

Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

William J. Wenzel, P.E.

Montana Professional License Number 7ES

- * Professional Degree of Civil Engineering, University of Cincinnati, 1932.
- * U.S. Army – 1932 to 1936: Oversaw construction of CCC camps, dams and campgrounds in Vermont and Grand Teton National Park.
- * 1936 to 1939: Worked on the design and construction site of the 1939 New World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, NY, under the engineering supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- * 1939 to 1942: Worked for George Dempster in developing a system of detachable containers and a machine by which they could be picked up and transported, then emptied and returned, which evolved into the name "Dempster Dumpster," known now as a "dumpster".
- * 1942 to 1943: Worked for Ellerbe & Co. and Sverdrup & Parcel on projects such as the original design of Malmstrom Air Force Base, Gore Field (now Great Falls International Airport), a gasoline pipeline along the Alaska Highway and satellite air fields in Cut Bank, Lewistown and Glasgow.
- * 1944 to 1947: Served as Chief engineer for Corwin and Company working on a variety of Montana municipal water and sewage treatment projects including mechanical sewage treatment plants.
- * 1947 to 1949: Great Falls City Engineer and Director of Public Works responsible for design and construction of public utilities including sanitary sewer systems and storm sewers. Designed a concrete water storage tank in the growing east end of Great Falls, which still stands today.
- * 1949 to 1976: Founder and President of Wenzel & Company in Great Falls, MT. Provided various engineering services for hydroelectric dams, airports, water systems, sewer systems, subdivisions and surveying. Significant projects included relocation of the Town of Rexford, Libby Airport, Murray Spring fish hatchery, grain handling facility at Port of Sweetgrass, MT and radar stations throughout Montana and North Dakota.
- * Promoted the use of sewage lagoons in the 1950's to treat sewage in many small communities in Montana as well as industrial plants and Hutterite colonies.
- * Involved with hydroelectric projects in the Pacific Northwest including the Libby, Cabinet Gorge, Noxon Rapids, Albeni Falls, Paradise, Knowles, Cochrane and Yellowstone Earthquake "Quake Lake" dams.
- * 1957: Zone Commander, Lieutenant Colonel with the US Public Health Service responsible for the lives, health and safety of livestock and people related to radiation monitoring from atomic bombs in Nevada.
- * Registered Professional Engineer in Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.
- * Engineering Society Memberships: American Concrete Institute, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Engineers, American Water Works Association, Consulting Engineers Council of Montana and National Society of Professional Engineers. Diplomat National Academy of Sanitary Engineers.
- * Member of Masonic Lodges, President of Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, Director of Downtowner Senior Living Apartments in Great Falls, and helped found the Montana Energy Education Council.

Inducted November 4, 2020

Presented by the Montana Society of Engineers
A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

