

# TAPPI'S ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION MARKS 35TH CONFERENCE YEAR

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### *CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS NORTH AMERICAN PAPER INDUSTRY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

**T**HE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION AND ITS PREDECESSORS (Water and Air Division, Water Division) have held annual conferences since 1963, with the exception of 1965. The 1998 conference marked the 35th such conference where the paper industry's environmental activities have been highlighted. This year's event was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada from April 5-8. Vancouver provided an outstanding venue for the first Environmental Division Conference held outside the United States. Appropriately, the conference was co-sponsored by the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association Technical Section and U.S. Forest Service with the theme "Opening Borders for Environmental Partnership."

The total number of conference attendees was 1194, making it one of the best-attended Environmental Conferences despite the less than optimum economic conditions prevailing in the industry. The trade show included about 130 exhibitors, a number which approached the 1997 record of 143. In a well-received departure from tradition, the trade show opened on Sunday afternoon to provide additional opportunities for conference attendees 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, as were the exhibitors sponsored luncheons on Monday and Tuesday.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

At the conference opening, addresses were given by two keynote speakers. The first was Marcello de Andrade, president of Pro-Natura International. This organization, based in Brazil, promotes large-scale sustainable natural resource development projects in the fields of forest products, mining and energy extraction. De Andrade explained how his organization fosters partnerships between the companies, national and international development agencies, and local citizens groups to optimize the projects for long-term benefits. He stressed that companies must think about a very broad array of project impacts in time

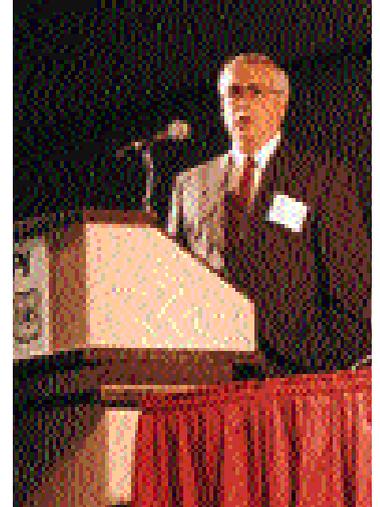


*The 1998 TAPPI-CPPA/TS Environmental Conference, exhibit and receptions were held at the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre.*

## CONFERENCE REPORT



James Whitehead, left, of Auburn University, received the Division scholarship; Dave Peakes, above, center, received the Leadership and Service Award; Ross Williams, CPPA/TS Chairman, welcomed attendees.



frames of several decades, not just about short-term economics.

The second keynote address focused on an issue with a more immediate time frame. Robert Eamer, vice president of research & development for Domtar Inc., offered his perspectives on the current financial performance of the paper industry and its relationship to environmental expenditures (see p. 61). He observed there was widespread dissatisfaction with the North American paper industry with respect to return on investment, and that North American companies were losing ground to lower cost producers in South America and Asia. Over the last five years, the Canadian paper industry spent about CAD 4 billion on environmental protection alone; at a 15% interest rate this sum represents a potential income loss of CAD 600 million per year. Eamer concluded a renewed emphasis must be placed on value cre-

ation to make companies more attractive to prospective investors, and he encouraged conference attendees to seek novel technologies and methods to reduce environmental costs and add value to the company.

### CONFERENCE TECHNICAL PROGRAM

The technical program contained 53 sessions. The largest number of sessions (14) dealt with water quality topics, reflecting the high level of Canadian activity in new and upgraded secondary wastewater treatment systems. Other water-related topics included effluent minimization and mill closure investigations; advanced and novel treatment technologies; receiving water impacts; and spill reduction experiences. There were nine sessions dealing with residual management concerns. Two of these emphasized land application and other beneficial reuse alternatives, topics of growing significance in solid waste management.

Other sessions dealt with sludge dewatering techniques, landfill closure experiences, groundwater monitoring, site remediation case histories, and waste minimization. Air quality issues were covered in eight sessions focused on emission studies, accidental release modeling, control technology performance, and kraft mill odor reduction.

Besides the normal air, water, and residual management areas, there were 11 sessions on a diverse spectrum of environmental management subjects. These included environmental data acquisition systems, environmental cost accounting, global climate change, Great Lakes environmental issues, Agenda 2020 research projects, community relations, corporate environmental reports, and ISO 14001 certification. There were also four sessions devoted to solid and engineered wood products environmental concerns.



An international panel (from left, Wallace M. Vrooman, Kathleen M. Bennett, Masamichi Kimura, Hendayani Adishesha, Hannu Nilsen and Luis Juvencio Cardoso Quaglia) presented a global view of environmental requirements.

Two poster sessions consisted of "Quick Informative Presentations" (QUIPS). Papers at these sessions contained brief reports on research work-in-progress and new technologies under development, and provided an opportunity for informal discussions between the authors and interested individuals.

Copies of the 156 papers presented at the conference are available in a 1492-page, three-volume set of proceedings from TAPPI PRESS. The 1998 Environmental Conference Proceedings (Item No.01050398) can be purchased for US\$ 224; TAPPI member price US\$ 149, plus shipping.

