



Project Summary

Proceedings: EPA/AEERL's Indoor Air Quality/Pollution Prevention Workshop

Chris Sarsony

U.S. EPA/AEERL's Indoor Air Branch is researching the application of pollution prevention (P2) techniques in order to eliminate and/or reduce sources of indoor air pollution. AEERL's indoor air/pollution prevention research is focused on the development of low emitting materials (LEMs). A LEM is a material which, when used in the same manner and in the same space as an alternative material, has reduced emissions.

To assist AEERL in prioritizing potential areas of research for applying P2 to indoor air quality (IAQ), a workshop was held March 9 and 10, 1993, in Raleigh, NC, to bring together technical experts in the fields of IAQ, P2, and selected industries. The workshop goals were to identify major IAQ issues and their P2 opportunities, and to suggest research strategies for IAQ/P2. The proceedings summarize the findings of the workshop.

This Project Summary was developed by EPA's Air and Energy Engineering Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC, to announce key findings of the research project that is fully documented in a separate report of the same title (see Project Report ordering information at back).

Overview

The first part of the 2-day workshop covered background information on IAQ, P2, and AEERL's strategy to combine the two. The 64 participants were then placed into workgroups to focus on P2 research in six topic areas: adhesives and sealants, building materials, consumer prod-

ucts, furniture, office equipment, and textiles. On the second day, an ad hoc workgroup on biocontaminants was added because of participants' interest.

Each workgroup was asked to address two questions. (1) Within each topic area, what materials/products are candidates for IAQ/P2 research? The following selection criteria were suggested: emissions and usage patterns, potential for applying P2, and technical knowledge of the manufacturing process. (2) What should AEERL's P2 research strategy be in each recommended area? The strategies were to focus on technical approaches to P2, not policy or regulatory issues.

Major themes from the workshop were:

- There is a desire for EPA to *identify the major IAQ problems*. Many participants focussed discussions on the relative importance of different IAQ sources.
- Linking IAQ and P2 was much more difficult for participants than anticipated. More specific examples applying P2 to IAQ would be helpful in making this link.
- The workgroups consistently identified a need for more emissions testing, methods development, modelling, consumer education, and source ranking.
- The issue of proprietary information must be considered in developing a P2 research strategy.
- Participants felt that research directed at preventing biocontaminant growth is important.





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