
For nation's energy sources — to self

“There’s been tremendous peaks and valleys in the energy industry,” Fischette

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — U.S. energy prospects for the next 40 years are partly promising but also carry some uncertainty. That will likely create boom-and-bust cycles for energy sources similar to what the nation has seen in the past 40 years, according to panelists at a Richard Stockton College energy conference.

The conversations among 150 guests, energy company leaders and environmentalists Wednesday were wide-ranging — from memories of gasoline at 36 cents a gallon in 1971, to discussion of developments in biomass, which involves converting matter such as dead trees and other forest residues into energy products.

In looking forward, one industry leader, Michael Fischette, chief executive officer of Voorhees-based Concord Engineering, predicted that “nuclear and renewables will dominate in the future,” even as he noted nuclear development is currently in a holding pattern.

The “Energy 40/40” conference was tied into Stockton’s recent 40th anniversary. The college opened its doors in 1971.

The next 40 years will be as unpredictable as the past 40 years, Fischette said.

