Editorial



BRIAN N. BROGDON
Associate Editor,
TAPPI Journal



MARK LEBEL
2017 PEERS Conference
Vice-Chairman

Planning for 2017 PEERS Conference: Maximizing success through innovation

Planning is well underway for the 2017 Pulping, Engineering, Environmental, Recycling & Sustainability (PEERS) Conference. This year's conference will be held at the new Hilton Norfolk the Main in Norfolk, VA, USA. The 2017 International Bioenergy & Bioproducts Conference (IBBC) will be co-located with PEERS. Mark your calendars for the dates of November 5-9 for these two great 2017 TAPPI events.

The PEERS conference website is now live at http://tappipeers.org/ with travel and hotel information. Check back in the coming weeks and months for updated information regarding registration, workshops, technical program, committee meetings, and other events.

PEERS Committee seeking abstracts

The PEERS technical programming committee is currently soliciting abstracts for presentations and panel discussions. An abbreviated list of topics includes:

- Optimizing/best practices for pulping and bleaching
- Fluff and dissolving pulps
- Brownstock washing operations and troubleshooting
- Advances in nonwood pulping and bleaching
- Engineering project management and capital planning
- Best outage execution templates
- Boiler tube and smelt spout integrity
- Optimizing/best practices for lime kiln operations
- Power boiler tuning for boiler MACT implementation
- Environmental regulatory updates and management approaches
- Recovered paper quality issues
- Market outlook for lignin-based products
- Alternative feedstock options for the biorefinery

A comprehensive list can be downloaded at the PEERS call-for-abstracts web page at http://tappipeers.org/program/call-for-papers/. The topics listed are suggestions only; the programming committee is open to ideas that are of interest to mill personnel. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions for session and panel discussions.

Submitting an abstract

Abstracts can be submitted through TAPPI's new Speaker Management System at http://speakermanagement.tappi.org/. The deadline for submissions is March 24, 2017. The PEERS committee will meet on April 13, 2017, to review submissions and to organize the technical program.

If you have been a past PEERS Conference speaker or panelist, you may need to recreate a new login account. Instructions for creating an account and submitting an abstract can be found at the above web link. If you have any trouble, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Reaves or Pat Stiede at TAPPI for help.

Best paper awards and publishing in *TJ*

Many of the committees that organize the PEERS sessions have an award for the best committee paper. Winners will be recognized at the Sunday conference awards dinner (November 5) and Monday opening session (November 6). Often, these papers are invited for peer review and publication in TAPPI Journal (*TJ*). Several of the winning papers from 2015 PEERS were published in the 2016 March and

July special *TJ* issues, including the 2015 PEERS Conference High Impact Paper.

Peter Hart and Brian Brogdon of the *TJ* Editorial Board have solicited papers presented at the 2016 PEERS Conference and are currently reviewing them. Several of those papers will appear soon in upcoming *TJ* issues. Peter and Brian also look forward to reviewing papers from the 2017 PEERS and IBBC conferences for future publication in *TJ*.

The 2017 PEERS committee is energized to offer an exciting and engaging technical program. The committee would like to invite your suggestions and comments, as well as your participation, for our Norfolk meeting. We want to hear from you! **TJ**



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- David Allan, RISI
- Andrew Willis, H&V

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