



PROGRESSIVE *News*

Summer 2005

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

With summer finally upon us it gives us all a chance to kick back and smell the flowers while still driving to work. Nothing seems to stop us, not even expensive gasoline. And while the cost of gasoline might not stop us it certainly does impact all of us. China, Iraq, the Middle East and everything else in this global economy seems to affect us all in some way. But somethings never change.

We still need to make payrolls, pay the insurance bills and provide for our families. While it may be a global economy it still is a regional reality that we all have to deal with. It seems the only thing constant in life is change. And on that note you will notice our new format of our newsletter. While we only issue it quarterly, we will try to include articles that affect all of our industries.

Progressive Environmentals scope of service has increased to representing over 29 different ISO treatment and service providers. We are now handling not only the obvious oily waters, inks solvents and hazardous wastes; but we are also serving the food manufacturing industries as well as those who generate plastics and cardboard scrap! Our diversification has allowed us to serve just about everyone who generates some kind of waste by-product.

Recently re-appointed to serve on the Federal EPA Task Force on Recycling for Region 5, I will constantly keep all of you informed of any changes in our environmental arena that affect you. The Federal Government has some new information coming out for those of you that generate any type of hazardous waste in relation to terrorism and the transportation of such waste as well. You will receive this information in a separate mailing.

Our new website is under construction, our marketing department is gearing up to make dealing with Progressive Environmental more rewarding and entertaining and we are even coming out with some incentives for you for referring companies to us that ultimately become active accounts with Progressive.

We appreciate your loyalty and pledge to you our commitment to remain competitive in the marketplace, environmentally compliant in all that we do for you and continue to offer to you the value added services that you have come to expect and rely upon.

Enjoy the summer, stay cool, be safe and feel free to call upon us for all of your environmental and informational needs.

Thank you.

Sheldon B. Goldner
President

Ohio bus maker to pay \$150,000 for hazardous waste violations

July 8 -- An Ohio bus manufacturer, Mid Bus Inc., has agreed to pay \$150,000 for past hazardous waste violations, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said.

The company, which is based in Bluffton, Ohio, also agreed to improve its hazardous waste handling and to train employees in proper hazardous waste management, the Ohio EPA said.

The agreement is a result of an Ohio EPA inspection of Mid Bus's site in August 2003. The company worked with the state agency during the ensuing months to resolve most of the problems, which included failure to characterize waste, storing drums of waste longer than 90 days and failure to label and date drums of waste.

The hazardous waste generated by the company included paint solvents and acid cleaner, the Ohio EPA said.

Illinois sues hog farmer, alleges illegal dumping of ice cream waste

June 27 -- The Illinois Attorney General's Office has filed a lawsuit against a hog farmer accused of dumping truckloads of ice cream waste in a wooded area of Sangamon County near wells that supply water to the village of Illiopolis.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency discovered the dumping in June 2003 after residents complained. A Sangamon County sheriff's deputy found an employee of Eric Smith Jr., of Blue Mound, Ill., at the scene.

The ice cream waste, which came from an Indiana ice cream company, was fed to hogs on Smith's farm. However, in June 2003, the hogs became sick and weren't eating as much. The excess waste was dumped in the wooded area, according to the Illinois EPA and the Attorney General's Office.

The milky, tan liquid caused brown and dead vegetation in the area, and at least a dozen small trees died, according to state officials.

"No excuse justifies illegal dumping, especially so close to a source that provides public drinking water," Attorney General Lisa Madigan said.

Madigan's lawsuit, filed in Sangamon County Circuit Court, charges Smith with open dumping, unpermitted waste storage and disposal in an area not designated as a sanitary landfill. The complaint also charges him with unpermitted waste transportation violations for

not possessing a current non-hazardous special waste hauling permit.

In addition, the complaint charges Smith with water pollution for dumping the waste within 200 feet of one of Illiopolis' wells and threatening contamination of the well. The lawsuit seeks a civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation and an additional \$10,000 for each day the violations continue.



