1999 ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES QUALITY MANAGEMENT

JOHN E. PINKERTON

COMPLIANCE AND COST ISSUES CONSIDERED

THE THEME FOR TAPPI'S 1999 INTERNATIONAL Environmental Conference & Exhibit, "Environmental Quality Management: Value Added Benefits for Our Future," underscored the persistent debate about the costs and benefits associated with the forest products industry's environmental protection efforts.

With the growing concerns about the North American industry's financial condition and rapidly expanding (and costly) environmental requirements being imposed, environmental expenditures must be closely scrutinized to ensure the most effective and environmentally beneficial use is made of the resources committed. At the same time, there is an increasing recognition that minimizing adverse environmental impacts is an important component of the industry's viability and sustainability over the long term. The conference program reflected these underlying themes.



John W. Lee, Jr., winner of the 1999 Environmental Division Leadership & Service Award.



Inside Nashville's Opryland Hotel

The conference was held in Nashville, TN, from April 18-21, and was co-sponsored by the newly formed Pulp and Paper Technical Association of Canada (PAPTAC) and the USDA Forest Service.

The total number of conference attendees was 941, which was lower than in recent years and indicative of the continuing economic turmoil and heavy workloads of company environmental staffs. There were 116 exhibitors at the trade show, also somewhat lower than the last two years. Continuing a practice begun in 1998, the trade show opened on Sunday afternoon and continued through Tuesday afternoon. This provided many opportunities for conference attendees and suppliers to discuss the latest developments in environmental control and monitoring equipment and consulting services. Both the welcome and conference receptions were held in the exhibit hall, and the exhibitors sponsored luncheons on Monday and Tuesday in the exhibit hall as well.





Patrick Moore discusses some of the issues from his keynote address with Allan Springer (left); Kathleen Bennett presents Alan Amoth with a certificate of appreciation (center); Rich Lutz, conference chairman (right).

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The conference opened with an excellent keynote address from Patrick Moore, currently chairman of Forest Practices Committee of the Forest Alliance of British Columbia and the founder of Greenspirit, an organization involved with resource and energy use policies. He was also a founding member of Greenpeace, serving as president of Greenpeace Canada and as a board member of Greenpeace International. Moore earned a PhD. in ecology from the University of British Columbia and was raised on Vancouver Island in a small logging community. By virtue of his upbringing, education, and work experience, he is an acknowledged authority on the ecological aspects of forestry.

Moore reported environmental advocacy groups recently initiated a campaign against wood use, alleging industrial forestry was responsible for widespread species extinction, biodiversity reductions, and global warming. While the facts do not support these claims, they cannot be ignored. The forest products industry must address them to convince the public, especially younger people living in urbanized areas, that wood is an environmentally superior material and that forests managed for wood production represent an ecologically better land use than agriculture or urbanization. On a world-wide basis, 55% of all wood consumed is for fuel, 30% for paper, and 15% for solid wood products. From an environmental perspective, wood is preferable to fossil fuels for energy, to agricultural fibers for paper, and to steel or plastics for material applications. Moore noted there is a huge potential to increase world wood growth through use of biotechnology and modern silvicultural practices.

On the subject of wood harvesting and clearcutting, Moore thought these activities should be viewed as temporary disturbances from which the forest would rapidly recover. Forests have a great capacity for natural regeneration, which can be further enhanced by human intervention. Pictures from regrowing forests following the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption dramatically illustrated this point. Another series of pictures showed that aesthetic beauty in a landscape was not indicative of its ecological health.

In Moore's view, environmental groups should be advocating more, not less, wood growth, harvesting, and use as the best approach to meeting the demands of an ever-growing population. He believed the real threats to species extinction and loss of biodiversity were urbanization, motor vehicles, livestock production, and intensive agriculture, not industrial forestry. The conference attendees clearly agreed with these conclusions.

CONFERENCE TECHNICAL PROGRAM

The technical program had 36 sessions where formal papers were presented. Another six sessions consisted of panel discussions. Water quality topics were in the forefront, and sessions addressed a broad array of concerns: improving secondary treatment plant performance, use of tertiary treatment, implementing best management practices to reduce losses to the sewer, water system closure, membrane technology applications, in-mill reuse of biologically treated effluent, receiving water quality studies, and endocrine disruptors. Residual management issues were covered in several sessions, where beneficial reuse alternatives for sludges and ashes were of great interest. Air quality issues were covered in five sessions focused on emission characterization, MACT implementation topics, permitting, and control technology applications. Similar air quality topics were considered in four sessions on solid and engineered wood products.

Other sessions dealt with a variety of environmental management subjects. These included environmental justice, communications, environmental cost accounting, site remediation, environmental aspects of mill closures and demolition, mercury, and SARA Section 313 reporting. Three forestry sessions looked at prescribed burning air quality impacts, ecological concerns, and management issues.



William J. Gillespie (left, in center) receives the 1999 Environmental Division Technical Award from Kathleen Bennett and Bruce Ferguson, both past award winners; James (Josh) Whitehead (center, at left), winner of this year's scholarship with Dennis Sasseville; Environmental Division Chairman Vernon L. Adams (right).

Implications of the Kyoto Protocol for industry manufacturing facilities and forestry activities were discussed in sessions devoted to global climate changes issues.

An increasingly popular feature of the Environmental Conference are the "quick informative presentations" (QUIPS). These were expanded into three sessions this year, each consisting of five brief reports on research work-in-progress or new technologies under development. The sessions are intended to promote informal discussions between the authors and interested individuals.

Copies of the 120 papers presented at the conference are available in a 1280-page three-volume set of proceedings from TAPPI PRESS. The 1999 Environmental Conference Proceedings (Item No. 01050399) can be purchased for US$ 224; TAPPI member price US$ 149.

