper understanding of just how your designs come to life in the field.

Ahead of the December 9th meeting we are hosting a panel of engineers to discuss their career paths, favorite projects, and what they might do differently. This is targeted to our under 35 Young Professionals crowd. If you are an AYP please show up to the usual meeting place at 10:30a to participate.

We are partnering with the Tri-State Society of Fire Protection Engineers to bring back a

favorite speaker, Susan Willeke, to cover Ohio Ethics Continuing Education. That meeting will be on April 15th at the Sharonville Fire Department. This meeting with NOT replace our usual monthly technical meeting.

The Kentucky Bluegrass satellite chapter will sign their Charter on November 11th. I encourage any affiliate members who have territory in Kentucky to carry dual memberships for both Southwest Ohio and Kentucky Bluegrass. Please see VP membership, Brian Selander, for how to add multiple chapter affiliations to your membership.

We have the entirety of our educational meetings planned out through January. These are all on our website, southwesternohioaspe.org, for your planning purposes. Meetings are all currently scheduled to be held at our usual time of noon at the Countryside YMCA in Lebanon.

Lastly, a big THANK YOU to all of our members as we were presented the Membership Retention Award at the Symposium in Orlando. Only a few Chapters were presented with this award and it's all thanks to our membership sticking with us. As Red Green would say "I'm pulling for ya, we're all in this together."

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Plumbing Engineers

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Upcoming Events:

Disney McLane Wet Lab Hands On Training
– November 7, 2025

Water Treatment Systems – November 11,
2025

Industry Panel for ASPE Young
Professionals – December 9, 2025

Fire Pump Design Practices – December 9,
2025

Thanks for being here, we like having you.

– **Andrew Hemmelgarn**
President

Technically Speaking...



Technically Speaking

November

Hope everyone enjoyed the extra hour of sleep last weekend. I know I needed it, though losing sun at 6 PM is always a tough adjustment. And thank you everyone who tuned in for October's presentation! Geoff Homan's course was a great starting point on vacuum systems, touching on equipment, materials, and sizing. I've run into several applications that use (or should be using) vacuum, and information like this helped make it a lot less daunting.

Coming up in November we've got Water Treatment Systems presented by David Dravet. This is always relevant, and no matter how many seminars I attend on water quality I always learn more. Hope to see you there!

Cheers,

– James Fiorini
VP, Technical

The Southwestern Ohio Chapter would like to wish a

Happy Birthday

to the following members celebrating their birthday this month:

Regina Condy, Richard Davis, John Fox, Shane Gosney, Derek Koogler and Darrin Thompson

And the Chapter would like to wish a

Happy Anniversary

to the following members commemorating their ASPE anniversary this month:

Richard Davis, David Dexter, Mike Felton, John Fox, Brian Fraley, Michael Graziani, Jim Huesman, Megan O'Brien, Chris Schreel and Jeff Watern

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Legislative lingo...



2025 Ohio Fire Code Updates soon

As I write this, the 2025 OFC (2021 IFC) is in review with the state. It is in the **Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR)**, which is the final stage of the formal rule update process. A couple notable changes below with a link to explore changes proposed.

Fuel oil storage is increased to 1,320 gallons if the building is sprinklered and the tank is listed to UL 142. Requirements for fuel-oil tanks are enhanced with specific standards for tank design, a correlating reference to the mechanical code and additional protection when tanks in a building exceed 660 gallons.

Additional requirements have been added for automatic sprinkler system riser rooms and fire pump rooms.

Open parking garages are required to be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system when the fire area exceeds 48,000 square feet.

<https://com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/state-fire-marshal/code-enforcement/ohio-fire-code/2025-proposed-ohio-fire-code-update>

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Looking to stay in touch
with the Chapter



www.southwestern-ohio.aspe.org

Membership musings...



We had a great turnout for our last meeting on Vacuum Systems. Our next chapter event is Tuesday, November 11th on Water Treatment Systems w/ Franklin Water Treatment from 12-1pm at Countryside YMCA in Lebanon.



We've had another month of many renewals, and we'd like to acknowledge these folks for their continued support to our local chapter: Thomas Deberson, Crissy Elliott, Brian Fraley, Kyle Gordon, Steven Meier, Megan O'Brien, Matt Sciarretti & Darrin Thompson. Thank you all!

We'd also like to offer a warm welcome to our newest member Andrew Bushman. We hope to see you at our next meeting.

Our total membership is at 107 members made of 60 Full members, 15 Associate members, 29 Affiliate members, 2 Life members, and 1 Retired member.

