

## NICS has new Web site address

NICS has a new Web address: <http://www.nicsinfo.org>.

"We intend to use the site to better serve our stakeholders," said Mark Scott, president and CEO.

"For example, visitors can download our annual report, newsletter and news releases in a format that looks just like the original. We will offer as many documents as possible in that format."

Scott noted that pictures on the opening page tell visitors that NICS is people-oriented and promotes problem solving through dialogue.

The site includes information about the NICS mission, history, services, board of directors, links to other sites and programs.

Staff e-mail addresses are listed on a page of contact information.

The former site on America On Line will remain active during a transition period.



## Five join NICS Board of Directors

The NICS board of directors has five new members.

F. Russell Lorince, Timothy P. Mallan, Darrell Miller and John R. Snider are new to the Board.

H.P. "Hal" Foss rejoins the Board as an independent member. Until last year he represented Kanawha Valley chemical companies. He resigned when he changed jobs and moved to Parkersburg, WV.

**Lorince** is manager of state governmental relations for Allegheny

See **New Directors**, p. 7



*At a news briefing, NICS Vice President and Projects Director Dr. Jan Taylor answered reporters' questions about the latest West Virginia Scorecard®.*

## New Scorecard® reports extent of toxic chemical releases in WV

West Virginia manufacturers reported another yearly decline in toxic chemical releases in 1998 compared to a 1987 benchmark.

Another group of companies reported for the first time releases that were relatively high compared to the manufacturers. The newest group includes coal-fired electric generators.

Those were the key findings in the West Virginia *Scorecard*® issued Feb. 17.

The *Scorecard*® is based on a NICS analysis of data certain chemical manufacturers and other industries file with the US EPA. The latest data are for 1998.

*Scorecard*® offers concerned citizens, industry and regulators a yearly pollution performance record of state industries. Data were first collected on 1987 releases.

The report focuses on local releases, or those to the air, water and land, around facilities. NICS deems those of most interest to residents.

However, manufacturers send about 65 percent of their toxic releases to offsite facilities for recycling, energy recovery, treatment or disposal.

### Manufacturers

Manufacturers released 12.2 million pounds of toxic chemical locally in 1998. The amount was a drop of 74.5 percent from 1987 and down 14 percent from 1997.

Releases of 25 known or suspected cancer-causing toxics declined 96 percent from 1987 and 2.5 percent from 1997.

Air emissions were 97 percent of total local releases in 1998.

See **Scorecard**, p. 5

# Good life, clean environment can come with 'perspiration'

Preserving environmental gains is like running up the down escalator, Canadian regulator says

*This is a condensation of a talk delivered by Richard D. Smith, Principal, Sustainable Development Team, Office of the Auditor General of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, at the West Virginia Conference on the Environment, Oct. 7, 1999, in Charleston, WV. His talk was titled: "Managing for Sustainable Development: 99% Perspiration."*

BY RICHARD D. SMITH

I believe that significant improvements can be made in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development by applying sound management practices to thinking and acting strategically.

I will talk first about the sustainable development challenge, and then about managing for sustainable development.

## One Planet, Many Worlds, Many Pressures

The beauty of the planet, its isolation and its smallness in a vast universe have given people a sense of fragility and an understanding of nature and need to care for the environment both for ourselves and for those who will come after us.

Gro Harlem Brundtland, former environment minister and Prime Minister of Norway, said we live on a planet that houses many different countries, at many different stages of development, with different cultural values and with different economic and environmental and political goals.

Her particular concern was to reconcile the needs of the different

worlds with the needs of the environment – and her answer was sustainable development, the idea that economy and environment were two sides of the same coin. To her, care for the environment was necessary for achieving the economic, social and political goals of the many worlds that share the planet.

## Question: Can this be true in practice as well as theory?

Harmony with nature is a concept whose popularity has always waxed and waned. Ten years ago, surveys showed that the environment and sustainable development ranked first amongst Canadians' top-of-mind concerns.

In the name of public interest, Monica dominated headlines for a period during which the earth's population grew by about 100 million with all the concomitant demands for access to its wealth and resources. In other words, bigger games were afoot.

In the past ten years, the noteworthy changes have not been the stuff of either headlines or public opinion. They are trends, not events; they are predictable, not shocking. And they are on a scale that tends to glaze even the most focused mind.

