

GLRPPR Winter Conference Recap

Exciting new pollution prevention ideas and programs were shared with approximately 100 participants at the Winter 2002 Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable conference held recently in Chicago. The opening session included an overview of the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy, presented by Gary Gulezian, director of the Great Lakes National Program Office. This program is a joint effort of the U.S. and Canada for the virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes basin. Other keynote speakers were Robert Safe, of Safe Technology, Inc., who introduced issues related to mold contamination of buildings, and Natalie Roy, executive director of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, who discussed the relation of pollution prevention issues to environmental security.

State and national updates about ongoing and future pollution prevention projects were also presented. Phil Kaplan provided an update on U.S. EPA Region V programs, including Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (see H2E's web site at www.h2e-online.org), the presentation of Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards, the recently held National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program Summit, National Environmental Performance Track, the Tribal Hotel and Casino Pollution Prevention Workshop, and State/DOD P2 Partnerships. Recently released EPA publications include a waste prevention pocketbook, "Environmental Assistance Services for Small Businesses-A Resource Guide," "Partners for the Environment: Boosting Your Bottom Line," and six new environmentally preferable purchasing guides. For an update on Region V funding opportunities, visit <http://www.glrppr.org/funding/>.

In addition, workgroup sessions were held on the following topics:

- Mercury in auto switches
- Environmental Management Systems
- P2 partnerships
- Regulatory integration
- General mercury issues
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Local government
- GLRPPR information outreach

GLRPPR members also discussed ideas for the upcoming Summer 2002 GLRPPR Conference, to be held on August 26-28 at the Marriott Eaton Hotel in Toronto, Canada. Presentation outlines from the winter conference are available on the GLRPPR web site at <http://www.glrppr.org/chicago2002/>. Thanks to all the planners, sponsors, and attendees for making this year's winter conference a success.