President Bush says he'll tackle green issues at G8 summit

June 8 -- President Bush, meeting June 7 with British Prime Minister

Tony Blair at the White House, said he would be working with England and other nations on environmental issues, including global warming.

Global warming is one of the issues Blair plans to focus on during the upcoming G8 Summit in Scotland next month. The summit is an annual meeting of the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"I also look forward to working with the Prime Minister through the G8 to forge a new strategy for the 21st century that helps countries achieve economic prosperity, energy security, and a clean environment, to improve public health by cutting air pollution and to address global change," Bush said.

During the summit, which will be held July 6-8, the United States plans to discuss developing clean and efficient technologies to achieve those goals and sharing the technologies with other countries.

However, environmentalists said Bush's rhetoric does not match his actions on global warming.

"Sadly, in practice, President Bush consistently dismisses the growing scientific consensus from his own federal agencies that global warming is an immediate and real threat," Sierra Club President Carl Pope said.

Circuit Board Maker Settles Hazardous Waste Dispute

June 6 -- A California circuit board maker will pay a \$36,000 penalty to settle hazardous waste violations. R Squared Circuits agreed to pay the fine to the California Department of Toxic Subs

Clean Harbors Ordered to Comply with Water Regs at Calif. Site

May 31 -- Clean Harbors Inc. is being ordered to comply with Clean Water Act requirements at the company's San Jose, Calif., industrial waste management facility, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said.

Clean Harbors accepts and treats wastewater from industrial facilities and site cleanups at the site. A January 2004 EPA inspection found that the company violated water pollution standards by discharging water with oils and solvents without a permit, the EPA said.

The location also discharged water into the city's sewer system that exceeded titanium limits, did not adequately sample its wastewater and did not follow sample reporting requirements, according to the agency.

Electronics Groups Issue International Guide for Product Content



May 31 -- The electronics industry has published the first international standard for product material content reporting to help manufacturers

comply with regulations restricting the use of hazardous substances.

The "Joint Industry Guide for Material Composition Declaration for Electronic Products" will standardize the disclosure of material content data across the electronics supply chain.

The Electronic Industries Alliance and the Japan Green Procurement Survey Standardization Initiative developed the guide to deal with the trend toward international environmental regulations, such as the European Union Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances, which will ban the use of certain materials in electronics manufacturing.

The guide provides a standardized list of materials that must be disclosed when they are present in products and subparts that are supplied to electronics manufacturers for use in their products. The standardized list will benefit both suppliers and their commercial customers by providing consistency and efficiency in the material declaration process. The guide is available at no cost at www.eia.org/jig.

Pa. Recycler Fined \$150,000 for Waste Violations

May 31 -- ADC Recycling Corp. has paid a \$150,000 civil penalty for waste violations at its Plymouth Township, Pa., processing facility.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection issued a notice of violation to the company in July 2003. Inspectors found excess waste on the facility's tipping floor and waste piled to the ceiling and spilling out of the building, according to the DEP.

Follow-up inspections found that the company had not addressed the issue. The company also had no alternative waste processing facility available to handle excess material as required under its DEP permit, and it had failed to submit a radiation-monitoring plan and did not pay \$2,800 in annual permit fees from 2000 to 2004, the DEP said.

Report: Some States Not Warning Residents of Sewage Problems
By Bruce Geiselman

May 27 -- A newly released report by an advocacy group says that most Great Lakes states are doing a poor job of notifying their residents when hazardous sewage is dumped into local waterways, which threatens the quality of water along beaches and in other recreational waters.

The U.S. Public Interest Group's report assesses public notification about sewage dumping in the Great Lakes and assigns a letter grade to each state. Michigan, with an A-, received the highest grade.

Ohio, with a D-, received the lowest grade, with the report saying no significant statewide notification program exists in the Buckeye State.

"Families heading to the beach this summer are left in the dark about a major public health risk," said U.S. PIRG spokeswoman Christy Leavitt.