In 1992, 178 nations gathered at Rio de Janeiro for the Earth Summit. The goal was to develop a plan for dealing with environment and development issues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Five years later, in June 1997, those countries got together again at

a special session of the United Nations, called to assess progress since the Earth Summit and to set future priorities.

The analysis done for the meeting covered a wide range of sustainable development issues – poverty, consumption and production, population, forests, water, land, climate, technology transfer – to name a few.

Countries acknowledged that some progress had been made in the five years since the Earth Summit. Globally, population growth was slowing, food production was rising, the majority of people were living longer and healthier lives, and environmental quality in some regions was improving.

But those countries also expressed deep concern that global trends overall were worse than in 1992, despite a proliferation of national and regional sustainable development strategies, conservation strategies and environmental action plans.

In the face of inexorable forces, the member-states of the United Nations committed themselves to ensure that the next comprehensive review in the year 2002 – ten years after the Earth Summit – would demonstrate greater measurable progress in achieving sustainable development.

But sustainable development is not simply a distant global problem. Let me give you some Canadian examples.

- If you are a person in the fishing industry on the east or west coast, you know that unsustainable development affects you where you live and where you work.

- If you are an Aboriginal person living in the North who has to think twice about eating traditional foods, you know that unsustainable development affects you where you live and where you work.

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- And if you are a parent whose child's asthma is aggravated by bouts of urban smog, you know that unsustainable development affects you where you live and where you work.

The phrase "sustainable development" might not be part of most people's vocabulary, but we know intuitively what it means – it means taking care of people and, at the same time, the environment that supports them – and we know why it is important to take care of both.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century not only will my children continue to face environmental problems, but there will also be more of them. The recycling programs and emissions reductions of this decade will seem a snap compared to what's coming next.

We need to move now, to achieve successes while we can. With many of the issues facing us – biodiversity, climate change, forest preservation, and ozone – we do not have the luxury of time and procrastination. Nature does bat last.

**Managing for Sustainable Development**

So what do we need to do to turn good will into good results?

If you ask most people here what are the key sustainable development challenges facing us today, they would probably think about the things I have talked about so far – greenhouse gas emissions, toxic pollution, poverty, etc.

And those are important issues. But what I tend to focus on is how

governments manage those issues, and weaknesses like:

- the gaps between commitments made and concrete action taken;
- the lack of co-ordination among departments and across jurisdictions; and
- the lack of good information critical for good decisions.



**ABOVE:** Richard D. Smith said keeping the environment clean and preserving jobs involves planning and perspiration. He is a principal with the Sustainable Development Team, Office of the Auditor General of Canada.



**BELOW:** H.L. Snyder, an attorney with Robinson and McElwee, ponders the speaker's ideas.



**LEFT:** Ted Armbrecht, a member of the NICS board of directors, asked speakers to explain details of their talks.

Sometimes I think of sustainable development in terms of the four horsemen of the apocalypse: death, war, pestilence and weak management practices.

Part of this way of thinking is a reflection of our mandate. Working in the Commissioner's Office, our job is not to select which policies make the most sense. Rather, it is to report objectively on what has happened, as distinct from what was intended. Our job is to make sure that the public knows when the mice get caught, and when they get away.

And it seems that a lot of mice get away.

Canadians have been at the forefront of thinking about environmental and sustainable development issues, domestically and internationally.

But significant challenges remain, in areas like climate change, biodiversity, toxic substances, urban smog and groundwater contamination. Compared with other countries, per capita we are a large consumer of energy and other natural resources and a large generator of pollution and waste.

Like many countries, we have been less effective at turning thoughts and words into action – in finishing what we start. In many areas, the federal government's performance falls well short of its stated objectives. Policies exist, programs are put in place, but results fall short of expectations.

This gap reflects the failure to translate policy direction into effective action.

Many environmental and sustainable development issues are, by their very nature, difficult to manage.

Integration of economic, environmental and social considerations can present significant challenges to policy makers. Tradeoffs may be required, for example, between immediate financial costs and less tangible future environmental and social benefits.

Notwithstanding those difficulties, when policies and programs are developed and announced, the public does expect that they will be implemented and that intended results will be achieved.

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Some would argue that this implementation gap – as we have called it in our reports – is simply a reflection of political will – or the lack thereof. Changes in societal needs, political trends, intergovernmental relations, fiscal conditions and citizen expectations do indeed affect what is considered to be important at any point in time.

