

LINK

The Newsletter of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable

GLRPPR Summer Conference Recap

The Summer 2001 Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable Conference was held July 11-13 in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference proceedings included a GLRPPR Steering Committee meeting and a Local Government training in Pollution Prevention. Bruce Suits of the City of Cincinnati, Bob Pojasek of Harvard Graduate School, Steve Brachman of Univ of Wisconsin - SHWEC and Kelly Luck of INFORM presented the training. Some highlights of the second day of the conference were state and national updates about ongoing and future pollution prevention projects. Approximately 30 people participated in the optional training program and 130 people attended the conference on July 12-13.

Presenters at the conference included Jay Benforado from the U.S. EPA Office of Policy and Innovation. Benforado gave a well-received presentation on what EPA will be prioritizing under the new administration. Rich Sustich, Chairman of the NACEPT committee gave an update on the report that will be submitted to Administrator Whitman of EPA. Emma Lou George and Phil Kaplan provided brief presentations on the activities taking place within U.S. EPA Region 5 including the release of the updated P2 Guidance manual and training that George has coordinated.

The conference also featured breakout sessions covering topics of concern to the Great Lakes region. Topics included:

- * Mercury pollution prevention
- * Mercury cleanup and disposal
- * Pollution prevention in construction
- * ISO 14000
- * EMS programs
- * Integrating pollution prevention into regulations and enforcement activities
- * Energy consumption minimization
- * Automotive related pollution prevention

Attendees and their families were treated to a picnic on Lake Menona during the conference. Networking, food and fun were the highlights of the evening as well as demonstrations of two hybrid vehicles – the Toyota Prius and Honda Insight – and the MOPP (Mobile Outreach for Pollution Prevention) from the Iowa Waste Reduction Resource Center. Boat rides, bicycles, horseshoes and a live band made for a truly enjoyable evening. Thanks to all of the planners and sponsors who made the evening fun-filled and entertaining for all.

Check Out www.glrppr.org

Check out the GLRPPR website at, www.glrppr.org. New features that have been added to the site include a list of Topic Hubs where GLRPPR is currently compiling regional documents, Programs Database and forms to update your Membership Information. If you have regional documents to contribute to the Topic Hub or questions about the site, contact Deb Jacobson at djacobso@wmrc.uiuc.

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Link is designed and published at the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center



Camp Green, Canada!

The Camp Green, Canada! initiative was launched in April 2001 to inform recreational vehicle (RV) operators across Canada about the issues and concerns associated with using products containing formaldehyde based and quaternary ammonia-based compounds to treat effluent in RV holding tanks. Chemical treatment products generally mask odors, they may also inhibit or stop natural decomposition in holding tanks as well as in the campground septic system causing a system failure or malfunction. Biological non-toxic treatments are currently available that work by increasing natural decomposition rates and therefore no odors are released.

Camp Green, Canada! is a national joint industry/government with different representatives in each of the Regions across Canada. Fact sheets and posters have been developed and distributed to private campgrounds, provincial and national campgrounds, recreational vehicle dealers and any other interested organizations. Partners include: Environment Canada, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, Parks Canada, Private Campground Owners Associations across Canada, Provincial Tourism Associations. For additional information please contact the National Co-ordinator, Jennifer Archibald, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia at 902-423-4480 or the Camp Green, Canada! web site <http://www.tians.org/campgreencanada/>.

Fond du Lac Tribe Hosts First in a Series of Tribal P2 Workshops

The Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa recently hosted a Tribal Health Care Pollution Prevention Workshop at the reservation in Carlton, Minnesota. The workshop was geared towards tribal clinic, hospital, and nursing home staff, including administrative and nursing, environmental services, housekeeping and maintenance, health and safety, environmental compliance personnel and other interested tribal staff. The workshop covered tribal and other local efforts to reduce mercury and other toxins through environmentally preferable purchasing and waste reduction planning in medical facilities. Fond du Lac personnel presented how they conducted a waste audit at their clinic, and provided a tour showing some of the waste reduction practices implemented there. The workshop was well received by attendees, and nursing staff received continuing education units for participating. Fond du Lac plans to deliver four more tribal pollution prevention workshops throughout the next year, focusing on tribal schools, casinos/hotels, construction and demolition operations, and community education and outreach. Co-funding for this project is provided by U.S. EPA Region 5 and the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance.

For more information contact Dolly Tong, U.S. EPA Region 5, 312-886-1019, tong.dolly@epa.gov or Deanna Himango, Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa, 218-878-8023, deannahimango@fdlrez.com

Position Announcements:

U.S. EPA Region 5 Administrator Named

Tom Skinner, Director of Illinois EPA has been appointed as the new U.S. EPA Region 5 Administrator under the G.W. Bush administration. Prior to acting as the IL EPA Administrator, Skinner was a partner in the environmental law department of the Winston and Strawn law firm in Chicago for eight years. He was a special assistant to Illinois Governor James Thompson from 1988 until 1991. An alumnus of Lawrence University and the Northwestern University School of Law, Skinner is a member of the Executive Committee of the Environmental Council of the States and chair of its Air Committee. He is the elected Village President of Lake Bluff, Ill.

