

Mexican Industry Launches Voluntary Risk Reduction

On April 29, in the industrial center of Monterrey, Dr. Cristina Cortinas de Nava, of the Mexican Ministry of the Environment, launched a voluntary risk reduction program for the lead primary, secondary recycling and applications industries.

Mexico has already commenced the phasing out of leaded gasoline and has abolished the use of lead-soldered food cans. Additionally, in February of this year, the Mexican ceramics federation introduced its strategic program for the substitution of lead glazes in traditional pottery.

Further risk-reduction efforts took the form of a two-day workshop, organized by the Mexican Chamber of Mines in conjunction with the Mexican government and ILMC. Over 80 delegates attended the workshop, including industrialists representing 90 percent of Mexican lead-producing and applications industries together with interested parties from the universities and the government.

At the beginning of the workshop, Dr. Cristina Cortinas de Nava emphasized the importance of understanding the lead industry in order to promote improvements in risk management. This was to be a recurring theme throughout the two days as more and more delegates realized the need for the industry to establish common environmental and occupational goals, share information and exchange ideas.

Each of the workshop's morning sessions were devoted to expert presentations covering every aspect of the impact of lead in Mexico on the economy, society, the environment and the effects of both occupational and domestic exposure.



Dr. Cristina Cortinas de Nava, Dan Vornberg and Craig Boreiko consider the points made by the delegates during the workshop sessions.

The socioeconomic impact of the lead industry in Mexico and its importance to the development and further growth of the economy was explained by Manuel Moreno Turrent.

ILMC presented two papers on waste management. Dan Vornberg, director for Environmental Affairs with The Doe Run Company and an ILMC Board member, outlined the principles for monitoring and controlling atmospheric emissions from lead process

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Lead In Gasoline

ILMC's Key World Role

At a meeting in Paris last year, attended by ILMC Executive Director Dr. Craig Boreiko, it was agreed by representatives of UNEP-Industry and Environment Office, UNECE, European Conference Ministers of Transport, World Bank, European Car Manufacturers Association, LDA International, the Petroleum Industry Environmental Association, European Petroleum Industry Natural Resources Defense Council, Associated Octel Company, and the ILMC that there was a need for the development of consensus materials on issues around the phase-out of lead in gasoline.

An effort has been recommended to develop “consensus issue papers” on several topics. ILMC will participate on the Organizing Committee and function as a primary clearinghouse on information related to the phase-out of lead in gasoline.

ILMC clearinghouse activities being contemplated range from the preparation of annotated bibliographies which serve as a guide to existing information on this



Dr. Craig Boreiko, Executive Director

subject, to the compilation and the distribution of information databases designed for countries considering revision of public health policy on leaded gasoline.

Other databases will be compiled that inventory international fuel stocks and the availability of gasoline of different compositions in various geographic regions. Information contained in these databases will be made available through ILMC to help countries formulate appropriate public health policies.

ILMC Attends Habitat Discussion

Reducing the level of childhood lead exposure is a key component of the OECD Lead Risk Reduction Declaration and an essential element of the ILMC mandate. ILMC, therefore, welcomed an invitation from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to participate in a panel discussion chaired by Jim Rochow, of the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning. The venue was the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Bob Muth, a Vice President of ASARCO and a director of ILMC, took the opportunity to explain the position of the lead industry. He pointed out to the delegates that the Industry has made great strides to eliminate lead exposure amongst sensitive populations of the world and through ILMC, would continue to support programs that reduce the levels of population exposure. Mr. Muth asked the Chairman to consider further consultations with the Lead industry in order to promote the risk reduction initiatives and improve product recycling capacity.

ILMC Board Approves Programs



Susan Knoerr, Cominco; David Sinclair, Pasmenco; Bob Muth, ASARCO; Frederico Kunz, Met-Mex Penoles and Craig Boreiko, ILMC, discuss the progress report.

The ILMC Board of Directors met on April 22 to review current activities and consider proposals for further Pilot Programs.

The Board endorsed the commitments made to the Mexican National Institute of Ecology (INE, Instituto Nacional de Ecologia) for assistance with a two-day workshop and any further programs arising from the industry's action plans.

The directors also recommended the development of further Pilot Programs in conjunction with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for use in the Far East, and committed financial and technical support for six initial investigative studies, two multi-disciplined expert advisory panels and occupational health and hygiene training modules in both the Philippines and India.

There was considerable interest shown in the joint venture between the ILMC, the Organization for Economic Development (OECD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to develop the first expert system for reducing the risk of lead exposure in the food canning industry. This interactive computer-based CD-ROM program will be available for distribution later this year.

The Board also approved funding for resources to launch the ILMC Internet World Wide Web site planned for the middle of the year. The Web site will be interactive and the expert systems will be one of the many aids to lead risk reduction that will be available. The many databases that detail the sound use and life cycle management of lead products and lead risk management solutions to reduce occupational, domestic and environmental exposure will be accessible.

Risk Reduction Workshop

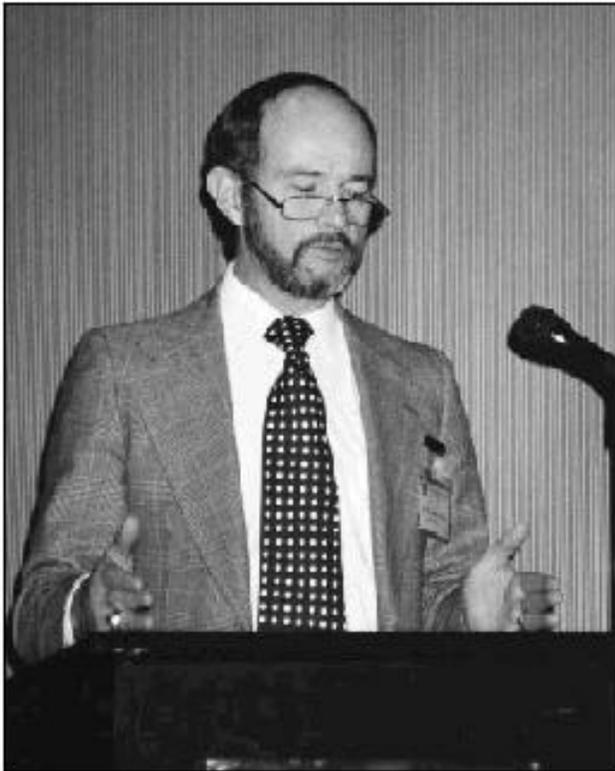
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plants. ILMC Program Manager Brian Wilson discussed the various management options associated with the control of liquid effluent and solid waste.

The ILMC presentations emphasized the need for integrated solutions to waste management and the need to improve lead recoveries and recycling rates.

Considerable interest was shown by the delegates in the ISO 14000 series for an Environmental Management System, outlined by Dr. Anthony Muller of Booz-Allen and Hamilton.

Frederico Kunz, of Met-Mex Penoles and the Mexican Chamber Of Mines, has formed a small working party of the leading primary, secondary and oxide producers to follow up on the specific recommendations of the workshop groups and prepare an outline plan for further Pilot Program activity.



Ing. Manuel Moreno Turrent of CAMIMEX



Frederico Kunz of the Chamber of Mines welcomed the delegates to the workshop



Ing. Benjamin Ruiz, Met-Mex Penoles, questions the expert panel.

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