But I would also argue that part of the problem is systemic – the fact that too little attention is paid in government circles to the management

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**"Sustainable development . . . means taking care of people and, at the same time, the environment that supports them. . ."**

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side of sustainable development. Objectives, roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined, there is not reasonable monitoring and reporting of results, we do not learn from experience, and so on.

And that is something that we can control – that we can do something about. We need to ensure that the policies we develop will be purposefully implemented. And we need to close the gap, not by lowering our expectations, but by strengthening our performance.

### **Environmental Progress is a Marathon**

The news is not all bad. We have demonstrated that we can get things done when we want to. But in every instance, it has been a marathoner's race, not a sprint.

Take, for example, the amount of time and effort it took to address the issue of ozone depletion. Roughly

25 years passed between the scientific discovery of the interaction between CFCs and ozone and the achievement of a more or less CFC-free economy in Canada.

This is a real success story both in Canada and internationally. But we will have to wait another 50 years to see the full effect of our efforts. Effective environmental policy requires the long view.

So what are we to do?



*"Where we do move fast and efficiently [to clean up the environment], we can see some successes," Smith said.*

I believe the environment is an important issue; that it is one where Canadians are looking to government for imaginative leadership; and that it is an issue on which people deserve the highest level of professionalism from their public service. Performance matters.

We should be asking about results as much as we are asking about whether we have the right policies; and we should be able to adjust our policies to incorporate what we have learned from our experience.

Effective implementation – doing what you said you would do – is not characterized as glamorous. Ar-

chitects become more famous than bricklayers do.

Our challenge is to keep the spotlight on government action, on the fundamentals of sustainable development, rather than public reaction, to resist the peaks and valleys of public attention in favor of a long-term focus on the public interest.


### **Conclusion**

The pressures that give rise to environmental problems are relentless – population growth, economic activity, natural resource exploitation. In some ways it is as if we are running up the down escalator – we have to work harder and smarter over a long period of time just to stay in the same place.

Where we do move fast and efficiently we can see some successes – the virtual disappearance of lead from Canadian air, the reduction and elimination of substances that destroy the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere and so on.

But if we slow down or become complacent, problems grow and we move backward with predictable results – rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions, overuse of renewable resources and toxic substances in our air and water.

Following Thomas Edison, I have argued that we need to think strategically – that's the inspiration part – and to act strategically – that's where the perspiration comes in – to protect the environment and to promote sustainable development.

And quite simply, I believe the environment is worth it. It is important enough to demand a rigorous new level of professionalism which combines strong, visionary policy leadership with the best, most innovative techniques of modern management and with the dedication and application to make them work together to achieve the results we all want. 

## PA firms launch safety network

Prompted mainly by a 1999 explosion that killed 5 and injured 14, a group of Lehigh Valley, PA, chemical companies have formed an information sharing network to promote chemical safety.

The Lehigh Valley Industry Safety Network (LVISN) will work with OSHA to prevent accidents. Gene Ervin, corporate director for environment, health and safety at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. in Allentown, PA, led the formation effort.

A 20-member steering committee includes emergency management agencies from Lehigh and Northampton counties.

The network will focus on four subjects:

- Process safety – the safety design and operation of plants;
- Worker safety – programs to improve employee protection;
- Community outreach – opening communication between companies and their neighbors;
- Environmental protection.


As many as 200 firms in Lehigh and Northampton counties are potential members, a statement said. The LVISN expects to meet every two months.



Cancer-causing chemicals made up about three-tenths of one percent of the electric generators' releases.

The *Scorecard*<sup>®</sup> analyzes data on a core group of some 300 chemicals on the federal Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). West Virginia companies filed reports on 157 of those.

Another 286 chemicals added in 1995 are analyzed separately.

*Scorecard*<sup>®</sup> includes a section for chemical companies to describe their pollution prevention goals. 

