A&WMA Georgia Chapter

1999 Environmental Awards Winners

Hazardous Waste Management Program - 1999

The **Duracell USA** plant in LaGrange, Georgia employs a hazardous waste management strategy that includes continuous evaluation of the facility's hazardous waste streams in order to find ways to reduce the quantities of waste generated. In 1998, following several years of negotiation, they received a variance from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for the plant's zinc anode slurry hazardous waste. The acquisition of this variance allows Duracell to recycle approximately 40,000 pounds per year of caustic waste by-product, which previously had to have been shipped off-site for treatment and disposal as hazardous waste.

- The variance has resulted in a 69% reduction of hazardous waste generated at the facility.
- This reduction allowed Duracell to be re-classified from a Large Quantity Generator to a Small Quantity Generator.

Billy Moore of Duracell describes their award winning efforts in Hazardous Waste Management.

Waste Minimization/Pollution Prevention - 1999

The **Robins Air Force Base Air Logistics Center** (ALC) is the largest industrial complex in Georgia. The facility has worldwide management, engineering and maintenance responsibilities for various military aircraft and ground transport vehicles.

The ALC's pollution prevention (P2) program includes a wide variety of efforts, with a positive effect on several media. Two P2 programs have been selected to demonstrate the ALC's reduced impact on the environment.

- Reduction of EPA-17 chemicals, primarily methylene chloride, by 88% in their aircraft depainting process. The innovative BOSS system uses high pressure bicarbonate of soda and water in place of chemical strippers.

- Replacement of chlorine with UV disinfection of treated wastewater effluent, eliminating the use and storage of about 10,000 pounds of chlorine per year.

Awards Chair Sean Nicholl presents the Pollution Prevention award to Mary Kicklighter of Robins AFB Air Logistics Center.

Air Quality - 1999

The **United States Postal Service** (USPS) is the recipient of the 1999 AWMA Award for Air Quality for their continuing culture of preserving air quality through the proactive use of alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet at the national level. The USPS has a nearly century long history of using alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet, as demonstrated by the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles in the Atlanta District. The Atlanta District USPS distinguishes itself by:

- Purchasing Alternative Fuel Vehicles beyond the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments and Energy Policy Act requirements
- Administering emissions testing for all fleet vehicles every 3,000 miles. Testing requirements are more stringent than current local regulations.

Applying the same environmentally friendly operating philosophies to all fleet vehicles, regardless of operation inside or outside regulated areas.

Paul Snider (left) and Josh Earhart of the United States Postal Service pose with their Air Quality award.

Honorable Mention – Waste Minimization/ Pollution Prevention - 1999

Mount Vernon Mills in Trion, Georgia receives honorable mention and congratulations from AWMA for its pollution prevention and waste minimization efforts. Mount Vernon Mills is currently enjoying the benefits of proactive pollutant source reduction policies established in the late eighties. These policies require that Mount Vernon Mills eliminate SARA Title III listed chemicals, as well chemicals on other regulatory lists such as the HAPs list, from all materials used in the mill. Mount Vernon has successfully worked with suppliers to accomplish this goal, and has substantially reduced, if not eliminated, most listed chemicals from its operation.

Mount Vernon Mills is also proactively engaged in waste minimization activities, and has found markets for or reuses by products of production such as fabric roll cores and wraps, floor sweeps, and traditional solid waste such as office paper. These efforts have resulted in a 50% reduction in solid waste since 1994.