

OZONews

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UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme
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1. Company Uses Sawdust to Clean Nails

In an effort to eliminate its use of the ozone-depleting cleaning agent trichloroethane, Fox Valley Steel and Wire in Appleton, WI, recently began using sawdust to clean the nails that it manufactures. Many companies began using trichloroethane after the Environmental Protection Agency declared trichloroethylene a health hazard. However, the agency soon determined that trichloroethane is an ozone-depleting substance.

"In the later 1980s or early 1990s, it was declared one of the largest ozone depleters in the country," said Fox Valley Steel and Wire vice president and general manager Jim Monre. He noted that although EPA has never banned the use of trichloroethane, the agency has "allowed people to find replacement products."

Most companies involved in the wire industry decided to switch to caustic hot water to replace the cleaning agent. However, Fox Valley Steel and Wire does not have a wastewater treatment plant and the cost of using caustic hot water would have been extremely prohibitive.

The company decided to use sawdust to clean their nails, a process which was abandoned in the 1940s because it was too labor intensive. Accratec Engineering, Inc. created a computer-operated sawdust tumbler for the company that is able to "clean two tons of nails per at a time."

As the sawdust and nails are processed in the tumbler, the sawdust removes oil from the nails. The company uses five truckloads of sawdust delivered from Ort Lumber, Inc. in New London, WI, to clean the nails.

Because the company uses the new sawdust cleaning tumbler, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has delisted Fox Valley Steel and Wire as a hazardous waste generator. With the system, the company was able to eliminate the use of 40,000 gallons of trichloroethane. Company officials said the Fox Valley Steel and Wire facility is now free of all chemical clean substances. Contact: Fox Valley Steel and Wire, phone 920-779-4544.

Source: Appleton Post-Crescent, 8 May 2000

2. Nepon Introduces MB Replacement

Nepon, Inc. recently introduced a new system designed to sterilize soil. The system relies on hot water as opposed to chemicals to kill weeds insects and germs that may be harmful.

The Nepon system spreads water of 50 degrees Celsius evenly across a field and it allows it to penetrate to a depth of 30 centimeters. The water treatment can be used before planting in the same way that methyl bromide is currently being used to treat soil.

The hot water system will be available in a large model and a medium-sized model. The large size will cost approximately 3.9 million yen (about \$35,682) and the medium-sized vehicle will cost 1.7 million yen (about \$15,619).

A heat exchanger is used to heat the water indirectly and special sheeting is used to insulate and spray the hot water. The company will distribute the new system through the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives.

Source: Asia Pulse, 08 May 2000

3. Great Lakes Completes Fluorochemical Manufacturing Expansion Doubles Capacity to Meet Growing Need for Ozone Friendly HFC-32 Worldwide

INDIANAPOLIS, March 6 /PRNewswire/ -- Great Lakes Chemical Corporation announced today that it has substantially expanded its HFC-32 production capacity to meet the growing global demand for the ozone friendly refrigerant component.

By completing the expansion at its manufacturing site in south Arkansas recently, Great Lakes increased the capacity of its HFC-32 (or difluoromethane) production unit by more than 100 percent.

“We more than doubled our capacity -- on time and under budget -- which assures that we will meet increased customer demand and maintain our global leadership in HFC-32 manufacturing,” said Mark Sweval, Vice President and General Manager, Fluorine Chemicals. “The expansion provides Great Lakes the capacity to meet the growing global need for HFC-32 for the next five years.”

Great Lakes is the world's leading producer of HFC-32, an important component in HFC (hydrofluorocarbon) refrigerant blends being used as replacements to ozone-depleting refrigerants based on CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) and HCFC (hydrochlorofluorocarbon).

“The plant is already running above design rates and is actually exceeding our very high expectations for quality,” Sweval said. “Furthermore, we engineered the plant expansion so that we can expand even further should market demand dictate -- and to do so both quickly and cost-effectively.”

Great Lakes' expertise in providing fluorine chemistry solutions to the industry has enabled it to become a world-class manufacturer of HFC and other fluorinated compounds for a broad array of applications including fire extinguishing agents, specialty refrigerants, polymers and intermediates, pharmaceutical and specialty intermediates, and feedstocks.

This report contains forward-looking statements involving risks and uncertainties that affect the company's operations as discussed in Great Lakes Chemical Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Accordingly, there is no assurance the company's expectations will be realized.

Great Lakes Chemical Corporation is the world's leading producer of certain specialty chemicals for such applications as flame retardants, polymer stabilizers, fire extinguishants, water treatment, as well as a growing line of performance and fine chemicals for the life sciences industry. The stock of the company is traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Source: Great Lakes Chemical Corporation, 6 March 2000

4. Using Lake as Natural Air Conditioning

A plan to use cold water from deep in Lake Ontario as a natural coolant in downtown Toronto, Ontario buildings is a step nearer to reality this week. The Toronto District Heating Corp., the nonprofit utility behind the plan, has received a large equity investment by Canada's fourth largest pension fund.

A new corporation, called Enwave, will be formed, to be held jointly by the City of Toronto and a subsidiary of the \$36-billion Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS).

The investment by OMERS clears one of the biggest hurdles facing the project, which already has environmental approval from the provincial government.

The \$120 million project will draw frigid water from more than 60 metres deep down in Lake Ontario, where it maintains a constant five degrees Celsius year-round. The water will be used to chill the water that presently cools downtown buildings, drastically reducing the amount of electricity needed.

A 2.6 km intake pipeline will be constructed, at an estimated cost of up to \$45 million, to draw water from the lake, as well as a distribution pipe in the city's downtown core.

The plan could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40,000 tonnes annually and should be in use by 2010.

Source: Natural Life Magazine, 21 March 2000 <http://www.life.ca>

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