IL EPA Administrator Named

Renee Cipriano has been named the new Illinois EPA agency director. Ms. Cipriano replaces Tom Skinner who was appointed as U.S. EPA Regional Administrator in late June. Prior to being named Administrator, Cipriano was appointed as the senior advisor on the environment and natural resources by Governor Ryan in February, 1999. Prior to Ryan's appointment Cipriano was the chief counsel to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Ohio Pollution Prevention Web Site Gets a Face Lift

The main Web page for the Ohio Office of Pollution Prevention, www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/oppmain.html, has recently undergone some major. Providing information about the economic and environmental benefits of pollution prevention to Ohio businesses and consumers is the major focus of the site. The OPP site was accessed an average of 30,000 times per month last year, and provided information to more than 49,000 individuals outside of Ohio EPA space. More than 700 documents covering a wide range of P2 topics are available on our site, and are continually expanded and updated. New documents covering emerging topics such as EMS/ISO 14000, Green Building, Wood Finishing and upcoming rules such as Metal Products & Machinery Pretreatment were recently added. The Ohio Materials Exchange (OMEx) is also housed within the site; it provides continually updated lists of materials available from and wanted by businesses and industry. OMEx provides businesses with markets for waste materials, which benefits Ohio's economy and environment. Take a moment and check out the new look. Comments and suggestions are encouraged; please contact Ron Smith at ron.smith@epa.state.oh.us.

P2 Partners Working to Reduce Household Mercury Use

A utility company and a pharmaceutical giant have teamed up to reduce household mercury in the Hoosier State. Cinergy, a large Indiana/Ohio energy utility, and Eli Lilly and Company, an Indianapolis-based pharmaceutical manufacturer, contacted the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to discuss mercury issues in 2000. Cinergy and Lilly belong to a business group called Partners for P2. The group was formed in the mid-1990's by IDEM and several Indiana manufacturers.

After discussing various options, the two companies decided to purchase digital fever thermometers for use in thermometer exchange events in Indiana. To date, they have purchased 5,000 digital thermometers. As of June 2001, the various exchange events have collected more than 5,500 mercury-containing fever thermometers, over 100 pounds of elemental mercury and many other mercury-containing devices such as thermostats. For a detailed listing of the events and the collection results, visit www.in.gov/idem/topics/mercury.html.

New Erie County, New York P2 Program

The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning is working with Empire State Development on a project entitled "Eliminating Urban Air Toxics and Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic Chemicals from Business and Government Operations." Reduction of these targeted chemicals is being achieved through technical assistance to small businesses and environmentally preferable purchasing within the County. For example, the County is in the process of switching to urinal blocks that do not contain 1,4-dichlorobenzene, a chemical on USEPA's draft PBT list. Switching to less toxic products and/or procedures will result in the reduction of at least 2,000 pounds of 1, 4-dichlorobenzene per year. For more information, contact Bonnie Lawrence at (716) 858-8560.



Rich Sustich of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation Districts addresses the GLRPPR Conference in Madison, Wisconsin

The Fine Print

LINK is a free quarterly publication of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable. For information about subscribing please contact the editor or see our web site at: www.glrppr.org

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GLRPPR “Greens” Madison

The GLRPPR Summer 2001 conference made an immediate “green” impact on a business in Madison. The Sheraton-Madison, headquarters for the GLRPPR Summer 2001 conference, was without a green hotel program. When GLRPPR booked the hotel for the conference the Sheraton recycled paper, glass and plastics. However, the hotel did not have a green hotel program which gives guests the opportunity to do their part in helping reduce water pollution, etc. Deb Jacobson, GLRPPR Executive Director, supplied the hotel with information regarding assistance on how to start a Green Hotel program.

Jack Annis from the University of Wisconsin - SHWEC followed up with the hotel to offer some additional advice and assistance. When the conference began, the hotel staff informed GLRPPR that the General Manager had received the information and was in the process of pursuing our recommendations of implementing a hotel pollution prevention program!

A Special Thanks!

A special thanks to the speakers, moderators, Wisconsin Conference Planning Committee, GLRPPR staff and the GLRPPR Steering Committee for helping make the Summer 2001 GLRPPR Conference a huge success. A BIG thanks to the sponsors of the Summer 2001 Conference. Sponsors included:

Kestrel Management Services, LL - Lyman Wieble
Rayovac Corporation - Tim Anderson
Stafford Rosenbaum, LLP - Mike Allen & Sharon Ewers
Triad Engineering, Inc. - Cathy McConnell
University of WI - Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center - Jack Annis

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars for the GLRPPR Winter Workgroup Meeting for February 27 and 28, 2002. The meeting will be held at the offices of U.S. EPA Region 5 in Chicago. Also note, the Summer 2002 GLRPPR Conference will be held in Ontario, so start planning now!

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