DIVISION AFFAIRS

William J. Gillespie was presented the 1999 Technical Award and Roy F. Weston Prize of US$ 1000. Gillespie has been employed by the National Council of the Paper Industry for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) for almost 30 years, beginning as a research engineer at their Central Lakes States Regional Center in Kalamazoo, MI. Currently he is vice president for Risk Assessment at the Research Triangle Park headquarters office. He was recognized for his key participation in the pulp and paper industry's ongoing efforts to have environmental regulations based on sound technical information and analyses. His work related to dioxin and furan concerns was cited as a prime example of his many contributions.

John W. Lee, Jr., was the recipient of the Division's Leadership and Service Award. Lee has been with CH2M Hill for 30 years and is currently a vice president and director of the company. Lee has been active in TAPPI since 1979 and has served in numerous Environmental Division capacities over the two decades. He was Water Quality Committee Chairman, Conference Chairman, and Technical Program Chairman. Lee has twice represented the Division at the China Paper conferences, and he has been an instructor in many of the Division's short courses.

The Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards were presented to the following authors for their papers presented at the 1998 Environmental Conference:

Claudio Silva, Douglas Reeve, Kim Woodhouse, Hadi Husain and Henry Behmann—"Water reuse in the pulp and paper industry: evaluation of microfiltration applications" (water quality category);

Henryk Melcer, Robert Lang, Sam Vigil, and Van Maltby—"Evaluation of the U.S. EPA recommended approach to predicting air emissions from pulp and paper industry landfills" (air quality category);

(Tie) Kwasi Badu-Tweneboah, Paula Wentzell, and Joseph Lawson— "Evaluation of the performance of a pulp and paper mill sludge landfill final cover system" (residuals management category);

(Tie) Robert Martin and Jess Brown—"GrayLime: development of an environmentally useful CO-product reuse program" (residuals management category);

Charles Easton, Judi Avery, Michael Staiger, and John Tindall—"The environmental challenge: public awareness" (general category).

The Division scholarship of US$ 2500 was presented to James (Josh) Whitehead, a junior at Auburn University majoring in chemical engineering. Whitehead is the first repeat winner of the Division's scholarship, having also received it in 1998. He is an active member of the Auburn TAPPI Student Chapter, as well as the PIMA and AIChE student chapters. He has interned with the Environmental department at Champion International's Courtland, AL, mill and plans to pursue a career in the paper industry environmental field after graduation in 2001.

At the opening session, Division Chairman Vernon Adams of Georgia-Pacific and Kathleen Bennett of Fort

James Corporation, representing the TAPPI Board of Directors, presented Richard Lutz of P.H. Glatfelter with a certificate of appreciation for his role as 1999 Conference Chairman. Outgoing Committee Chairmen Ron Reynolds of Packaging Corporation of America (Air Quality), Alan Amoth of CH2M Hill (Water Quality), Jerome Neis of Wausau-Mosinee Paper (Residuals Management), and Bill Jernigan of Georgia-Pacific (Environmental Management), and Pam Hoover of AquAeTer (solid and engineered wood products) were also recognized for their contributions.

Continuing the practice begun in 1998, each committee held its own session to conduct committee business and informally exchange information on topics of mutual interest to the members. The Residuals Management Committee had a panel discussion to review company perspectives on waste minimization and beneficial reuse of mill residuals. The Water Quality Committee heard an invited presentation by Wesley Eckenfelder on future directions for the biological treatment of mill wastewaters. The Air Quality Committee had presentations from Rob Kaufmann of the American Forest & Paper Association on major current air quality regulatory issues and from John Pinkerton of NCASI, who summarized some of the National Council's planned technical studies. At the Environmental Management Committee, a simulated "regulatory event" was staged to see how Committee members would deal with this event using their established notification and communication procedures. The present status of EPA's Wood Products MACT emission standards were reviewed by three speakers at the Solid and Engineered Wood Ad Hoc Committee.

Four two-day short courses were offered in association with the conference: "Contemperary environmental control in the pulp and paper industry"; "Prevention of significant deterioration air quality permitting"; "Activated sludge plant operations"; and "Computer-based environmental management systems". In addition, Cheryl Reimold gave a half-day workshop on presentation skills.

The Breakfast Club convened Tuesday with 85 attendees. At this event, attendees interested in any one of about 10 different topics are matched with others interested in the same topic for informal discussions over breakfast. This year the breakfast was sponsored by ECC International and Interbio/Microbe Masters. The annual EnviroChase 5 km fun run, sponsored by BE&K/Terranext, was held Wednesday, with the entry fees going towards the Division's scholarship. Contributions to the scholarship fund also come from conference attendees who decline the TAPPI tote bag at registration. US$ 920 was obtained this year.

Y2K CONFERENCE

The next Environmental Conference will be held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver from May 7-10, 2000. The invitation to present has been issued and abstracts are due Aug. 15, 1999. Manuscripts for those papers accepted will be due on Jan. 10, 2000. The 2000 Conference Chairman is Mark Johnson of Chemical Lime Co. and the Technical Program Chairman is Tom Linder of Inland Paperboard and Packaging. More information about the 2000 International Environmental Conference can be obtained by calling TAPPI's toll-free service line at 800-332-8686 (U.S.), 800-446-9431 (Canada), +1 770-446-1400 (international), or by visiting the TAPPI web page at http://www.tappi.org. **TJ**

Pinkerton is vice president, air quality, at NCASI in Research Triangle Park, NC.





Scott Robertson (left) of BE&K presents trophies to the top finishersin the 6th Annual EnviroChase 5k race, a fundraising event for scholarships. Finishing first among the men was J. Harris Hurst, Jr., followed by Doug Barton and Chet Thompson. Pam Norris finished first among the women, followed by Shirley Bay.