Total Membership		
	Oct 24'	Oct 25'
Buffalo-Niagara	44	47
Central Indiana	133	131
Central Ohio	113	129
Cleveland	98	100
Eastern Michigan	111	120
Johnstown	30	38
Kentucky Bluegrass	33	39
Pittsburgh	99	109
Rochester	85	84
Southwest Indiana	40	38
Southwestern Ohio	108	107
Toronto	103	118
Western Michigan	90	101
Region 2 Total:	1088	1161

Thanks,

**– Brian Selander
VP, Membership**

PLUMBING SYSTEMS: COMMERCIAL IRONHEART PR

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QUALITY CONTROL AND TESTING!

SyncroFlo's quality control program is on the leading edge of technology for our industry. Each system is tracked at all stages of manufacturing, assembly, and testing with web based reporting via hand held devices. All welding is performed by AWS or ASME qualified welders. Once manufacturing and assembly are complete, the system is connected to our NIST calibrated test rig. We then hydrostatically test and flow test from zero to 100% of design and under specified suction and net delivery pressures. Once on site, your only surprise is how easy the system is to startup and commission.


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Northern Kentucky (Lexington, Louisville...)



Through the pipes...



Earn 0.2 CEUs

The Women of ASPE (WOA) invites you to a new webinar on November 21 at noon CST to learn about “Transforming Aging in Place to Aging with Grace in the Kitchen and Bath.” During this two-hour webinar you will learn how Universal Design can create safe and accessible homes for all and discover plumbing products that meet homeowners' needs. [Learn more>>](#)

MEMBER NEWS

[KAI Promotes Central Indiana Chapter Member](#)

KAI is pleased to announce the promotion of Senior Mechanical Engineer Mike Tamagni, PE, CPD, to the expanded role of National Director of Mechanical Engineering, responsible for the overall success of KAI’s mechanical and plumbing engineering practice. [Learn more>>](#)

[Can You Guess Which ASPE Chapter Gained the Most New Members?](#)

We'll give you a clue: this Chapter is famous for recruiting new members, especially at its popular parties. You can find out if your guess is correct on [ASPE Pipeline](#).

PIPELINE EXCLUSIVES



Welcome back to “Lessons in Firestop.” If you’ve been following [our series](#), you already know we don’t take shortcuts when it comes to protecting life and property. We’ve covered the unique challenges of firestopping various materials, and now we’re tackling a big one: **plastic pipes and the brilliance of tuck-in firestop systems.**

Let me paint the picture of the first time I saw this done right. The contractor was using a 3M firestop solution. The project? A large commercial building with a **fluted metal deck**. The penetrant? **4-inch PVC**. Now, typically I’m a fan of cast-in firestop devices in this kind of setting, but what I saw on that jobsite changed the way I thought about plastic pipe penetrations—a **tuck-in firestop system** can be installed entirely from the **top side of the floor**.

Why It Matters More Than Ever

Firestopping isn’t just about passing inspections or checking a box. It’s about **life safety**. It’s about those extra minutes that allow people to escape a fire safely, and it’s about giving firefighters the critical time they need to do their job. That means **design, construction, and quality control** must work in unison—every time.

This isn’t just technical. It’s moral.

Now, back to that tuck-in system—because if you’re dealing with 4-inch PVC through a concrete floor, especially one poured over fluted deck, this might just become your go-to solution.

The Traditional Way (and Why It’s Painful)

Let’s say you’re not using a tuck-in system or a cast-in-place firestop device. Here’s what the firestop installer is facing:

1. Access the **underside** of the floor assembly.
2. **Field-fabricate** a firestop collar, potentially with multiple layers of intumescent wrap strip.
3. Attach a **metal retaining collar** using concrete fasteners and fender washers.
4. Probably install firestop sealant before the collar or maybe on the top side of the floor. (You have to refer to the detail you are installing to know for certain.)

That’s what they would do on a flat concrete deck. If it’s a fluted metal deck, it’s even more challenging:

1. First, **shoot a metal plate** onto the underside so the collar sits flush. If not flush, the firestop material may ooze out toward the weakest point—not what we want in a fire-rated assembly.
2. Next, **fill the metal flutes with mineral wool** and seal the ends with firestop.
3. Then—and only then—install the collar the way described above.
4. Finally, depending on the detail, head back to the **top of the floor** to apply firestop sealant.

Oh, and this is all **overhead work**—slow, fatiguing, and with a high risk for safety incidents. Every step introduces chances for **installation error**.

