

# Environment

In the effort to preserve and maintain the fragile ecology of our planet, these recently selected abstracts are represented to help readers of the *Journal of Materials Engineering and Performance* stay current on legislation and compliance with global environment issues and regulations. They are reprinted from Metals Abstracts and Materials Business File with permission from Materials Information, a service of Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

**Brownfields Develop in Garden State.** In the most densely populated state in the United States, every bit of land counts. That is one reason New Jersey has made redeveloping contaminated property top priority. The state Department of Environmental Protection has made it easier to redevelop contaminated industrial sites, and new legislation was passed in the state in 1996 to further pave the way. More bills are being prepared or are working their way through the legislature. It all adds up to a major push to put idled industrial land back into productive use, but many in industry say the changes do not go far enough, especially in setting reasonable cleanup standards and easing liability concerns.

R. Begley. Cited: *Chem. Week*, Vol 158 (Suppl. New Jersey), 18 Sept 1996, p s20-s21, s23 [in English]. ISSN 0009-272X. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199612-P4-0052.

**Is It Really Safe To Store Things Outside? Taking a Look at the Clean Water Act and How It Affects Metal Fabricators.** In the early 1990s, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated new legislation to address storm-water pollution sources. A number of permitting options exist for metal fabricators. These range from federal and state group permits to state general permits or possibly state individual permits. Depending on where you are located, the complexity of your facility, and under what permit format you have historically filed (relating to permitting applications), you could now be in any one of these programs. Regardless of the regulatory mechanism, some common themes, which are generally based on the federal guidance, run throughout the storm-water program. Most metal fabrication operations are governed under the storm-water regulations; however, many metal fabrication facilities can be exempt from the regulations.

W.M. West. Cited: *Fabricator*, Vol 26 (No. 8), Sept 1996, p 80-82 [in English]. ISSN 0888-0301. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199612-G4-0117.

**Scrap Battery Plant Shuts in Philippines.** Just days after Greenpeace released a report on the health and environmental effects of recycling lead-acid batteries, Philippine Recyclers Inc., a company affiliated with Commerce City, CA, U.S.-based Ramcar Battery Inc., shut down its Philippine operations. According to Greenpeace, the Filipino Senate Committee on the Environment has begun to investigate both the plant's operation practices and its importation of scrap batteries, which is considered hazardous waste under Philippine law. Greenpeace, like other environmental groups, is pushing for the United States to sign on to the Basel Convention. Questions as to what material is considered hazardous waste have so far kept the United States from formally becoming a party of the convention, which is designed to bar hazardous waste dumping in developing countries.

N. Kertes. Cited: *Am. Met. Mark.*, Vol 104 (No. 175), 10 Sept 1996, p 12 [in English]. ISSN 0002-9998 PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199612-G4-0108.

**Riva Group to Shut Cornigliano Works in Genoa: Environmental Regulations, Politics Contribute to Closure.** The Riva Group is halting steel production at, and eventually will close, its Cornigliano Works in Genoa, Italy, because it is unable to keep up with the region's ever-tightening environmental regulations. Genoa has the lowest emissions levels permitted in Italy, half the level advised by the European Union. The strict regulations are the result of local governments seeking regional autonomy and vying with each other to enforce environmental rules. Riva did not want to close the fully integrated Cornigliano plant, but, after prolonged court battles, the Italian government ruled the plant

must close within three years and Riva must sell its majority share in the plant back to the state.

Cited: *Iron Steelmaker*, Vol 23 (No. 9), Sept 1996, p 6 [in English]. ISSN 0275-8687. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199611-S2-0538.

**Trade Policy Implications of the Basel Convention Export Ban on Recyclables from Developed to Developing Countries.** This 67-page technical paper provides an in-depth analysis of the Basel Convention and international trade. The authors, Maria Isolda P. Guevara and Michael Hart (Center for Trade Policy and Law, Carleton University/University of Ottawa, Canada), feel the Convention reflects the United Nation's good intentions in stopping the transboundary shipment of hazardous waste from developed to developing nations. However, they note that inadequate study and international information exchange have resulted in "a muddle in rule-making" that contradicts the goals of the Convention. The paper is a valuable reference for anyone wanting a better understanding of the Convention's economic, legal, commercial, and political ramifications.

Cited: *ISRI Commodity Rep.*, Vol 2 (No. 15), 9 Aug 1996, p 1 [in English]. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199611-G9-0253.

**Prepare Your Foundry for OSHA's Silicosis Inspection Program.** On 1 Aug 1996 the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began inspections under their new Special Emphasis Program to Prevent Silicosis (SEP). While the application of this program is on all silica-producing or silica-using companies, many foundries are sure to be inspected due to the continuing (but declining) rate of silicosis in the industry. OSHA outreach (training and information program) for affected companies started in July and will continue until Oct 1997. As the silicosis issue gains more attention, foundries can take steps to make inspections easier for all parties involved. Some simple steps to prepare for these new OSHA inspections are explained.

G.E. Mosher. Cited: *Mod. Cast.*, Vol 86 (No. 8), Aug 1996, p 44 [in English]. ISSN 0026-7562. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199611-G4-0102.

