

CITW Facts by Fax

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ASSESSMENT 2000 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

The TRD Implementation Working Group is currently reviewing the draft report "Summary of the Results of Environment Canada's Assessment 2000 Program" for the Canadian Wood Preservation Industry. The report is expected to be finalized in the next few weeks, sent for translation and then distributed. Each treating plant that participated in the assessment will be provided with a copy.

Preparation of the Technical Guidance Document is underway. Industry representatives will be meeting with the consultants in early April to complete the document. Treaters can expect to receive a copy in May 2001 following translation and publication.

The Manufacturers/Treaters Steering Committee has recognized that due to unforeseen factors, for example the need for a Technical Guidance Document, additional time is required for treating plants to accurately complete their Implementation Plans. Therefore, the deadline for submission of Implementation Plans has been extended to December 31, 2001. This is still keeping with the original recommendations set out in the Strategic Options Report published on July 1, 1999.

MONTREAL SUBURB BANS PESTICIDES

A Montreal suburb has decided to forge ahead and ban the use of pesticides even though a case involving a municipal anti-pesticide by-law is currently before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Ile-Bizard's new by-law bans pesticides everywhere except for farmlands and golf courses. While pesticides will be allowed to control insects or animals that represent a danger to human health, users must first demonstrate that biological methods were not successful. Users must also obtain a temporary permit and respect a series of norms such as advising neighbours 48 hours before its application.

The new by-law was inspired by regulations adopted a decade ago by Hudson, a neighbouring town. Two lawncare companies, Chemlawn (now called Greenspace Services

Ltd.) and Spraytech have challenged the by-law. After Hudson's anti-pesticide by-law was upheld by Quebec Superior Court in 1993 and the Quebec Court of Appeal in 1998, the two companies appealed the ruling before the country's highest court.

DELEGATES AGREE TO BANNING POPs

Delegates from 122 countries recently came to an internationally legally-binding agreement to ban 12 persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Chaired by Canadian John Buccini, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) agreed to "eliminate some of the world's most toxic chemicals." Over 525 participants from 122 countries as well as representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations struck the deal recently in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Twelve POPs, grouped into three categories, are being targeted, including pesticides such as aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene. Industrial chemicals such as hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are too covered by the ban as are unintended byproducts such as dioxins and furans.

While the treaty does contain exemptions for certain countries, signatory countries are expected to "promote the use of best technologies and practices to replace existing POPs." Signatory countries are also expected to adopt national legislation and programs to execute their commitments.

DIOXINS ADDED TO LIST OF CARCINOGENS

Dioxins have officially been added to the list of substances "known to be human carcinogens," announced recently the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP).

The addition of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) in an addendum to the Ninth Report on Carcinogens is based on "sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity" from studies in humans indicating a causal relationship

between exposure to TCDD and human cancer, says Kenneth Olden, director of the NTP and the National Institute of Environment Health Sciences. It should be noted that pentachlorophenol does not contain this dioxin.

The new status, however, given to dioxins was not without controversy. The change in the listing of TCDD from the "reasonably anticipated" to the "known" category was slated to take place last summer but was delayed by litigation. A medical device manufacturer and a group of restaurants from New York City filed a suit in a U.S. federal district court to overturn the finding. Besides asserting that the NTP had improperly applied listing criteria, the plaintiffs claimed they would suffer economic damages from the announcement. The U.S. Court of Appeals recently dismissed the request for an injunction to prevent the listing of TCDD as a "known human carcinogen."

While the Report on Carcinogens is a cancer health hazard identification document that discusses substances that may pose a carcinogenic hazard to human health, it does not present quantitative assessments of carcinogenic risk.

In Canada, dioxins and furans are slated to be virtually eliminated. Last August, federal Environment Minister David Anderson negotiated an agreement with provincial and federal governments -- with the exception of Quebec -- regarding a Canada-Wide Standard for dioxins and furans.

The revised Ninth Report on Carcinogens can be found at:
www.niehs.nih.gov/oc/news/dioadd.htm

COATINGS CARE INITIATIVE

An initiative by the Canadian Coatings industry to integrate health, safety and environmental management has yielded encouraging results. The industry, which encompasses paints, coatings and printing inks, has developed a series of programs over the past two years that has lead member companies to adhere to a uniform set of health, safety and environmental management practices.

Thanks to the Coatings Care® program, more companies are now actively involved and using organizational and management resources for compliance with health, safety and environ-

mental regulations, according to a recent progress report.

The Coatings Care® program focuses on four areas of health, safety and environment. Transportation and Distribution, an initiative issued in March 1999, consists of management practices in risk management, carrier performance and distribution emergency response. Last year the industry released two more modules: Product Stewardship keys on product development and safety while Manufacturing Management centres on process safety and pollution prevention, and waste management. Due this spring is an initiative highlighting Community Responsibility, and it will stress emergency response, employee education and training as well as community liaison.

