

1994 Environmental Conference highlights vital issues in forest products industry

JOHN E. PINKERTON

Division Technical Editor

DONALD G. MEADOWS

Tappi Journal Editor

Recent developments continue to reinforce the significant role being played by environmental concerns in shaping the future of the forest products industry. The industry's leadership has identified access to fiber, management of solid wastes, and maintaining the franchise to operate mills as the three main issues vital to the industry's future. All of these issues have a very strong environmental component, and the 1994 TAPPI Environmental Conference addressed selected aspects of these issues in depth.

Held in April 1994 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, the 1994 Environmental Conference was attended by approximately 1000 individuals, continuing a trend of strong participation by industry, supplier, and consultant representatives concerned with environmental protection. About 95 exhibitors were represented at the associated trade fair, making it one of the largest ever held at the annual Environmental Conference. The conference was co-sponsored by Japan TAPPI, APPITA (Australian and New Zealand Pulp and Paper Industry Technical Association), and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association's Technical Section.

Keynote addresses were given by Josephine S. Cooper, vice president of environmental affairs at the American Forest & Paper Association, and Anthony P. Gammie, chairman and CEO of Bowater, Inc. Cooper spoke on the development and implementation of environmental "Proof of Performance" concepts as related to mill operations. She described a near-term AF&PA effort focusing on key indicators of mill performance such as odor, color, and "toxics," and a longer-term effort to define the mill of the year 2010 to 2020. Gammie offered his thoughts on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its environmental implications for Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

Division awards were presented to Reid Miner and Keith Bentley. Miner, program director at the National Council of the Paper Industry for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI), received the Environmental Division Technical Award and Roy F. Weston honorarium for his many contributions to the industry's environmental protection efforts in the areas of solid waste management, water quality, and recycling.

Keynote speakers **Josephine Cooper** of AF&PA and **Anthony Gammie** of Bowater



The Division's Leadership and Service Award was earned by Keith Bentley, director of environmental engineering for Georgia-Pacific Corp. Bentley has been an active member of the Division for about 15 years, serving as Division secretary, vice-chairman, and chairman. He was the 1984 Environmental Conference technical program chairman and the 1985 conference chairman. Currently he is serving on the TAPPI Board of Directors.

The Division Scholarship was awarded to Michael Musgrove, an undergraduate chemical engineering major at Georgia Institute of Technology. Musgrove has worked at the Buckeye Florida bleached kraft mill in Perry, FL, as a co-op student.

TAPPI President **Ronald B. Estridge**, CPPA Manager of Technical Sections **David Paterson**, and Japan TAPPI's **Masayuki Suzuki** represented three of the four organizations sponsoring the International Environmental Conference. APPITA was the fourth co-sponsor.



TAPPI PRESS display draws interest at Environmental Conference.



The Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards were given to the following authors for papers presented at the 1993 Environmental Conference:

- Water—David Trimble, William Harris, Steven Reeves, Shane McMahon, R. Gary Thurman, and Richard Addition ("Environmental benefits of ozone-based bleaching")
- Air—Tim Sonnichsen and Charles Rodrigue ("Retrofit particulate emission controls on two oil-fired power boilers")
- Solid Waste—Kenneth Hardesty and Enrique Beer ("Drying and recycling of primary sludge from Champion International Corporation's non-integrated paper mill in Hamilton, OH")
- General—Kathy Gill ("Effective communication techniques for environmental risk: a case study").

The conference featured 34 sessions organized under the direction of Jeff Hilleke, technical program chairman, and Dennis Sasseville, conference chairman. Many of these were technical sessions that addressed typical environmental concerns such as landfill design and operation, wastewater treat-

ment systems, groundwater quality, emissions characterization, receiving water quality, alternative uses for solid wastes, and in-mill water conservation measures. Other sessions included papers on the topics of public interaction, legislation and regulation development, the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative, analytical chemistry, international experiences, and innovative technologies.



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At the joint meeting of the Division's Air, Water and Solid Waste Committees, the subject of international standards for environmental management systems and quality was discussed by M. Hewlett and E. Fuller of Quest Associates. The BS 7750 standard, developed in the United Kingdom, may be the precursor to ISO 9000 environmental management standards. BS 7750 essentially requires a company to have a written environmental policy and appointment of an environmental manager. In structure, it is similar to the ISO 9000 standards. Companies set environmental management objectives, develop programs and manuals, maintain documentation, and perform audits and reviews. An ISO Technical Committee (ISO/TC 207) has been formed to develop an international standard for environmental management systems.

If there was any doubt that environmental issues will be a dominant factor for the forest products industry in the coming years, the final session of the conference should have quickly dispelled that doubt. In that session, Kathleen Bennett of James River Corp., Alan Lindsey of International Paper, and Steven Erickson of Boise Cascade reviewed the highlights of AF&PA's comments on the Dec. 17, 1993, EPA-proposed "Cluster Rule," which will revise the paper industry's effluent guidelines and set control technology requirements for emissions of "hazardous air pollutants" from chemical wood pulp mills. If promulgated as proposed, the rule will require major technology changes in pulping, bleaching, chemical recovery, and wastewater treatment systems. The Cluster Rule represents the most significant EPA rulemaking ever to be undertaken for a single industry and will have a multibillion-dollar impact on the paper industry over the next five years.

Conference Report

Preconference discussions during the welcome reception at Portland's World Forestry Center



It is obvious that environmental concerns will not diminish in the foreseeable future. The annual TAPPI Environmental Conference will continue to provide an important opportunity for industry professionals to meet and discuss approaches for meeting the environmental challenges facing the industry in the future. The 1995 Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, from May 7–10, and planning has already begun under the leadership of Jeff Hilleke, 1995 conference chairman, and Bill Jerrigan, technical program chairman.

Conference participants examine photographic exhibits at the World Forestry Center.



Proceedings from the 1994 International Environmental Conference are available through TAPPI PRESS, P.O. Box 105113, Atlanta, GA 30348. The 2-volume set (order no. 010503-94) is priced at US\$ 131 for members, US\$ 196 list. Orders may be placed through TAPPI's toll-free Service Line at 1-800-332-8686 (U.S.) or 1-800-446-9431 (Canada). 