

## **ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND NAMED AMONG MOST VALUABLE POLLUTION PREVENTERS**

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Aberdeen Proving Ground recently accepted a national award for its pollution prevention project to identify and encourage the use of environmentally preferable paints. The project culminated in a garrison paint policy that protects the environment for APG workers and residents, and it saves taxpayer money.

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable recognized the accomplishment by awarding second place honors in its 1999 Most Valuable Pollution Prevention Awards to the APG Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment (DSHE) Pollution Prevention Program. Mr. Robert Solyan, the program manager, accepted the award on behalf of APG at a ceremony on September 22, 1999, in the Dirksen U.S. Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. DSHE conducted its paint study in collaboration with Aberdeen Test Center's Maryland Environmental Technology Demonstration Center, Green Seal, and Dynamac Corporation. The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute provided publishing services.

The paint study focused on interior, exterior, and anticorrosive architectural paints that contain environmentally hazardous chemicals. As a result of the study, APG is reducing its hazardous material inventories from 565 paints to 73 that meet the environmental criteria and the requirements of the APG Garrison paint policy. The requirements have been incorporated into installation procurement and construction programs and are projected to save up to \$90,000 annually, based on reduced purchase cost (average savings \$1.76 per gallon), reduced storage and management of hazardous materials and cost avoidance for disposal of paints with toxic materials.

"This paint project is an outstanding example of innovation and farsightedness. It illustrates what can be achieved when government agencies cooperate among themselves and with the private sector to accomplish common goals. The team members who received this prestigious award are to be commended," said Maryland Representative Robert Ehrlich, who attended the reception following the award ceremony.

The first-place award went to the Michigan Source Reduction Initiative for their use of pollution prevention methods to reduce selected chemical wastes and emissions at the Michigan Operations Site of the Dow Chemical Company, according to a Roundtable press release. The project reduced waste by more than 10.6 million pounds and releases by more than 1.4 million pounds and led to savings of more than \$15 million a year for Dow with a capital cost of \$3 million.

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable is the largest membership organization in the United States devoted solely to pollution prevention. The Roundtable provides a

national forum for promoting the development, implementation, and evaluation of efforts to avoid, eliminate, or reduce pollution at the source. The organization, according to its press release, received an overwhelming number of excellent submissions for this third year of the program, indicating that there are many exciting, innovative pollution prevention projects and programs working across the country. Interest in the awards program has steadily grown each year, and the organization hopes that this and other recognition programs will help the public become more aware of pollution prevention benefits.

To request a copy of the APG paint study, contact the APG Pollution Prevention Program Manager at 410-306-2275.