

Solid Waste Disposal and Minimization – Examples

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NOTE – THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF MR. SCHUYLER’S PRESENTATION. A COMPLETE MANUSCRIPT OF HIS TALK HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

We are going to talk about the pollution prevention programs at ARCO Alaska. I think that one of the keys to understanding pollution prevention on the North Slope is that, as Steve pointed out, many of the wastes generated are common in any sort of industrial area. In managing wastes, it is critical that you inspire and instill in each and every one of your employees the idea that they can manage the wastes that they generate. If you leave with any message it is that if you don’t need to generate a waste, don’t generate the waste, because once a waste is generated, you have to manage it and make sure that it is properly disposed of.

In any pollution prevention program, it is critical that everyone participate, and management must encourage ideas from all levels within the organization. An effective program must be inclusive rather than exclusive. In many cases, ideas will come from parts of the organization that you never would have expected them to come from. There is no such thing as a bad idea. You need to constantly raise the awareness of pollution prevention, and to keep awareness at a high level. This is a constant education process because turnover results in new people coming and going regularly. People generally try to do the right thing, but often they are simply not informed as to what *is* the right thing to do. In many cases, people don’t believe that what they do will minimize the waste that is generated. As for sustaining of the awareness, it is important to make sure that the people continue to have fresh ideas and that they are encouraged to come forward with them.

Training in pollution prevention is very, very important, and we have a variety of tools, some of which Steve spoke of earlier. One of the key books that we use, and Steve has already referenced this, is the *Waste Disposal and Reuse Guide* that we use in our training for all employees and many of our service contractors – this is a very intensive program. There is also the joint North Slope Environmental Handbook developed by the oil companies. This handbook is used for orientation of all new employees.

The key components of any pollution prevention program involve encouraging lifestyle changes, and making sure that the environmental benefits are balanced against the costs to the program. I think the key for us at Kuparuk is that we stress simplicity. Rather than complicating the process, you want to maximize your ideas and minimize your recordkeeping. You also want to recognize positive behavior so that you can punish the negative behavior. Programs that do these things are generally the most powerful in the long term. We tend in the industry to react to negative behavior. In terms of safety and environmental issues, we tend to focus on numbers of injuries or spill statistics. We want to try to emphasize other methods of measurement rather than emphasizing the negative behavior.

In response to this, several voluntary programs have been implemented. In the late 80s we started an environmental enhancement group at Kugaruk, and we were able to persuade everyone in the field to participate in this program. Over time, this evolved into some other programs, one of which we call the Earth-Energy Partners Program, which we refer to as the "Good Guy Program". This program encourages employees to observe and recognize each other for the performing "environmental good deeds". There is no attempt to rank deeds as to which better – but rather to simply acknowledge good deeds. We want to see people rewarded for doing good deeds instead of being punished for doing bad deeds.

We have some new things at the corporate level that we are trying in an effort to improve the program. For example, there is a "Stamp Out Wastes Idea Program" where the corporation would provide funding to departments or groups of individuals who have come up with ideas for improving waste minimization, many of which were fostered through the Good Guy Program. We also have environmental achievement awards at the corporate level where somebody somewhere in the world would win an environmental achievement award. This award was won by Kugaruk in 1997.