1998 West Virginia Scorecard <sup>®</sup> Local Releases Statewide by Original Group of Reporting Facilities (in pounds)				
	1987	1997	1998	% Change 1987-1998
<b>Carcinogens</b>	8,110,402	5118,875	505,650	-93.8%
<b>Other Toxics</b>	39,677,947	13,708,803	11,671,721	-70.6%
<b>Total</b>	47,788,349	14,227,678	12,177,371	-74.5%
<b>New Toxics<sup>1</sup></b> (% change from 1995-96)	1995	6,418,403	6,974,512	-17.7%
	8,474,706			

1998 West Virginia Scorecard <sup>®</sup> Statewide Toxic Release Inventory by Medium of Release By Original Group of Reporting Facilities						
	Air	Water	Land	POTW <sup>2</sup>	Offsite	Total
<b>Carcinogens</b>	457,693	20,740	27,217	518,487	1,601,395	2,625,532
<b>Other Toxics</b>	11,281,007	372,879	17,835	2,012,166	18,663,851	32,347,738
<b>Total</b>	11,738,700	393,619	45,052	2,530,653	20,265,246	34,973,270
<b>New Toxics (1995)<sup>1</sup></b>	122,635	6,850,859	1,018	1,646,824	487,515	9,108,851

1998 West Virginia Scorecard <sup>®</sup> Statewide Toxic Release Inventory by Medium of Release By New Reporters						
	Air	Water	Land	POTW <sup>2</sup>	Offsite	Total
<b>Carcinogens</b>	100,795	18,430	1,879,677	10	691,887	2,690,799
<b>Other Toxics</b>	62,111,086	167,988	9,047,203	13	2,078,327	73,404,617
<b>Total</b>	62,211,881	186,418	10,926,880	23	2,770,214	76,095,416
<b>New Toxics (1995)<sup>1</sup></b>	2,772	10	10	0	499	3,291

<sup>1</sup> 19 Chemicals added to the Toxic Release Inventory for the 1995 reporting year.

<sup>2</sup> Publicly Owned Treatment Works

### Scorecard, cont. from p. 1

While manufacturers' total releases were down statewide, two regions had increases in the last year.

Northern Panhandle facilities released 4.5 million pounds of toxics, down 76 percent since 1987. However, since 1997, releases of both known or suspected cancer-causing chemical releases were up 18 percent.

Southern Region facilities reported releases of 419,458 pounds. That was down 90 percent since 1987 but up 213 percent compared to 1997. Of the releases, cancer-caus-

ing toxics went up 249 percent since 1987 and 6 percent since 1997 to 61,606 pounds.

### New Reporters

The EPA required the new group of industries to start reporting toxic releases for 1998 operations. In West Virginia, those industries are made up of coal-fired electric generators, coal mining, petroleum bulk plants and commercial waste management facilities.

Electric generators released almost 72 million pounds of toxic chemicals locally out of 78 million pounds released by the entire group.



**Above:** Lillian Morris led the group that studied how well responders followed the local emergency plan during a chemical plant incident. Committee members beside her are, left, KPEPC Administrator J.R. Bias and Tom Keefer, DuPont.

**Insets:** Other committee members at this meeting were: left, Mark Kilburn, Aventis; Peter Howell, a consultant, and Dr. Jan Taylor, NICS. Dr. Basudeb DasSarma, citizen, Denise Clark, METRO 911, and Bill White, Kanawha County Emergency Services, also served on the committee.

## Study group uses incident to check emergency plan versus response actions

Emergency responders did a 'good' job last October 15 managing a leak at a Rhone Poulenc chemical plant at Institute, WV.

That judgment came from a volunteer group that reviewed how well responders' put the local emergency response plan into action.

The plan is a product of the Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee (KPEPC). Fire departments, chemical plants, police units and other emergency response groups are KPEPC members.

The KPEPC's Plan Implemen-

tation Evaluation (PIE) Committee did the review. Its goal was to spot weaknesses and recommend steps for improving the plan.

Lillian Morris, safety director at the Charleston Area Medical Center and a long-time KPEPC volunteer, led the review team. Two years ago, she led another group that studied how well prepared the community was to respond to a chemical emergency.

"This is the first time in the KPEPC's recent history our committee has reviewed the *entire* emer-

gency response plan based on one incident," Morris said.

"Other committees review individual parts as needed, but we checked everything, page by page."

Committee members are from the chemical industry, public, government agencies and NICS. They met five times.

At a November session, they heard detailed reports about the incident from plant employees, responders and planners.

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**Study Group, cont. from p. 6**

Rhone Poulenc provided its records of the event. "Their cooperation made our work much easier," Morris told KPEPC members at the monthly meeting in January.

Morris said she was pleased with public reaction to a unique situation that required a shelter-in-place at the start of the incident.

The incident began when a reactor leaked just before 9 o'clock on a Friday night. The plant is in an urban area.