Enter the Tuck-In Firestop System: Smart, Safe, and Simplified


So, what’s the tuck-in system? It’s a **listed firestop solution** that installs **entirely from the top side** of the floor.

Let me break it down.

Step 1: Choose the Right Firestop Detail

Everything starts here. Make sure:

- The **concrete thickness** is right.
- You’re using the correct **pipe type and size** (in our example, 4-inch PVC).
- The **annular space**—the distance between the pipe and the opening—is within range for the system.

 **Pro Tip:** Double-check this detail. Each manufacturer has specific tolerances. Don’t guess. Read the directions. Yes, I said it.

Step 2: Confirm Required Materials

Most tuck-in systems require:

- **Intumescent wrap strip**—the key to closing off the hole when the plastic pipe melts away
- **Sealant** applied at the **top side only**
- **Mineral wool** insulation in the opening (if specified)

Check the placement of the wrap strip. Some systems require it to be recessed below the floor, while some allow it to be closer to the top of the floor. (Remember when I said you need to read? Well, I'm saying it again because it is important.)

Step 3: Install—From the Top!

No lifts. No harnesses. No ladders. No safety hazards. Your installer:

1. Inserts the wrap strip into the opening to the specified depth.
2. Packs mineral wool around the wrap strip as specified.
3. Applies sealant at the surface.

That's it.

If you've ever struggled with overhead collars, this system is a game-changer.

Don't Skip the Fine Print

Before you go running to switch every spec on your next project, hold on. There are a few important cautions.

Mind the Annular Space

Check your detail and measure your opening carefully. If the space is too tight or too large, the system won't work as listed.

No Couplers in the Plate

A common mistake is when installers place a PVC coupling directly in the slab. That's a no-go. The coupler disrupts the expansion of the firestop material, and in many systems it voids the listing.

Pipe Size Limits

Most tuck-in systems that I have seen are **limited to 4-inch pipes or smaller**. If you're working with larger diameters, you may need a collar system or a different listed solution. But don't assume—**always check for updates**. Manufacturers are constantly testing new configurations.

Why It Matters

This isn't just about simplifying installs (though it definitely does that). This is about **getting it right**—every time.

Too often, we see plastic pipe penetrations firestopped with systems that weren't listed for that application, or we find installations where the installer didn't even have access to the underside of the slab, so they skipped the collar completely.

If there's **no collar**, and the pipe melts in a fire, guess what? Fire and smoke travel straight up through that opening. You've lost **containment**. You've lost **compartmentation**. You've lost **lives**.

This system helps solve that, but only if we treat it with the respect it deserves.

Where We Go From Here

Firestopping is more than just red goo and a few labels on the wall. It's a building life-safety system, just like alarms and sprinklers.

Tuck-in firestop systems are a great tool for plastic pipes in floors, especially with fluted deck construction. They're **faster**, **safer**, and often more **reliable** than overhead collar installs. But they require discipline. You've got to know the system. Follow the listing. Measure carefully. Document everything.

Because **someone's life may depend on it**.

Coming Up Next

In our next "Lessons in Firestop" segment, we're going to look at **tuck-in systems in fire-rated gypsum walls**. If you're using plastic pipes in multifamily or light commercial work, this is something you need to understand—and likely something you'll need to correct.

Thanks for learning with us. Let's keep getting better.

Because firestopping isn't just about stopping fire. It's about doing the job right—**before lives are on the line**.

Connect with Sharron



A former kindergarten teacher turned firestop expert, Sharron is President of Halpert Life Safety Consulting LLC, a leading provider of firestop-related life-safety and passive fire protection solutions.

