

# 1997 ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE REFLECTS CONTINUING HIGH PROFILE OF INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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*MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRY ISSUES RELATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE.*

**"E**NVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP—MEETING THE Challenge" was the theme of the 1997 TAPPI Environmental Division Conference, co-sponsored by the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association (CPPA) Technical Section and the USDA Forest Service. The conference was held May 3-7, 1997 at the Minneapolis (MN) Convention Center. The theme seemed particularly relevant, as some of the current major focus areas of the North American industry are related to its environmental performance. Two industry executives set the tone for the conference with their informative and highly relevant keynote speeches.

## KEYNOTES

John W. "Jack" Creighton Jr., president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser Co., spoke about his company's progress toward the minimum-impact manufacturing of forest products. He observed that Weyerhaeuser mills have made impressive strides in reducing water use, minimizing chlorine use and dioxin formation, reducing total reduced sulfur

emissions from kraft pulping operations, increasing energy self-sufficiency, and raising the use of recovered fiber. Despite these gains, the already high environmental expectations of customers, community residents, mill workers, regulatory agencies, and the general public will continue to increase, he said. Weyerhaeuser's response to these ever-rising expectations is to move toward minimum-impact manufacturing, which involves consideration of all aspects of forest products manufacturing—land use, mill operations, product design, and prod-

uct disposal. The company is striving to eliminate emissions and discharges to reduce reliance on end-of-pipe treatment, while keeping its capital expenditures in line to maintain adequate profitability. A shift toward viewing environmental costs as investments, rather than expenditures, is occurring. The goals are to achieve full compliance with all regulations while also achieving full cost recovery.

Edward F. "Ted" Boswell, president and CEO of E. B. Eddy Forest Products, Ltd., focused on a recently launched CPPA public outreach program, "We're Making



*The Minneapolis Convention Center*

## CONFERENCE REPORT



*One of many parks in Minneapolis*



*Anita Doecke addresses the Division council and award winners at dinner*



*Keynote speaker John W. "Jack" Creighton Jr., president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser Co.*



*Edward F. Boswell, president and CEO of E. B. Eddy Forest Products, also gave a keynote address at the conference.*



*John Lee, conference chairman*

Changes—Come See for Yourself" The environmentally oriented effort was designed after extensive opinion research showed a majority of the public did not view the Canadian forest products industry as caring about the environment or as being a responsible, accountable industry. To change this perception, the Canadian industry recognized a need to have more public disclosure about its operations and to be more proactive in developing voluntary initiatives such as reducing emissions and discharges of persistent accumulative substances and managing forest resources for multiple purposes.

Boswell also discussed his own company's efforts to become more open about its operations. He described "A Question of Balance," a new E. B. Eddy report intended to address the issue of sustainability. It contains detailed facts and figures on environmental performance of the company's forestry and manufacturing operations. Boswell clearly believed companies will have to face up to more public scrutiny to maintain their operating franchises.

### THE PROGRAM

Following the keynote addresses the backbone of the conference commenced, with 45 technical sessions over three days. Many of the sessions provided an opportunity for company and individual mill representatives to explain how they are demonstrating environmental leadership. For example, in a session on state-industry partnerships, successful pollution prevention programs organized by the Wisconsin and Michigan pulp and paper industries, in cooperation with the state regulatory agencies, were described. Three sessions dealt with approaches being used by mills for beneficial reuse of mill residuals; these included composting, recycling, and new products. Mill water closure was discussed in another session. Advanced effluent treatment and innovative emission control technology applications were the subjects of two sessions. Overall environmental performance was discussed in sessions on use of life-cycle assessments, imple-



**Award winners (from left): Willard C. Warren III, Ashok K. Jain, and Karen Ann Roach**



**Board Representative David Peakas congratulates Anita Doepeke on her accomplishments as Environmental Division Chairman.**



**Part of the poster session at the environmental conference**



**Watching a video at the TAPPI booth during the environmental conference**

mentation of ISO 14000, progress in sustainable forestry, and design of minimum-impact mills.

While there was considerable emphasis on environmental leadership topics at the conference, regulatory-driven matters were certainly not ignored. The regulation of paramount concern to the pulp and paper industry is EPA's Cluster Rule, and the final session of the conference consisted of an update in the ongoing saga of the most important and costly environmental regulation ever issued by EPA for a manufacturing industry. Cathy Marshall and Rob Kaufmann, American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) staff members, gave conference attendees the latest available Washington intelligence on the status of the effluent guideline revisions and Maximum Achievable Control Technology Standards. Marshall speculated the final Cluster Rule would be published sometime this summer.

Numerous other sessions highlighted studies and assessments related to environmental regulatory requirements in air quality, water quality, and solid waste management. Application, refinement, and troubleshooting of environmental monitoring and control systems

were featured in several sessions. Two sessions were devoted to panel discussions of EPA's Great Lakes Initiative and its impact on mills operating in the Great Lakes basin.

Sustainable forestry and ecosystem management were featured in five of the conference sessions. One panel, consisting of University of Wisconsin, Minnesota Nature Resources Council, Nature Conservancy, and National Audubon Society representatives, emphasized the need for partnerships between all parties, with the goal of healthy, sustainable forests. Other panels reported on industry progress in maintaining forests. Participants from NCASI, Boise Cascade and Potlatch discussed the progress made on some actual partnership projects.

Copies of 136 papers presented at the conference are available in a two-volume set of proceedings from TAPPI PRESS. The *1997 Environmental Conference Proceedings* (Item no. 01050397) are available at a list price of US\$ 194 or TAPPI member price of US\$ 130.