#### AWARDS

The 1998 Technical Award and Roy F. Weston Prize of US\$1000 were presented to Bruce B. Ferguson, an independent consultant based in Auburn, AL. Ferguson was recognized for his contributions over the last 25 years to pulp and paper mill emission testing and analytical methods, especially for total reduced sulfur compounds, particulate matter, and numerous "hazardous air pollutants" such as chlorine, chlorine dioxide and methanol. He has served on the TAPPI Environmental Conference Technical Program Committee the last 20 years, and has been active in the Division's Air Quality, Water Quality and Residuals Management Committees.

The Leadership and Service Award was given to David Peakes, currently Senior Process Engineer with Woodward Clyde Consultants. Peakes was recognized for his tireless dedication to the Environmental Division over the past two decades. He has been a TAPPI member for over 40 years, and previously served as the Environmental Division's Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. He was elected to the TAPPI Board of Directors in 1996 and presently chairs its Public Outreach Committee. He is also very active in promoting TAPPI's Environmental Division at the international level.

The Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards were presented to the following authors for their papers presented at the 1997 Environmental Conference:

Eva Mannisto, Heikki Mannisto and Kim Roos -- "Feasibility of EPA's advanced technology tiers" (Water Quality Category)

Gary Lloyd, Arnold Farr and Roger Tembreull -- "Design and installation of a replacement thermal oxidizer for Odor Abatement" (Air Quality Category)

William Bangsund and Kevin Kangas -- "Representative Groundwater Sampling Using Low Flow Methods" (Solid Waste Category)

David Word and MaryAnn Gunsheski -- "Field validation of a source sampling method for formaldehyde, methanol, and phenol at wood products plants" (General Category)



David Word and MaryAnn Gunsheski, center, (with Dale Dill, left, and Wayne Gross, right) were among the authors recognized with the Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Awards.

The Division scholarship of US\$ 2500 was presented to James Whitehead, a sophomore at Auburn University majoring in Chemical Engineering. Whitehead is active in the Auburn TAPPI Student Chapter, and is also a member of the PIMA and AIChE student chapters. He has interned with the Environmental Department at Champion International's Courtland, AL, bleached kraft mill and intends to pursue a career in the paper industry environmental field after graduation in 2001.

At the opening session, Division Chairman Vernon Adams and TAPPI President Dale Dill presented Rob Hanley of Hanley Environmental Services with a certificate of appreciation for his role as 1998 Conference Chairman. Special recognition certificates were given to Roy F. Weston and CH2M Hill, firms that have participated in the Environmental Conference Exhibit for the past 15 years.

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In a departure from the past, there was no joint committee meeting at the conference. Each committee met separately at a different time to discuss matters of particular interest to the members. The Water Quality Committee held a "mini-symposium" on optimization of biological wastewater treatment systems, while the Air Quality Committee heard a presentation from Rob Kaufmann of the American Forest & Paper Association on upcoming air quality regulatory issues of interest to the industry. At the Residuals Management Committee, there was a panel discussion on expanding options for beneficial use of mill residuals. Wood dust investigations were reviewed by three speakers at the Solid and Engineered Wood Ad Hoc Committee.

## CONFERENCE REPORT



Events held in conjunction with the conference included the EnviroChase 5 K run and a visit to the Howe Sound Pulp and paper mill. Among those who visited the mill were, at right (l-r), Al Whitford, Rob Hunter, Sharon Semeniuk and Kirsten Vice.

### SHORT COURSES

Two short courses were offered in association with the conference, a two-day course on activated sludge plant operations and a one-day course on emerging air quality issues. A combined total of 50 individuals attended the short courses. A special half-day workshop on presentation skills also was held.

### MILL TOUR

A number of attendees participated in the mill tour im-

mediately following the conference. The Howe Sound Pulp and Paper mill at Port Mellon, BC, hosted the tour and showed the visitors several of its environmental protection facilities, including the effluent treatment system, sludge handling facilities and the new landfill. A report on the visit appears on p. 59 of this issue.

### OTHER EVENTS

The Breakfast Club convened at 0630 Tuesday. At this event, attendees are able to participate in a focused but informal discussion on a particular topic. Approximately ten different topics were addressed this year. The annual Envirochase 5 km fun run was held at 0630 on Wednesday. Entry fees are used to help support the Division's scholarship. Contributions to the scholarship fund also come from conference attendees who decline the TAPPI tote bag at registration.

### 1999 CONFERENCE

The Environmental Conference will move back to the United States in 1999. It will be held at the Opryland Hotel & Convention Center in Nashville, TN, from April 18 through 21. The call for papers has been issued and abstracts were due by August 1, 1998. Manuscripts for accepted papers are due on December 15, 1998. Planning for the conference is well underway, being led by the 1999 Conference Chairman, Rich Lutz of P.H. Glatfelter, and Technical Program Chairman Mark Johnson of Chemical Lime Co. For more information about the 1999 International Environmental Conference, call TAPPI's toll-free service line at 800-332-8686 (U.S.) or 800-446-9431 (Canada), or visit the TAPPI web page on the Internet at <http://www.tappi.org>. TJ



The Environmental Division's 35 conference years were highlighted in a display of words and photos.

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