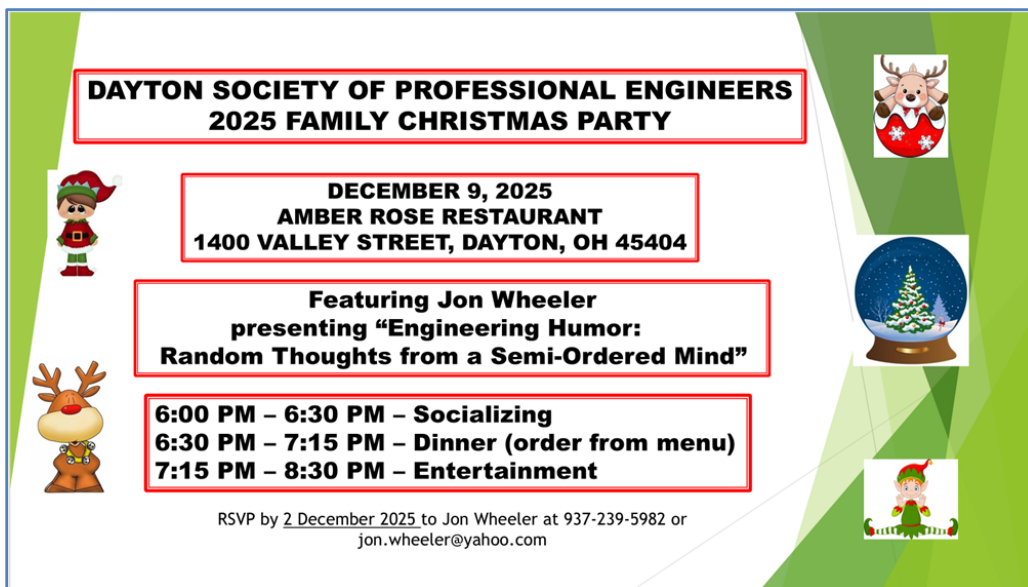
If you like what you read here and want to know more, email sharron@halpertlifesafety.com or connect with her on [LinkedIn](#) or [Twitter](#) to tell her what else you want her to cover in this column. You can also follow her on [Instagram](#). If you find this information valuable, please like, share, comment, repost, retweet, and throw it on IG to help people build better.

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and not the American Society of Plumbing Engineers.

INDUSTRY NEWS

- Plastic pipe associations join forces in new campaign
- 2026 ASHRAE Winter Conference technical program is announced
- FGI launches a new educational platform
- PHCC Educational Foundation awards record-breaking 66 students with scholarships
- AWWA's ACE25 earns platinum certification for sustainable events
- Steve Voss joins Rinnai America Corporation as vice president of sales
- Alex Houston of Rheem named to manufacturers' association board of directors
- International Code Council honors building safety professionals with 2025 awards

Get more industry news on ASPE Pipeline>>



**DAYTON SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
2025 FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**DECEMBER 9, 2025
AMBER ROSE RESTAURANT
1400 VALLEY STREET, DAYTON, OH 45404**

**Featuring Jon Wheeler
presenting "Engineering Humor:
Random Thoughts from a Semi-Ordered Mind"**

**6:00 PM – 6:30 PM – Socializing
6:30 PM – 7:15 PM – Dinner (order from menu)
7:15 PM – 8:30 PM – Entertainment**

RSVP by 2 December 2025 to Jon Wheeler at 937-239-5982 or
jon.wheeler@yahoo.com

Parting thought...

"Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood."

-Bill Murray


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Last year, we implemented our thermal actuator technology into the CircuitSolver® Union Cold Water balancing valves. These valves are installed in domestic Cold Water recirculation systems to mitigate the risk of Legionella and other bacterial growth. Cold water recirculation is becoming more prominent in hospitals to reduce water stagnation and ensure residual chlorine is distributed but can be beneficial to any commercial building that could experience periods of low flow or non-use.



DID YOU KNOW?

Clocks move clockwise because they were modeled after ancient sundials, which show shadows moving in a clockwise direction in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Apollo guidance computer ran at a 2 MHz clock rate, had 2K of RAM and 36K of ROM memory.

In 1950, a boiler at the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton, MA exploded killing 58 and injuring 150. This incident spurred the ASME to write its pressure vessel design and construction rules which are pretty much the world standard for pressure vessel design and fabrication.

The inventors of the Ferris Wheel and the Merry-Go-Round never met in person. They ran in different circles!

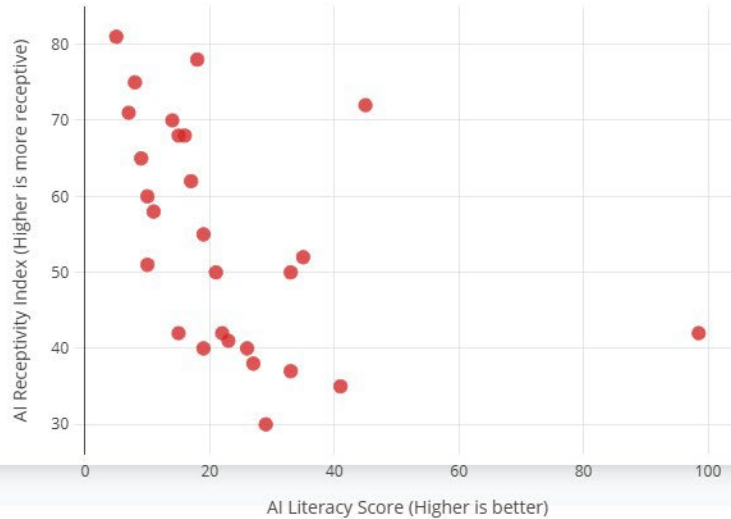
Neils Bohr, Denmark, won the 1922 Physics Nobel Prize for his contribution in the investigation of the atomic structure and radiation. He was gifted a house by Carlsberg, next to a brewery. Carlsberg had put in a pipeline to the house directly from the brewery with an unlimited supply of the premium beer, to honor the physicist.

