



CITW
PRESSURE POINTS

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SOP - TRD PROGRESS

We are now in the fourth year of the TRD-Implementation program, which commenced in 2000 with the assessment of 66 treatment plants. The next step in the program required the plants to submit an Implementation Plan (IP) that was to address any shortcomings found in the assessment and outlined actions and timelines for upgrading to meet the TRD requirements by the end of 2005.

All but one plant provided such an IP. The defaulting plant now is under the CEPA P2 Pollution Prevention Program of Environment Canada.

According to the IPs, seven plants were to be rebuilt completely. Most of the procedural aspects and training were to be accomplished during 2002 and 2003. One of the major issues would be the

installation of secondary containments, particularly in plants that had to raise their tanks to accommodate a sealer or liner underneath.

In the meantime, one plant shut down, two companies are no longer in the treating business and a concentration of plants in the ownership of fewer companies has occurred.

The 2002 annual progress reports submitted by the plants indicated that the majority of plants diligently pursued their goals set in their IPs. Several went actually beyond the tasks intended for 2002. On the other hand, progress was found lacking in eleven plants. Uncertainty about the future of CCA and the switchover to new preservatives (about 60% of CCA capacity has now been switched) had presented a significant challenge to many plants in staying within their timelines. In addition, the

lack of experience with the new chemicals and lack of information on appropriate sealing and coating methods caused some delays. In some areas technical expertise and support, such as from medical laboratories, is not readily available.

Earlier this summer, the SOP Working Group as part of the Environment Canada monitoring program, selected seven plants across Canada for verification visits. These visits are not only intended to verify actions reported in the 2002 annual reports but will also provide an opportunity for plants to discuss any technical problems they might have with their implementation process.

The plant reviewers will be accompanied by regional EnCan and provincial regulatory personnel, who will attend as observers to become more familiar with wood preservation facilities and the SOP program. The

visits are scheduled for late summer and early fall.

NEW CSA STANDARDS OUT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (CSA 080 S2 – 97 SERIES)

The CSA public comment period for the supplement to the existing standard for wood preservation (to include ACQ and CA) is now underway. The draft publication can be viewed at the CSA website at (www.csa.ca) or you may request an electronic copy from CITW. Comments should be directed to the project manager - Derrick Mckenzie, derrick.mckenzie@csa.ca.

The CITW Standards Review Committee chaired by Tom Moryto, Ram Forest Products Inc., will be gathering and providing data to support parts of the newly proposed standards for residential products.

CITW members are encouraged to review the proposed standards and provide comment to CSA.

GRAVENHURST MEETING

On June 20th 2003, CITW Director Henry Walthert and Peter Hattin, Pastway Planing Ltd. met with Gravenhurst, Ontario Mayor Mr. **John Klinck** and City Council members, in response to the recent misinformation circulated in the area about treated-wood. Prior to the visit, the city

planned to replace all docks along the Gravenhurst waterfront with red cedar because of unsupported safety concerns regarding pressure treated wood. Mr. Walthert asserted that pressure treated wood products have a long history of safe use & reliability in Canada. He further provided the Council with suitable information on treated wood applications such as the waterfront project. The Mayor and council were most receptive to the presentation and the information given and will consider treated wood in the future.

ISO DRAFT STANDARD PREPARED

The International Standards Organization TC165 SC1 subcommittee completed a draft international standard for treated wood products at their annual meeting in Brisbane, Australia on May 23, 2003.

Under the guidance of Chairman Paul Morris, Forintek Canada Corporation and with the assistance of CITW as Secretariat, the subcommittee is nearing completion of its work that began in 1997. "An International Framework for Classifying Wood Products Durability Based on Use Classes" will be moving to the enquiry stage of the ISO process in late summer. The framework will be used by countries around the world including Canada in the

development or refinement of their use class standards.

BRIEFED ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLE & TREATING ASSOCIATION (RMPTA) AND WESTERN RED CEDAR ASSOCIATION (WRCA) ON CITW ACTIVITIES

June 9th was the Annual Meeting of the RMPTA along with the Western Red Cedar Association on the 10th in Harrison, B.C. Melissa Duench traveled to British Columbia to familiarize herself with the association, their members and objectives, and to provide the group with information regarding recent CITW activities. Topics covered included Environment Canada's Strategic Options Process (SOP), the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), and the transition to the new generation of wood preservatives. The meeting was a great opportunity for Melissa to appreciate the intricacies of the pole treating side of the treated-wood industry.

CCA PTW AND PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES

CITW commissioned John Harrison to prepare a summary report on pressure treated wood used in playground structures. Harrison is a well-respected toxicologist (formerly with Health Canada), and his

report provides many logical arguments that support the use of treated wood by comparing relative risks and concluding that treated wood poses no unreasonable health risks.

The report is available to members. The report will also be posted on the CITW website.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS PAY OFF ??

Curiously, a growing number of businesses have realized an increase in their bottom line as a result of stringent environmental & government regulations.

Although unwelcome initially because of the substantial investment, reducing environmental exposure to waste can provide a substantial return in the long run in addition to the many intangible benefits. Similar to the treated wood industry, the dry cleaning business was identified by the Canadian Environmental Protection Act for using toxic substances.

In the article entitled “P2 for PMEs” (HazMat Management, June 2003), Peter Fischer describes *Carriage Trade Cleaning Centre*, (Oshawa, Ontario) a dry cleaning business identified under CEPA for their use of perchlorethylene or PERC, succeeded in

substituting wet cleaning for PERC dry cleaning. PERC consumption dropped from 545L in 1999 to zero in 2003 and hazardous waste decreased from 409 L/year to zero. The cost savings were huge: water and sewage costs dropped 50%, utility costs down 50%, and machine maintenance was reduced by 40%.

Many similarities can be drawn from this industry and the treated wood industry. That is environmental investment can pay off by recycling water & preservative back into the treatment process, resulting in cost savings in terms of disposal and inputs.

In addition, the intangible benefits are numerous: it keeps liability at a minimum, government regulators at bay, and negative media attention can be reduced by companies marketing themselves as being socially responsible. The SOP process is a strong promotional tool in this respect.

NOTES

- CITW Semi-Annual Meeting: October 27 in Halifax
- CWPA Annual Meeting: October 28, 29 in Halifax
- CWC Wood Solutions Fair, October 21st in Montreal

- CSA Wood Preservation Technical Committee dates :
→Public Comment Period: Extended till August 30th
→Next Meeting: October 30, 2003

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