It can take authorities hours or even days to test water quality at beaches and close swimming areas because of high bacteria levels, according to the group. To protect the public, states must provide direct public notification at the time sewage is dumped, PIRG officials said.

The group called for direct, immediate public notification through the media, a Web site and telephone hot line, and an "opt-in" e-mail notification system.

PIRG also called on communities to disconnect stormwater and sewage system tie-ins and for local, state and federal governments to provide the necessary funding to make the improvements.

Plastics Recycler Expanding in Illinois

May 26 -- Recycler Maine Plastics Inc. plans to spend \$10 million to move into a new facility to handle increased business and make the company more efficient.

The North Chicago, Ill.-based firm is buying an existing factory 10 miles north in Zion, Ill., and plans to expand it, giving the firm the potential to boost its capacity by 50 percent, said President Robert Render. The company is squeezing close to as much material as it can, about 80 million pounds a year, from its current North Chicago operation, he said.

Maine plans to add an undetermined amount of equipment, including a grinder, shearing equipment and granulators.

Solid Waste Group Unveils Safety E-Newsletter

May 20 -- Safety is the focus of a new weekly newsletter being launched by the National Solid Wastes Management Association.

NSWMA Safety Monday, which focuses on safety issues within the solid waste industry, will be sent as a weekly e-mail to association members, the trade group said.

"Each week, NSWMA Safety Monday will provide useful and important information to help solid waste companies and employees reduce fatalities, accidents, and injuries," said Bruce Parker, president and CEO of NSWMA. "The newsletter will provide best management practices, accident reports, safety alerts, OSHA inspection data, updates on NSWMA safety programs, and other valuable information."

Broken Industrial Waste Line Costs Minn. Metal Shop Owner

April 28 -- The owner of a Minnesota metal finishing shop will pay a \$20,000 fine and serve three years of probation for lying about an industrial waste sewer line.

Kenneth Heroux, owner of Hardcoat Inc. in St. Louis Park, Minn., also will perform 225 hours of community service, according to the sentence handed down by the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

The court convicted him in 2004 on two counts of make false statements to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Hennepin County, Minn. officials. He told

investigators that a sewer pipe used to discharge pre-treated industrial waste from the facility did not leak when, in fact, the pipe had several breaks.

Illinois Launches Effort to Cut Pollution from Highway Rebuild Project

April 19 -- A new program is designed to reduce air pollution coming from the reconstruction of the Dan Ryan Expressway in Chicago.

The effort, through the Illinois Department of Transportation's Clean Air Construction Initiative, is targeting about 290 pieces of equipment used on the Dan Ryan project. That equipment will feature either emission control devices or use ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel.

"Illinois EPA was pleased to partner with IDOT in designing and implementing a program to reduce and monitor potentially harmful air emissions," said Illinois EPA Director Renee Cipriano. "It should be a national model for future major highway construction projects."

Traffic studies show that the expressway is one of the busiest and most dangerous in the nation, IDOT said. It carries more than 300,000 vehicles daily, and averages seven accidents per day.

The \$430 million reconstruction project will add lanes, improve local access roads and reconfigure an interchange.



Court Sentences Photo Machine Refurbisher for Discharge Violations

April 7 -- A federal court has sentenced an Allentown, Pa., refurbishing company and its president for discharging acidic wastewater laden with heavy metals into sewers in the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem, Pa.

BEF Corp., which refurbishes one-hour photo machines, and Elward Brewer, the company's founder and president, will pay a \$700,000 penalty, according to judgment by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The court also sentenced Brewer to six months house arrest, 36 months of supervised release and 160 hours of community service.

BEF's refurbishing process generated silver, lead and chromium waste that the company illegally discharged into sewers.

BEF also pleaded guilty to violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and to making false statements to the government for illegally exporting refurbished photo labs to Iran.

Illinois Aluminum Recycler Faces Certification Compliance Deadline

April 5 -- Cleveland Corp. must comply with federal environmental regulations by April 24 to resolve allegations that its Zion, Ill., scrap furnace failed to meet certification requirements.