"I'd like to live like a poor man...only with lots of money." (Pablo Picasso)

The Reality: An Inverse Relationship

Contrary to popular belief, analysis of global data shows a clear negative correlation. Countries with higher overall AI literacy and expertise demonstrate lower public receptivity to AI products and services. As objective knowledge increases, general enthusiasm wanes.

AI Literacy vs. AI Receptivity Across 27 Countries



Surveys of business executives and the general public reveal a near-unanimous belief: those with higher AI knowledge are the prime audience for adoption. This assumption drives marketing and development strategies across the industry.

Executive Prediction on AI Adoption Drivers



■ Believe Higher Literacy Drives Adoption

■ Believe Lower Literacy Drives Adoption or No Relationship

Technology Corner: Who Embraces AI?

Aurea L. Rivera, PE, F.NSPE

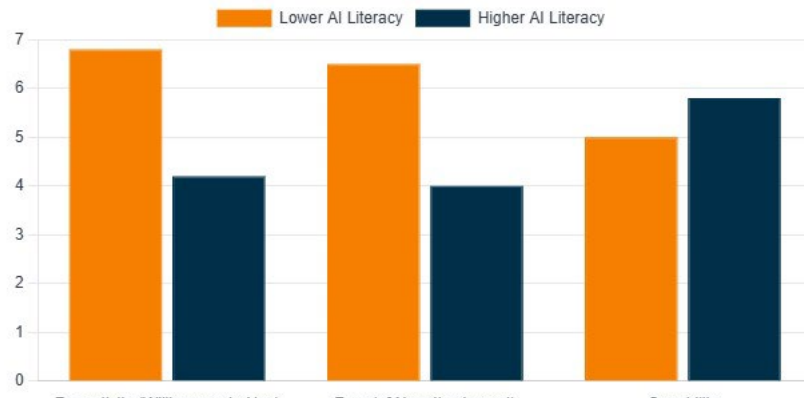
(Research based on “Who Embraces AI?”, Harvard Business Review, Nov-Dec-2025 and “Lower Artificial Intelligence Literacy Predicts Greater AI Receptivity” by Stephanie M. Tully, Chiara Longoni, and Gil Appel)

“Life would be tragic if it weren’t funny.” (Stephen Hawking)

The Paradox of Perception

Strikingly, those with lower AI literacy are more willing to use AI *in spite of* being more fearful of its societal impact and perceiving it as less capable on some tasks. The emotional pull of "awe" is strong enough to override these rational concerns.

Comparing User Perceptions by AI Literacy Level



"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." (Albert Einstein)

Why Does This Happen? The Power of "Magic"

The key isn't a rational calculation of AI's capabilities. Instead, it's an emotional response. For those who don't understand the underlying mechanics, AI's output feels magical and inspires a powerful sense of awe, which becomes the primary driver for adoption.



Key Takeaway & Implications

The counterintuitive conclusion is that ****familiarity kills the magic****. While promoting AI literacy is crucial for safe and ethical use, companies and policymakers must recognize that it may inadvertently reduce public enthusiasm. The most receptive audience isn't the informed expert, but the amazed novice. This suggests that marketing efforts focused on wonder and possibility may be more effective for driving initial adoption than those focused on technical transparency.

IMPORTANT AWARDS CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

The following awards are grouped by due date. Please help us seek out deserving award nominees to help submit for these awards. This is one very important way we can help our Chapter shine and brag about our Chapter Region!

December 1

Star Chapter Recognition Program -
OSPE Young Engineer of the Year Award -
NSPE Fellow Membership Status Application –

March 1

OSPE Citation -
Meritorious Service Award -
Outstanding Engineering Student Award -
Outstanding Engineering Educator Award -
Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award –
Overall National Engineers Week Observance Award -

April 1

OSPE Uncommon Engineer Award -
Legislator of the Year Award -
Professional Engineering Management Award – Would like to pursue this year
Ohio New Product Award –

If you have any questions please contact Jim Kauppila or any of our Chapter Officers or Directors'

*"Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood."
(Bill Murray)*

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