

# EXTRACTIONS



a newsletter from O'CONNOR ASSOCIATES

Number 8, August 1989

## FRIENDLY PRODUCTS



The Environmentally Friendly Program is a federal government initiative aimed at helping consumers make sound decisions about products they buy. The program also encourages suppliers to make available products less harmful to environmental quality. Products are reviewed by a panel and, if judged environmentally friendly, are awarded the program's seal of approval. Approved products can display the program logo showing three intertwined doves forming a maple leaf. Organizers explain that the logo represents the three relevant sectors of society—consumers, industry and government—entwined in a cooperative effort to protect environmental quality.

## RECYCLING GETS CLOUT

Recycling programs often suffer because potential buyers of recycled products prefer to use virgin materials. To overcome that problem, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a ruling that will force U.S. federal agencies buying insulation to give preferential consideration to products containing recycled materials. In a related development, a *Used Oil Recycling Act* will soon be introduced to the American Congress. The proposed legislation will force the EPA to formulate management standards for recycling used oil and to take steps to improve public awareness of the advantages of recycling.

## LEADED GAS ALMOST GONE

The July issue of *Canada Gazette* published federal regulations that will see the virtual elimination of lead in gasoline effective December 1, 1990. Under the new regulations the use of leaded gasoline will be banned in most vehicles. Exceptions will be made for some essential marine, farm and commercial equipment. However, leaded fuel supplied in future will contain only about 26 milligrams of lead per litre. Currently available leaded gasoline contains up to 290 milligrams per litre. The new regulations will bring an end to the use of lead as an octane enhancer in gasoline, a practice that became common in the 1920s and resulted in

steadily increasing levels of airborne lead contamination. Emissions of lead from gasoline in Canada peaked in 1973 at 17 3600 tonnes, a total which in that year amounted to more than 70 percent of lead emissions from all sources. Since 1974, restrictions on the use of lead in fuels have resulted in an 85 percent decrease in atmospheric lead contamination countrywide.

## CYANIDE SPARKS EMERGENCY

Cyanide leaking from a gold tailings leaching operation in southeastern British Columbia was declared an environmental emergency by the province's Ministry of Environment. Cyanide was found in groundwater samples taken from wells downslope from the leach piles located 70 kilometres north of the Town of Grand Forks. Declaration of an environmental emergency enables the province to take necessary remedial action and recover associated costs.

## HAZARDOUS GOODS SHIPPING

Federal Transportation Minister Benoit Bouchard and Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard have announced amendments to the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*. The changes, which became effective June 1, broaden the application of existing rules and establish an improved tracking system for domestic and international waste shipments. The amended regulations will also extend rules governing hazardous wastes to materials destined for recycling, establish uniform manifest requirements, modify notification requirements for international shipments and establish a 30 day advance notice period for interprovincial PCB shipments.

## ENFORCEMENT PLANNED

In a move described as part of a new strategy for dealing with large-scale polluters and other environmental offenders, British Columbia's Ministry of Environment announced it will hire 29 additional employees to staff 'enforcement units'. Increased monitoring of industrial and municipal waste discharges are planned.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

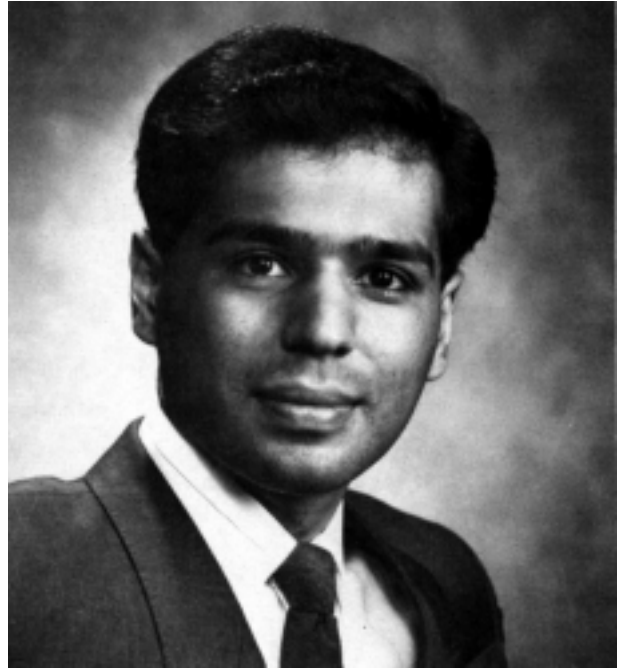
**Environmental Code of Practice for Underground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum Products.** A model set of minimum technical requirements designed to prevent releases from underground storage tanks and piping, prepared under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Resource and Environmental Ministers (CCREM). Copies of the Code may be obtained by writing to Environment Canada, EP Publications, 12th Floor, Place Vincent Massey, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3.

Does your vocabulary fail in the face of arcane terms associated with hazardous wastes and dangerous goods? Well take heart—the federal government wants to help! The bilingual glossary entitled **Transportation of Dangerous Goods - Terminology Bulletin No. 183** lists 2863 terms that deal with the physical and chemical properties of dangerous goods, containment of spills, and contaminant analysis. Technical information about chemicals frequently involved in spills is also included. Prepared as a feint effort by the Department of the Secretary of State for Canada and Environment Canada, the glossary is a bargain at \$13.95 plus \$1.55 for postage and handling. For those outside Canada the price is \$16.55 plus the handling fee. To obtain copies contact the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0S9.

## **MEETINGS**

**Hazardous Waste Management in the 90s: Moving From Remediation to Practical Preventive Strategies.** This major international conference scheduled for October 9-12, 1989, in Banff, Alberta, will be hosted by the Air & Waste Management Association's Canadian Prairie and Northern Section. Organizers promise a comprehensive overview of hazardous waste management issues, including risk assessment and management, waste minimization, management strategies, and how to deal with Canada's vaunted search for sustainable development. A one day course of instruction—**Strategies and Tools for Minimizing Hazardous Wastes**—will be presented at the end of the conference. For those interested, a tour of Alberta's Swan Hills Waste Treatment Centre will be available. Registration for the conference and course can be arranged by contacting the Air & Waste Management Association, P.O. Box 2861, Pittsburgh PA 15230, U.S.A. or by telephoning Dan Denne at (412) 232-3444.

## **O'CONNOR UPDATE**



**Saleem Dedhar**, a civil/environmental engineer, who joined O'Connor Associates in Mississauga in 1988, is currently involved in the development of remedial technologies for the decommissioning of industrial sites. Mr. Dedhar has considerable experience in the field of solid waste management as well as state-of-the-art water, waste water, and landfill leachate treatment technologies. Since joining O'Connor Associates, Saleem has co-ordinated environmental investigations and provided expertise on waste management aspects of several site clean-up projects. Prior to joining the company he played an active role in the development of regulatory guidelines governing the disposal of waste materials in Ontario, and was involved with various water treatment projects throughout the province.

**IT'S A GIRL!** On a third try, Sheila Skerry has been blessed with a daughter to go with her two boys. Congratulations to Sheila and Darrell and welcome to **Alicia**—seven pounds, eleven ounces.

## **NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST?**

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