At first, plant employees did not know what type of gas had leaked. They did know the leak was coming from a reactor containing toxic chemicals. They quickly called for a shelter-in-place.

Through an ongoing emergency alert plan with the community, sirens went off at a nearby football field. About 2,000 fans were at a high school game.

Apparently, life around Kanawha Valley chemical plants had taught the crowd well. "Folks knew what to do," Morris said.

When police announced the emergency, the crowd went calmly to a nearby junior high school gymnasium and waited for an hour until the shelter alert was lifted.

Actions to protect the public worked as planned at the football game, at West Virginia State College and at the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center, Morris said.

The college and rehabilitation center are just over the fence from the reactor that leaked.

No one outside the fence was killed or injured by the leaking gas. One plant worker was injured.

The PIE committee found three areas in the KPEPC emergency response plan that need study, Morris said. They deal with communications, traffic diversion and coordina-

**New Directors, cont. from p. 1**

Power in Fairmont, WV. He is responsible for lobbying in West Virginia and Ohio and relations with elected and appointed state officials.

Lorince has served as president of the West Virginia Development Council and the West Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition.

He was also president of the Northern West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau. He has served on the boards of the Morgantown Area Economic Partnership and the Monongalia County Development Authority.

He is from Morgantown, WV, and holds a B.A. degree from West Virginia University.

**Mallan** is environmental manager for the West Virginia State Office of American Electric Power.

He is responsible for liaison with state regulatory, administrative and legislative leaders. In his 19 years with AEP, he has also been in charge of water quality and solid waste compliance. He holds a B.S. degree in chemistry from Drexel University.


**Miller** is plant manager of the FMC-Spring Hill Hydrogen Peroxide plant near Charleston.

He represents Kanawha Valley chemical plants on the board.

He joined FMC in 1987 at a Green River, WY, plant. He became manufacturing coordinator at FMC's

tion of community and plant response.

Reviewing the incident against the emergency response plan was a worthwhile exercise, Morris said. "We found procedures that didn't apply to this incident that need to be reviewed.

"We think an overall plan review -- not based on a single incident -- will strengthen our ability to respond to emergencies." 

**National Conference Proceedings Available**

Proceedings from the *Protecting the Public '99* national conference are available from NICS. The proceedings include summaries of talks about protecting the public during chemical emergencies. The cost is \$25 per copy. Send a check or money order to: NICS, 2300 MacCorkle Ave., SE, Charleston, WV 25304.

chemical group headquarters in Philadelphia in 1994. In 1997 he became Midwest regional distribution manager in Bedford Park, IL.

Miller holds a chemical and petroleum refining engineering degree from the Colorado School of Mines.


**Snider** is executive director of the West Virginia Development Office. He was named to the job in 1999.

Snider is a Certified Economic Developer and is chairman of the West Virginia Steel Advisory Commission. He has more than 20 years of experience in economic development work.

He holds a B.A. degree from Marshall University and a Master of Public Administration degree from West Virginia University.

**Foss** is manager of the Cytech Industries Willow Island, WV, plant, a post he took in 1999. Before that, he was manager of the Rhone-Poulenc, Institute, WV, plant.

He has held operating and executive positions at the Olin Corporation in the U.S. and South Africa.

He holds an M.S. degree in chemical engineering from Columbia University and a B.S. degree in chemistry from Davidson College. 

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# News Briefs

## Spills Conference Coming

What issues will affect LEPCs most in the 21st Century?

NICS President Mark Scott will offer his views on the subject at the HAZMAT 2000 Spills Prevention Conference, April 4-6, in St. Louis.

The conference will focus on chemical emergency prevention initiatives.

Scott will discuss how LEPCs can make the best use of Risk Management Plans. The session on LEPCs in the 21st Century will also focus on LEPC community education and right-to-know activities, how LEPCs are implementing risk management plans and counter-terror-

ism, and LEPC efforts to improve relations with state emergency management committees.

The US EPA and other organizations are sponsors. Information is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nrt.org/hazmat2000>.

## WV SERC/LEPC Meeting

The West Virginia SERC/LEPC Conference 2000 will be held June 19-21 at the Canaan Valley Resort at Davis, WV. Classes will include Risk analysis, functional exercises and terrorism. Speakers will come from the FBI, EPA, FEMA and Western Maryland Civil Support Team.

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