NEW RATING SYSTEM

A new rating system capable of measuring the financial impact of safety, environmental and social risks was recently launched by the United Kingdom's Bureau V (BV) and the Safety & Environment Risk Management Rating Agency Ltd. (SERM).

An assessment tool designed for individual companies, the BV-SERM Verified Rating takes into account direct and indirect risks as well as factors associated with industry sectors and the company's ability to manage risks.

Companies using the new rating system will be sending a "strong signal" to investors, insurers and other stakeholders that they are "proactively measuring and managing their operational risks," notes Geoff Baker, chief executive of Bureau Veritas.

Bureau Veritas, a world leader in conformity assessment and performance evaluation, has a network of 500 offices in more than 120 countries.

For more information about the new rating system, please visit:
www.bureauveritas.com or e-mail:
info@bureauveritas.com

EPA REVISING CURRENT DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR ARSENIC

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the midst of finalizing a regulation to reduce public health risks from arsenic in drinking water. Currently standing at 50 parts per billion (ppb), the EPA intends to amend the drinking water standard for arsenic to 10 ppb -- a revision it claims will protect 13 million Americans against cancer and other health problems.

The EPA decided to revise its current standard of 50 ppb, which was established by the EPA in 1975, last summer. It examined more than 6,500 pages of comments from 1,100 parties, before deciding on its new standard.

The new standard is expected to be in force this summer. It will apply to 54,000 community water systems in the U.S., 5% of which will have to take corrective action. The new standard will also apply to 20,000 more water systems that service factories, nursing homes,

schools and the like. At least 1,100 of these water systems are expected to take measures to meet the new standards.

Annual household costs for water serviced by community water systems are expected to increase from \$0.86 to \$32.

For more information on arsenic in drinking water, please visit: www.epa.gov/safewater.html

HARDWARE RETAILER IN MAINE BLOCKADED FOR SELLING B.C. WOOD PRODUCTS

A do-it-yourself hardware retailer in Bangor, Maine was recently the target of a blockade organized by the Student Environmental Action Coalition. Eleven students from the College of the Atlantic and the University of New Hampshire were arrested after vigorously demanding the WICKES store to stop selling old-growth wood products from International Forest Products (Interfor) out of B.C.

"WICKES knows the history of Interfor Forest Products in the ancient temperate rainforest in B.C. and yet the company still carries their products," said Mike Roselle, Forests Campaigner for Greenpeace. "Concerned citizens are doing everything in their power to expose both Interfor's highly destructive practices and the stores that refuse to stop selling their products."

Students are demanding that only forest products from well-managed forests that meet Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards be sold -- something that retailers such as furnishing giant IKEA have pledged to do.

While many forestry companies operating in the Great Bear Rainforest are working with environmental organizations to protect the contentious area, Interfor ostensibly has resumed its logging plans after negotiations came to a standstill, says Greenpeace.

NEW GUIDELINES RELEASED BY EPA

New guidelines intended to ensure costs and benefits are treated consistently in economic analyses were recently released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The "Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses" is designed to assist in the analysis of the economic impacts of environmental regulations and policies. It is available at: www.epa.gov/economics

The EPA also released recently a report analysing the benefits of using economic incentives to protect the environment in lieu of traditional control regulations. Entitled "The United States Experience with Economic Incentives for Protecting the Environment," the report is also available at: www.epa.gov/economics

CITW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Registrations are coming in daily for what promises to be a well attended CITW 2001 Annual General Meeting.

The meeting kicks off with the Welcome Reception on Sunday evening. The Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday. Our keynote speaker at the luncheon will be David Baxter, Urban Futures Institute.

The President's Reception and Dinner on Monday evening will be a return visit to the very popular Seasons restaurant in Queen Elizabeth Park. The meeting program concludes with the standing committee meetings on Tuesday.

We remind members that the registration fee is \$160.50 and \$80.25 for spouses. Spouses are invited to attend the Opening Reception, Luncheon, and President's Reception and Dinner.

A round of golf on Sunday morning has been proposed for any early arrivals that might be interested. Please contact Jocelyn at CITW if you would like to play.

The cut-off date for accommodations at the special CITW rate has been extended to March 23, 2001. We encourage you to make your reservations now by calling the Renaissance now at 604-689-9211 or 800-905-8582.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Canadian Institute of Treated Wood

Annual General Meeting
April 8-10, 2001
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel
Vancouver, BC

Canadian Wood Council

Annual General Meeting
April 25-26, 2001
Kelowna, BC

American Wood Preservers Association

Annual Meeting
May 20-23, 2001
Minneapolis, MN

International Research Group

May 20-25, 2001
Nara, Japan

Forest Products Society

June 24-27, 2001
Baltimore, MD

Canadian Wood Council

Semi-annual General Meeting
October 18-19, 2001
Montreal, PQ

American Wood Preservers Association

Fall Technical Meetings
September 16-21, 2001
Rapid City, SD

*Published by: CITW
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