Cleveland Corp. uses the furnace to recover aluminum from clean scrap material. The company is converting the furnace to burn contaminated scrap to recover aluminum, which will require it to use an afterburner to control dioxin and furan emissions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency alleged that the furnace failed to meet certification requirements. The agency will require the company to meet additional regulatory measures after it converts the furnace to burn contaminated scrap.

Arizona Chrome-Plating Shop Corrects Hazwaste Violations, Avoids Fine

April 4 -- A Tucson, Ariz., chrome-plating shop has corrected hazardous waste violations at its facility and avoided a federal fine.

Ideal Custom Plating failed to properly label and hazardous waste, stored hazardous material for more than 180 days at its facility, stored more than 13,000 pounds of hazardous waste at the site and inadequately contained chromium-contaminated wastewater, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency also found that the company improperly handled spent fluorescent bulbs, and that it did not conduct weekly inspections, properly train employees in hazardous waste management or post required emergency procedures.

The EPA ordered the company to test soil for chromium contamination. None was found at the site. The company has corrected all violations, and the EPA did not assess a fine based on a review of the company's finances.



Seven Illinois Hospitals Agree to Shut Down Incinerators

March 30 -- Seven of Illinois' 11 hospitals with on-site medical waste incinerators have agreed to close them down since Gov. Rod Blagojevich called for the closings in September 2004.

Hinsdale Hospital, in Hinsdale, is the latest to agree. While the governor called for voluntary closures, he said he would pursue legislation to close the incinerators if they did not agree.

"The emissions from hospital incinerators are known to contain dangerous toxins," Blagojevich said March 27 as he announced Hinsdale Hospital's decision. "There are newer, safer ways to dispose of medical waste, so there's absolutely no justification for continuing to threaten the health of residents in nearby communities."

He called on the four remaining hospitals to agree to close their incinerators, too.

The EPA is negotiating with Hinsdale Hospital on setting a timetable for the incinerator's shutdown.

The hospitals still operating in Illinois invested in upgrading their incinerators to meet federal emission standards that were tightened in 2000, and previously said they were taken by surprise when the governor asked them to close.

However, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Renee Cipriano said that while it is true that the hospitals invested in upgrading their pollution control equipment, emerging scientific data shows that even with tighter controls, the incinerators remain a source of air toxins, including dioxin, a carcinogen.

EPA Proposes Exempting Small Facilities From Toxic Air Permit Rules

March 28 -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a rule that would permanently exempt small facilities in five industrial categories from a requirement that they obtain federal operating permits because of toxic air pollution.

(Continued on page 6)

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The proposal would exempt dry cleaners, halogenated solvent degreasers, chrome electroplaters, ethylene oxide sterilizers, and secondary aluminum smelters.

To qualify for the exemption, businesses would need to qualify as "area sources," meaning they emit less than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or fewer than 25 tons of a combination of pollutants.

Permits would still be required for major sources of air toxics in these industry categories, according to the EPA.

Those granted exemptions would still need to comply with emission control requirements such as new source review performance standards or maximum achievable control technology standards. And states would have the authority to require operating permits if they wish. The EPA can grant exemptions to certain categories under the Clean Air Act if the agency determines that complying with the requirements is impracticable, infeasible or unnecessarily burdensome.

Additional information is available online at www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t5pfpr.html.

Illinois Company's Bankruptcy Estate Will Pay for Superfund Project

March 25 - A \$2.6 million settlement with Outboard Marine Corp.'s bankruptcy estate will help pay for groundwater cleanup at the company's plant in Waukegan, Ill.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state of Illinois and the U.S. Department of Justice announced the agreement. The settlement will provide funding for Superfund cleanup to address severe contamination at the site and clears the way for the city to buy and eventually redevelop the site, said Bharat Mathur, acting regional administrator for EPA's Region 5 office.

The EPA placed part of the site on its Superfund National Priorities List in 1984 due to polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in Waukegan Harbor. The agency and state filed a civil suit against Outboard Marine Corp., which resulted in a \$20-million consent decree to clean the harbor. The company declared bankruptcy in 2000.



