

About the Industrial Pollution Prevention Award in Tennessee

In the fall of 1994 the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation decided to recognize efforts to reduce or eliminate industrial pollution in all environmental media: air, water, land, and hazardous waste. Therefore, it established the first annual Tennessee Industrial Pollution Prevention Award to recognize industrial facilities that are committed to corporate environmental stewardship. To be eligible for the award, the industry must eliminate or significantly reduce the source and generation of environmental pollution before “end-of-pipe” controls are applied to the waste stream and without transferring the wastes to another media. These projects represent plant-level and in many cases, corporate level commitment to better environmental management.

Each year an independent panel of judges assemble to evaluate the nominations received by the Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation. The judges represent a wide-range of sectors, including regulatory, academic, environmental/conservation, and government assistance. The criteria by which the panel evaluated the nominations included:

- Environmental benefit
- Economic benefit
- Extent to which the project represents an innovative approach
- Level of management policy commitment and leadership in preventing pollution
- Size of the facility versus size of the project, and
- History of compliance in environmental stewardship in all environmental areas

Each of the industries nominated have, in some way, exemplified excellent environmental stewardship. Not only have the industries improved the state of the environment by eliminating pollution, but most of these projects have increased the profitability of the company. They not only reduced costs associated with waste treatment, handling, and disposal but also reduced the amount of or cost of raw materials purchased, improved production efficiencies, and reduced some insurance costs.

The following narratives summarize the nominations for the award. The actual award winners are announced at the Solid and Hazardous Waste Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. In preparation of this document, an effort was made to present the material in a uniform format using only the information provided by the nominators. If a company did not provide a specific piece of information, then it was not included in the summary.

For further information relative to these projects, specific industry contacts, or how to nominate an industry for the award, call the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Pollution Prevention and Awareness, (615) 532 - 0760, or The University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services, (615) 532 – 8657.

These abstracts were prepared for the UT CIS world wide web home page by Tammy Hunt, UT CIS student intern in 1997.

