



Pollution Prevention News

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Please send questions
or comments to:
Pollution Prevention News
U.S. EPA
401 M Street SW, (PM-219)
Washington, DC 20460

Editor's Corner

Welcome to the first issue of Pollution Prevention News! As EPA's pollution prevention program gets underway, we hope to bring you news of our activities and of promising efforts in pollution prevention around the country.

In September 1988, EPA set up a new Pollution Prevention Office with Jerry Kotas at the helm. (See the interview on page 3.) The aim of the office is just what it sounds — to help prevent pollution *before* it becomes a problem. For the last few months, our small staff has been getting out and meeting people across the country who have been active in pollution prevention.

Frankly, we have been extremely impressed

with the initiative, creativity, and commitment we have seen in state governments, industry

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leaders, and public interest organizations. It quickly became apparent to us that a great deal of progress has already been made on this issue,

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Applications Received for \$3M in State Multi-media Grants

EPA is currently reviewing applications for \$3 million in incentive grants to states for source reduction and recycling technical assistance programs. Funds will be awarded to states to initiate or expand programs in all stages of development, from states with established pollution prevention programs to states needing start-up funds. Activities eligible for funding include providing direct technical assistance to industry; conducting demonstration activities; training; promoting waste exchange programs; and developing industry-specific manuals.

EPA received 45 applications for the grants, and expects to make awards to 10-15 states in amounts not exceeding \$300,000. The selection process is being handled by an 11-person panel, made up of five members from headquarters program offices and six members from the EPA regional offices. An announcement of awards is expected shortly.

A second round of state multi-media grants

will be made in 1989 with an additional \$4 million appropriated by Congress. Information on applications and evaluation criteria will be available in early 1989, with awards hopefully to be made by the summer. For further information on the multi-media grants program, contact Jackie Krieger at the Pollution Prevention Office, U.S. EPA, (202) 252-0834.

In 1988, EPA announced the award of over \$3.6 million to 14 state environmental agencies under the RCRA Integrated Training and Technical Assistance (RITTA) initiative. Funds are intended to support training programs in hazardous waste management and pilot technical assistance projects for the industrial community focusing on waste minimization. For more information on RITTA grants, please contact Kate Connors, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA, (202) 475-9741.

Reports from EPA Offices

Office of Solid Waste

After months of meetings with states, industries, waste management experts, and citizen groups, in September 1988 EPA proposed a national strategy for handling the nation's growing volume of solid waste. The strategy targets 25 percent of municipal solid waste for recycling and reduction over the next four years. The strategy, called "An Agenda for Action," was prepared by the Municipal Solid Waste Task Force of the Office of Solid Waste.

Last year, the nation produced 160 million tons of solid waste, nearly 3.5 pounds per person each day. In the last decade, over 12,000 landfills have closed and fewer than 1000 have opened. In 10 years, half the remaining 6,000 municipal landfills in the country will be full to capacity.

The strategy outlines a five-point plan to deal with the upcoming crisis in managing waste disposal. The recommendations and tasks are intended to promote recycling and source reduction, provide for increased federal procurement of secondary materials, make landfills and incinerators safer, support national research efforts in waste management, and facilitate state and local planning.

The strategy is available through the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 (or 382-3000 in Washington, D.C.). Further information is available from EPA's Municipal Solid Waste Task Force, (202) 382-6261.

ORD Waste Minimization Programs

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) in Cincinnati created its Waste Minimization Branch to develop, demonstrate, and encourage the adoption of technologies that will reduce waste generation. Under the leadership of Harry Freeman, Chief of the Waste Minimization Branch, a number of programs have been initiated, including:

- **Waste Reduction Innovative Technology Evaluation (WRITE)** — This program involves industry evaluations of new and promising waste reduction technologies, in order to introduce viable technologies into commercial practice as

soon as possible. EPA offers technical and financial support through state and local governments to encourage the involvement of small and medium-sized companies in this program. Contact: Lynn Apel (513) 569-7548.

- **Waste Reduction Assessments Program (WRAP)** — EPA encourages waste generators to use waste minimization assessments to identify opportunities to reduce waste. ORD has developed the *EPA Manual for Waste Minimization Opportunity Assessments* to help industries assess the economic advisability of waste minimization options. The manual is being tested by the State of New Jersey at 30 facilities and will be revised based on comments and experience gained in the field. (See below for ordering information.) Contact: Mary Ann Curran (513) 569-7837.
- **Waste Reduction Evaluations at Federal Sites (WREAFS)** — Focusing on waste minimization at federal sites, this program includes demonstration and evaluation projects for waste reduction con-

ducted cooperatively by EPA and offices within the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and other federal agencies. Contact: Jim Bridges (513) 569-7683.