Illinois State Attorney Battles Power Plant Construction **By Joe Truini**

March 24 - The Illinois attorney general has joined the fray involving a battle to site two new coal-fired power units in Wisconsin.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed an amicus brief in the Wisconsin Supreme Court backing 10 local and national public health and environmental groups and SC Johnson in trying to stop We Energies from building the two 615-megawatt units at its Oak Creek, Wis., site. The court will hear oral arguments March 30 to determine whether the company can move forward with construction.

We Energies, a subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corp., received state permission in 2003 to build the units. The plant currently produces 1,200 megawatts of electricity through its four units. The company has retired four other older units at the site, and adding the two new coal-fired generators is part of its larger plan to provide power to the state, which desperately needs it, said We Energies spokesman Thad Nation. "Wisconsin is, in many ways, a utility island," he said.

But opposition has stifled progress. Dane County Circuit Court Judge David Flanagan ruled to vacate the Wisconsin Public Service Commission's construction permit for the units. We Energies appealed the decision directly to the state Supreme Court.

"For more than three years, we have been raising concerns related to the damage two new dirty coal plants will do to the environment, public health and the economy of Southeast Wisconsin," said Katie Nekola, a spokeswoman for Clean Wisconsin.

Despite doubling the power plant's production, the two new units, along with additional pollution controls on the existing four units, will result in a 50 percent reduction in total emissions from the site, Nation said.

"When you're talking to people about building coal plants, they have visions of coal plants from the '50s, '60s and '70s. The technology is night and day," he said. "Coal is a four-letter word."



Waste Management and 11 Others Agree to Pay Cleanup Costs at a Former Landfill
By Jim Johnson

March 24 - A dozen defendants, including Waste Management Inc., will pay a total of \$2.6 million to reimburse the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for clean-up costs at the Kin-Buc landfill Superfund site in Edison, N.J.

The defendants also will invest more than \$900,000 in land and cash through a supplemental environmental project that will protect more than 100 acres of nearby land as open space, the EPA said.

The Kin-Buc site is a 200-acre former municipal, industrial and hazardous waste landfill that began operations in 1947 and accepted tens of millions of gallons of hazardous liquid waste from 1973 to 1976, the EPA said.

The defendants also will pay a \$100,000 civil penalty for what the EPA calls late performance of certain cleanup actions.

The defendants are former owners and operators of the landfill as well as and former transporters of hazardous substances to the site, the EPA said. Transtech Industries Inc. of Piscataway, N.J., also is a part of the settlement.

Transtech, according to its Web site, generates electricity utilizing methane gas, supervises and performs landfill monitoring and closure procedures and manages methane gas recovery operations.

The company also said it formerly was involved in the resource recovery and waste management industries, including waste hauling and operation of three landfills and a solvents recovery facility.

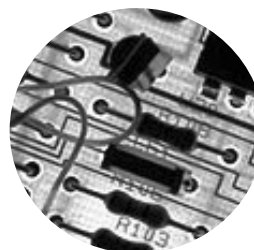
"We are extremely pleased that Transtech and Waste Management stepped up and agreed to this settlement," said Assistant Attorney General Thomas L. Sansonetti. "The people of New Jersey could not have asked for a better result and should feel confident that this agreement will help protect and restore the environment."

California Circuit Board Maker Pleads Guilty to Wastewater Discharges

March 18 -- A San Diego circuit board maker and one of its owners have pleaded guilty to illegally discharging wastewater after deciding not to fix broken pollution control equipment.

Moore Printed Circuits and Ghanshyambhai Patel pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California in San Diego last month. The company admitted to the illegal discharges and will pay a \$75,000 fine. Patel pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges. Paramanand Sheth, president of Moore Printed Circuits, previously pleaded guilty in the same case. The court has yet to determine their sentences.

Pollution control equipment broke down in 2003 and the owners determined it was too expensive to fix. Workers tampered with monitoring equipment at the plant to make it appear the facility was complying with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.



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