*The 1997 TAPPI Environmental Conference Exhibit*

### CONFERENCE EVENTS

A record 143 exhibitors participated in the Environmental Exhibit. Suppliers showcased the latest in control technologies, sampling and monitoring equipment, analytical services, information resources, and environmental consulting services. Two lunches and an evening reception hosted by the vendors helped promote attendance at the exhibition.

At 6:30 Tuesday morning, the Breakfast Club, organized by Howard Flock, was held to provide an opportunity for interested conference participants to discuss environmental issues of mutual interest in an informal setting. A 5-km EnviroChase fun run was held at 6:30 Wednesday morning. Among the men, the best time was 17:44 by Frank Sutman of BetzDearborn. Among the women, Dorothy Atwood of Emcon placed first with a time of 22:02.

### DIVISION AFFAIRS

#### Awards

At the conference opening session, the Division's Technical Award and Roy F. Weston Prize were presented to Ashok K. Jain, manager of NCASI's Southern Regional Center in Gainesville, FL. Jain has worked at NCASI since 1973, where he has focused on emission measurement methods and source sampling studies for forest products industry sources. He has published over 50 papers and reports during his 25-year career. Active in TAPPI since 1978, Jain has served on the Division's Air Quality Committee (being chairman from 1993-1995) and Conference Technical Program Committee for many years.

The Division's Leadership and Service Award was earned by Willard C. Warren, vice president of Katahdin Analytical Services, Inc. in Westbrook, ME. Warren has been active in TAPPI since 1977 and recently served as Environmental Division Chairman. He was on the TAPPI Technical Operations Council, serving on the Meetings and Structure and Performance Committees.

Karen Ann Roach, an undergraduate student in paper science engineering at the College of Environ-



*Clare Reagan presents Bill Jernigan with the door prize at the exhibits.*

mental Science and Forestry, State University of New York at Syracuse, was awarded the US\$ 2500 Division scholarship. Roach has interned with Georgia-Pacific at Woodland, ME; the Smithsonian Institution (Environmental Awareness Program); and the Environmental Defense Fund (Paper Task Force). Roach, who expects to graduate in May 1998, is currently president of the TAPPI and PIMA Student Chapters.

The following authors were given the Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards for papers presented at the 1996 Environmental Conference:

- Belinda Larish and Sheldon Duff (University of British Columbia), "Effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and DTPA on the characteristics and treatment of TCF and ECF bleached pulping effluent" (Water Quality Category)
- V. Venkatesh, Wilbert Lapp, and Jerry Parr (Mead Corp.), "Millwide methanol balances: predicting and evaluating HAPs emissions by utilizing process simulation techniques" (Air Quality Category)
- Douglas Barton, Brian Emgushov, Pamela Ahearn, Susan Hatlevig, and Teresa Bousquet (NCASI), "Treatability of RCRA regulated compounds in CWA surface impoundments" (Solid Waste Category)
- P. Friend (Betz Laboratories) and B. Frank Vincent (James River Corp.), "Environmental risk assessment of chemicals used in papermaking" (General Category).



**A quick start to the TAPPI EnviroChase**



**Top finishers in the 1997 TAPPI EnviroChase (from left): Dorothy Atwood, Christine Foster, Mayte Lee-Roach, Frank Sutman, Daniel Guss, and Dan Diehl**

### **Committee activities**

Division Chairman Anita Doepke of Bell Packaging, assisted by David Peakes representing the TAPPI Board of Directors, recognized outgoing Committee Chairmen Michael Bellanca (Water), Joseph Gaines (Air), and Ivan Cooper (Solid Waste) and welcomed incoming Chairmen Alan Amoth (Water), Ron Reynolds (Air), and Jerry Neis (Solid Waste). She also thanked John Lee, 1997 conference chairman, and Rob Hanley, 1997 Technical Program Committee chairman, for their dedication and hard work leading up to the Minneapolis conference.

At the joint meeting of the Division's Air, Water, and Solid Waste Committees, Josephine Cooper, AF&PA vice president of regulatory affairs, provided her perspectives on environmental challenges the industry is facing in Washington, DC, from legislators and federal regulators. Increased public disclosure about the environmental aspects of manufacturing operations was a high priority for the current Clinton Administration and EPA Administrator Browner. She cited proposals to expand community right-to-know programs, increase public participation in EPA's enforcement activities, and make a wealth of facility-specific information available on the World Wide Web. She observed collaborative efforts with government regulatory agencies were in favor, e.g. Cluster Rule development and Agenda 2020, while command and control approaches were waning in popularity, except with EPA's enforcement arm.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

During the general session, David Peakes, long-time member of the Environmental Division, expressed his sympathy with respect to the sudden death of David T. Arceneaux on March 7, 1997. Arceneaux was manager of environmental health and safety for Mead Coated Board in Phenix City, AL, and was the 1997 technical program vice-chairman. Members of the Division will greatly miss him.

### **1998 CONFERENCE**

Even before the conclusion of the 1997 conference, planning was well under way for the 1998 Environmental Conference, which will be a CPPA Technical Section-TAPPI joint conference. It will be held April 5-8, 1998, at the Trade and Convention Center in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The call for papers has been issued; abstracts were due on Aug. 1 and manuscripts for accepted papers will be due on Dec. 15. For more information, contact Technical Program Chairman Rich Lutz, P. H. Glatfelter Co., 228 South Main St., Spring Grove, PA 17362; fax +1 717 225-6834.

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