- **Waste Reduction Institute for Scientists and Engineers (WRISE)** — A joint project of EPA and the University of Cincinnati, the WRISE program will convene a panel of experts in waste minimization who will be available for lectures, seminars, and discussions with senior executives of private industry. Contact: Dr. Thomas Hauser at the University of Cincinnati, (513) 556-3693.

For further information about these and other ORD programs in waste minimization, or for a free copy of the *EPA Manual for Waste Minimization Opportunity Assessments* (EPA/625/7-88/003), write:

Waste Minimization Branch
Risk Reduction Engineering Laboratory
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45268

EPA Pilot Tests New E-Board

EPA is pilot testing an electronic bulletin board (E-Board) that offers access to a comprehensive information network on waste minimization and recycling. The E-Board should be useful to industry, states, public interest groups, and federal agency staff in obtaining immediate, up-to-date information on pollution prevention technologies and activities.

The bulletin board has six major components at present: (1) a message center for participants; (2) a calendar of events and activities related to waste minimization; (3) a summary of state waste minimization programs (relevant legislation, sources of funding, significant activities, and contact persons); (4) a summary of other waste minimization programs in the federal government, industry, and interest groups; (5) detailed case studies of waste minimization; and (6) list of publications and abstracts relating to

waste minimization, including order forms for free publications.

The E-Board is accessible to anyone with an IBM-compatible PC via equipped with a telephone modem (2400 baud or less) and a standard communications package similar to Crosstalk XVI. The telephone number and communications parameters for the Waste Minimization E-Board are:

(301) 589-8366

Data Bits=8

Stop Bits=1

Duplex=Full

Emulation=ANSI

The E-Board is scheduled to be operational by the Spring of this year. Future issues of this newsletter will provide more details on its features. For further information, call Myles Morse at (202) 382-4664. For technical inquiries, call Christopher Messner at (703) 821-4808.

Interview with Jerry Kotas Director of EPA's Pollution Prevention Office

PPN: What do you see as the role and primary purpose of the Pollution Prevention Office?

JK: I see this office serving as a catalyst for pollution prevention activities, both within EPA and outside the Agency. There are so many people and organizations already doing excellent work in this area. We intend to lend our support and voice to promote pollution prevention as the environmental approach of the 1990s, and to get this message out to all sectors of society.

PPN: How will your approach differ from the Agency's activities in other areas?

JK: At this point, we are not contemplating writing regulations. Instead, we will be relying on persuasion and education to achieve results. This will hopefully put us in a cooperative mode rather than an adversarial role vis-a-vis industry and other players, so that we can work as a team to prevent pollution and reduce waste.

PPN: What types of pollution are included in your mandate?

JK: All types of pollution! Air emissions, water pollutants, solid and hazardous waste, you name it! The point is, when it comes to prevention, we can no longer afford to divide up the environment into separate pieces and look at only one or two environmental media. We especially need to avoid the so-called environmental "merry-go-round" effect where regulation in one medium may encourage people to shift pollutants to another medium without reducing total loadings on the environment.

PPN: What specific achievements do you hope to accomplish over the next year or two?

JK: One of our first products will be an Agency-wide strategy for preventing pollution that will provide a national

direction as well as specific short-term and long-term goals to be achieved. That should come out in the Spring. We are planning an aggressive outreach effort, which will include person-to-person contacts with a wide range of companies and organizations, liaison with the educational community to influence engineering and management school curricula, and a national technical information clearinghouse.

We will also be using state grants and other mechanisms to foster state and local pollution prevention programs, and we will be working actively with all of EPA's program and regional offices to establish pollution prevention as a cornerstone of the environmental approach of this Agency. In short, in the next two years we will be laying the groundwork for an effective and sustained pollution prevention effort for the next decade.

PPN: What role will the EPA regional offices and the states play in this process?

JK: We will rely heavily on the states and EPA regions to represent the front line in this effort. Because they are closer to the industries and municipalities that are directly involved in pollution prevention decisions, the states and regions can be extremely effective in providing technical and financial assistance, identifying opportunities, and promoting prevention efforts.