**Copper, Brass Cheer New Water Act.** The copper and brass industry, on 7 Aug 1996, heralded the passage of the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act, proclaiming that the lead standards included in the legislation are something that the industry can meet. The legislation, signed into law by President Clinton on 6 Aug, outlines a lead standard based on health effects and lead leaching from faucets instead of a flat lead content standard in brass and copper plumbing fixtures. Among its other provisions, the act also authorizes \$7.6 billion over seven years to improve deteriorated water systems throughout the United States.

N. Kertes. Cited: *Am. Met. Mark.*, Vol 104 (No. 153), 8 Aug 1996, p 2 [in English]. ISSN 0002-9998. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199611-G4-0095.

**Lead Industry Affected by U.S. Drinking Water Amendment.** The U.S. lead industry is the only metals industry singled out by the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment of 1996, which was signed by President Bill Clinton on 6 Aug. According to the 83-page conference report, the lead plumbing and pipe subsection was amended to include a ban on lead faucets, fittings, and solder, instead of just lead piping. Under the amendment, effective 6 Aug 1998, it will be illegal for anyone to sell any pipe or plumbing fixture that is not lead-free.

Cited: *Platt's Met. Week*, Vol 67 (No. 33), 12 Aug 1996, p 8 [in English]. ISSN 0026-0975. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199611-G4-0091.

**Concern on "Fluff" Limits.** The British Metals Federation has highlighted growing industry concern over the status of shredder residues and waste under current laws. There are now fears within the secondary metals industry that shredder waste will be unrealistically penalized under the new U.K. Special Waste regulations that come into effect on 1 Sept 1996. Under these rules, shredder waste containing 50 ppm or more of

PCBs is classified as hazardous and will generate huge transportation and landfill or incineration charges.

Cited: *Mater. Recycl. Week*, Vol 168 (No. 2), 12 July 1996, p 4 [in English]. ISSN 1354-8522. PHOTOCOPY ORDER NUMBER: 199611-G4-0090.

Photocopies of complete articles are available from the MI Document Delivery Service at ASM; please call 216/338-5151 ext. 450 for order and price information.

## Furthermore...

The National Electrical Contractors Association has begun a program to provide its members with a way to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration *regulations for material safety*. NECA has formed an alliance with 3E Company, a hazardous materials management firm. 3E will provide 24-hour access to the 1.25 million material safety data sheets (MSDS) in its library. The program will help contractors by virtually eliminating the workload associated with MSDS compliance. Because hazardous materials inventories change constantly, MSDS infraction are one of the most frequent OSHA violations. For further information, contact: 3E Co., 4920 Carroll Canyon Rd., San Diego, CA 92121; tel: 619/677-0150; fax: 619/677-0270.

612/429-1100 or 800/4-CORTEC; fax: 612/429-1122; web: <http://www.info@cor tecvci.com>.

*Focus on 14000* is an *environmental management standards quarterly* published by ASQC. The publication will meet the demand for information on the development and implementation of the ISO 14000 standards. Cornelius Smith will serve as editor. For further information, contact: ASQC, 611 E. Wisconsin Ave., P.O. Box 3005, Milwaukee, WI 53201-3005; tel: 414/272-8575; fax: 414/272-1734 or 800/248-1946.

**Phoenix**, Summer 1996, a six-page newsletter from the **Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc.**, takes as its subject, "Recycling: Creating Careers that Count for the Environment." Articles cover "The Evolution of the Scrap Recycling Industry," "How to Succeed in the Scrap Recycling Business," "New Challenges, New Players," and "Why Does the Scrap Recycling Industry Value Recent College Graduates?" For a copy, contact: SIRI, Ste. 1000, 1325 G. St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3104; tel: 202/737-1770.

**Resources for the Future** has published *A Shock to the System: Restructuring America's Electricity Industry, an examination of the proposals for implementing competition and the potential consequences of these proposals for utility regulation, industry structure, cost recovery, and the environment*. For more information, contact: Resources for the Future, 1616 P St., NW, Washington, DC 20036; tel: 202/328-5000; fax: 202/939-3460.

VCI-126 Eco-Weave from Cortec Corporation is a *woven polyethylene for packaging of equipment* during export and storage in unprotected environments. The tear-resistant fabric accommodates sharp edges. The polyethylene contains corrosion inhibitors that prevent rust and oxidation of steel, stainless steel, aluminum, brass, copper, solder, and silver. For more information, contact: Cortec Corp., 4119 White Bear Pkwy., St. Paul, MN 55110; tel:

**Stamet Inc.**'s Solids Feeding System was used in a recent effort by Duke Power Company and the Electric Power Research Institute to *clean up a South Carolina manufactured gas plant site*. The system added measured amounts of soil containing MGP residues to coal for co-burning in one of the utility's power plants. The process was a less expensive alternative to other cleanup options. For more information, contact: Stamet Inc., 17244 S. Main St., Gardena, CA 90248-3130; tel: 310/719-7110; fax: 310/523-1920.