



# CITW

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### PMRA CRITICIZED IN REPORT BY AUDITOR GENERAL

The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Johanne G  linas, in her environmental audit, delivered a scornful report to the House of Commons. The report, with a strong focus on pesticide management, found that the PMRA (Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada) has skipped steps in the screening and scientific review processes, has overused temporary registrations (58% of all new pesticide registrations in 2001-02 were temporary), and has made slow progress on re-evaluating older, widely-used pesticides against today's health and environmental standards.

Among other things, the Auditor found only 6 out of a promised 405 (by 2006)

pesticides were fully re-evaluated. Health Minister Anne McLellan, however, contradicts this figure stating that 61 re-evaluations are fully complete and the rest should be complete by 2006 or 2007.

G  linas told a press conference yesterday that: "The range of weaknesses we identified raises serious questions about the overall management of health and environmental risks associated with pesticides."

Some examples of information gaps include: "What happens to the pesticide after it is released into the environment? What impact it is likely to have on children's central nervous systems, and how toxic it is to invertebrates and non-target plants?"

This is the fourth time since 1998 that the Auditor's

report has raised the issue of progress on re-evaluations.

How will this affect our industry? The PMRA will tighten its restrictions. It has agreed to reassess the adequacy of its procedures on submission screening and early stages of the review processes to ensure that the submitted data are complete and reliable and it will continue to work with the international community to identify candidate assumptions for testing.

The report is available online by clicking [here](#). Any comments can be directed to:

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### REMINDER

CITW's semi-annual meeting is set for October 27<sup>th</sup> in Halifax, Nova Scotia. There will be important

issues up for discussion and attendance for the event will be impressive. Please forward any last minute registrations as soon as possible.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

The Canadian Institute of Treated Wood would like to welcome our newest corporate treating member: Spray Lake Sawmills, of Cochrane, Alberta. We look forward to working with designated representatives Howard Pruden and Jason Quantz at the semi-annual meeting and in the future.

### **CSA STANDARD SUBMISSION UPDATES**

Public comment on the proposed changes to the CSA O80 Standard to include the new preservatives was completed in August with nine submissions. Four submissions were received with comments referring to data submission, technical points and editorial changes. Five submissions were received from treating plants expressing concerns about treatability of wood for the residential marketplace.

On Wednesday, October 8, 2003, the CSA Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. John Ruddick held a conference call to address these issues.

The call resulted in a number of changes to the proposed standards most notably, the

movement of treatable species (e.g. red pine) from the proposed CSA O80.36 (developed by Dr. Paul Morris) to CSA O80.32 (the current decking standard). Recommendations for this and other changes will now be presented to the CSA A366 Technical Committee for acceptance at their meeting in Halifax on October 30, 2003.

CITW will be circulating the proposals to members for discussion at the Standards Review Committee meeting chaired by Tom Moryto on Monday, October 27, 2003.

### **EXPORT MARKETS BECKON NORTH AMERICA**

A recent report demonstrates that U.S. government export incentives are going largely under-utilized by the wood products sector, helping to make the threat from imported manufactured wood products greater than the gains being made in new overseas markets. (NAWLA, 09-03).

The success of Canadian government programs, however, remains to be seen. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) announced an additional \$6.1 million in market development projects for 2003–2004, under the Canada Wood Export Program, or “Canada Wood”. The five-year, \$35-million Canada Wood initiative was announced

in May 2002. Within its cost-shared program, NRCAN is working with wood-products associations from across Canada, and provinces and industry partners to diversify Canada's wood-products exports to offshore markets. The official news release can be found [here](#).

### **CHALLENGES OF A MATURING INDUSTRY**

The coming of age of our industry has brought on two large challenges: where will the industry grow and who will lead the growth? The Canadian treated wood industry is leveling off. Canadian shipments of treated lumber have essentially been stable from 1990 to 1998 at about \$400 million (source: [Industry Canada](#)). Exports, however, are the main source of growth. They increased steadily over the same period, so that, by 1998, the industry was contributing almost \$108 million to Canada's trade surplus.

Furthermore, as the average age of a forest manager is 48 (The Edge, October 2003) and closely approaching retirement, educational & promotional programs targeted to youth are paramount. With low enrollment in Forestry affecting numerous colleges and universities throughout Canada, the onus is on the industry to continually support promotional & educational programs.

## **IS STEEL USING PESTICIDES??**

Ohio based AK Steel Corp, opened a new “concept” home in California this past week, claiming to relegate termites, fires, and mold as a thing of the past. Sound familiar?

The company wants to test new “anti-microbial” steel by building an 11,000 square foot house with 200,000 pounds of its new steel with a germ-resistant coating. And the cost? Company officials were of course reluctant to discuss costs, however, some estimates indicate the new anti-microbial steel can cost 25 % more than traditional steel. (For the full article, click [here](#).)

## **DOMTAR NAMED IN TAR-POND LAWSUIT**

Lawyers representing more than 200 Sydney, Nova Scotia residents recently gave notice of intended action on a large lawsuit that claims pollution in the Cape Breton community caused widespread health problems and even death. Wagner and Associates said the suit names defendants such as Nova Scotia Power Corp., CN Rail, the Federal government, and Domtar. Domtar ran a chemical refracturing plant next to the steel coke ovens.

The closed Sydney Steel plant plus the tar ponds and surrounding area are considered Canada’s worst

contaminated site. The ponds contain 700,000 tones of toxic sludge produced by a century of coke production and steel making in Sydney. (HazMat magazine, August/September 2003).

## **THE XII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS**

More than 4,000 participants from more than 140 countries took part in discussions on the future of the world’s forests at the World Forestry Congress, in Québec City, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

The governments of Canada and Québec organized the event to identify principles to be respected and actions needed to safeguard the future of the world’s forests. The event culminated in a final statement “Forests, Source of Life”.

Canada was well served as the host of the event; Canada holds 10% of the world’s forests and has 417.6 million hectares of forestland ([Natural Resources Canada](#)).

## **WEB SITE UPDATES AND STATISTICS**

“CCA Pressure Treated Wood and Playground Structures” by John Harrison, Toxicologist, is now available on the [CITW website](#). Included in the member’s section is an updated membership list and industry calendar. Please

contact CITW if you need the ID and/or password.

Spring and summer have proved busy on the [Consumer Safety Information](#) web site. May, June, and July were by far the busiest months, exhibiting 9,900; 8,119; and 7,577 hits each, respectively. These months were sharp increases from April at 6,549 hits, and leveling off to 5,562 in August.

The CITW web site exhibited similar characteristics throughout the Spring/Summer but with a far greater reach. The site recorded 36,099 hits in March; 38,495 in April; 42,580 in May; 36,397 in June; and 40,250 in July; falling to 31,728 in August. The average number of hits per month over the past year was 32,565. (October 02 - September 03)

## **NOTES**

- CWC Wood Solutions Fair, October 21<sup>st</sup> in Montreal
- CITW Semi-Annual Meeting: October 27 in Halifax
- CWPA Annual Meeting: October 28, 29 in Halifax
- CSA Wood Preservation Technical Committee dates: Next Meeting: October 30, 2003

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