PPN: Do you think that significant progress can be made in pollution prevention without prescriptive regulations or uniform waste reduction standards?

JK: Only time will tell, but for now we see the potential for enormous progress by working cooperatively with industry, public interest groups, municipalities, consumers, and other government officials. The job of preventing pollution cannot rest solely with EPA or with government in general. We don't plan to dictate how each factory should



Jerry Kotas was named the Director of EPA's new Pollution Prevention Office in August 1988. He formerly served as the Director of EPA's National Pesticide Survey, a joint project of the Office of Drinking Water and Office of Pesticide Programs. His prior experience at EPA includes three years in hazardous waste enforcement and four years in water pollution control, developing regulations for the Underground Injection Control program and encouraging state ground-water protection efforts. Before coming to Washington, Kotas worked on environmental problems at the state level in Ohio and Texas. At the Great Lakes Basin Commission he served as liaison with eight states and 11 federal agencies. A hydrogeologist by training, he has degrees from Notre Dame and the University of Texas at Austin.

operate its production processes, or to force consumers to use paper bags at the supermarket instead of plastic. Instead, our role is to encourage all sectors of society to take a close hard look at how our choices are affecting the environment, and to consider ways in which we can create fewer pollutants.

This may require a fairly large "cultural change" in order to help people change their attitudes and behavior. But I am confident that when people hear the message and understand the urgency of preventing pollution and reducing waste, they will join us in promoting this effort.

Waste Minimization Workshops

To train state inspectors and industry representatives to identify waste minimization opportunities, EPA has developed a series of workshop programs targeted to specific industries. The workshops will promote waste minimization through auditing and process analysis procedures.

The workshops will apply the audit procedures given in the *EPA Manual for Waste Minimization Opportunity Assessments* to industrial situations. Sessions will examine actual cases presented by participants and hypothetical cases developed by instructors. In addition, the workshops will provide instruction in conducting cost/benefit analyses, addressing management concerns, identifying incentives for waste minimization within a specific plant, and pursuing innovative minimization strategies. Participants will also be taught computer skills to help them solve problems out of class.

The workshops are scheduled to begin in early 1989 at locations across the country. For general and technical information, contact Doug Williams of EPA/ORD in Cincinnati at (513) 569-7361. For registration information, contact Peer Consultants in Dayton, OH at (513) 252-1222.

Editor's Corner (from page 1)

and that we at EPA need to get up to speed in a hurry.

At the same time, numerous conversations over the past few months have stressed time and again how much further we need to go as a society to prevent pollution. We need to get the word out to a greater cross-section of people that prevention makes both good business sense and good environmental sense. We need to think in terms of the environment as a whole, not strictly in terms of impacts on individual environmental media (air, water, land).

Over time, we believe that a cross-media, preventive outlook will become a standard part of EPA's mode of operations as well. The Pollution Prevention Office at EPA will be taking a lead role in coordinating prevention programs within EPA, working with EPA's program and regional offices to bring pollution prevention efforts to the forefront of the Agency's activities.

We intend to build on the accomplishments that have already begun. This first issue of Pollution Prevention News reports on efforts underway in the Municipal Solid Waste program of the Office of Solid Waste and on several initiatives from the Office of

Research and Development. The Office of Solid Waste's Waste Minimization Branch has contributed several articles to this newsletter on some exciting events including the establishment of a new electronic bulletin board on waste minimization. We look forward to reporting on other important prevention-related activities around the Agency in future issues of Pollution Prevention News.

Meanwhile, let's hear from you! We are interested in your views on this newsletter, and on a whole range of topics — new pollution prevention initiatives, promising technologies, useful workshops, and EPA's role in furthering the cause of pollution prevention. Send your articles and letters to: Pollution Prevention Office (PM-219), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.



John Atcheson

Workshop Schedule

LOCATION	DATES	INDUSTRY
Houston, TX	Feb. 28 - Mar. 1, 1989	Electronics and plastics manufacturing, petroleum refining
Chicago, IL	April 18-19, 1989	Chemical and electronics manufacturing, metal finishing
Seattle, WA	May 2-3, 1989	Wood preserving, metal finishing, electronics manufacturing
Atlanta, GA	May 9-10, 1989	Chemical manufacturing, wood preserving, textiles finishing, carpet manufacturing
Baltimore, MD	May 31 - June 1, 1989	Petroleum refining, plastics manufacturing, textiles finishing, carpet manufacturing

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Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

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