



Green Newsletter
July 2008

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EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson to Keynote International Emerging Technology Symposium

Stephen Johnson, the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will deliver the keynote address at the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)/World Plumbing Council Emerging Technology Symposium, Aug. 19-20, in Chicago.

Johnson is the 11th administrator of the U.S. EPA, a post he's held since 2005. In this role, he leads EPA's efforts to protect human health and the environment, managing more than 17,000 agency employees nationwide and overseeing an annual budget of \$7.7 billion. As administrator, Johnson implemented the Clean Air Interstate Rule, one of the most health protective air quality standards in EPA history, and led a nationwide effort to introduce ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, the most important achievement in clean fuel since the removal of lead from gasoline.

Johnson is a scientist and 27-year veteran of the EPA who is deeply committed to vigorously enforcing the nation's environmental laws.

"I cannot think of a more qualified and better choice to launch our emerging technology symposium than Stephen Johnson," said Russ Chaney, IAPMO executive director. "His knowledge of environmental history and well-documented foresight will perfectly frame the presentations and discussions that follow his remarks. We are grateful for Mr. Johnson's contribution to our efforts bringing to light future advances that will reshape our industry and the ways in which we do business."

The two-day symposium at the O'Hare Marriott in Chicago will allow participants to learn how the manufacturing, engineering and trade industries devise solutions to international regulatory developments on topics including: water, sanitation and health; water and energy efficiency; water reuse; solar and other renewable energies; and fat, oil and grease discharges.

Worldwide sponsors include the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), World Plumbing Review Magazine, the Indian Plumbing Association and The Institute of Plumbing Australia Inc. For those who cannot be present, a film crew will record the event in front of the symposium registrants. At its conclusion, a 'Webinar' will be produced for event sponsors to make available in the ensuing weeks (via the Internet) to their respective members, customers and the groups and individuals they serve.

Registration to attend the event is \$295 and includes breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks. Hotel reservations can be made directly with the O'Hare Marriott. Mention the IAPMO event for a special room rate of \$129 per night.

For sponsorship opportunities and/or information on participating in the event, please contact Maria Sol Alba at (708) 995-3005 or Career.Services@iapmo.org.

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IAPMO Stops by Launch of New GreenMech Talk Show

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Emerging Technology Symposium
August 19-20



Mechanical contractors, field technicians, and industry professionals have a new place to hang out to discuss sustainability and energy efficiency. GreenMech Solutions, launched on June 24 by the Green Mechanical Council, is a new talk radio show offering education, information and live chat via the Internet and phone calls.

Hosted by GreenMech's Executive Director Tom Meyer and Director of Marketing and Sales Jo Keirns, the show is part of a series titled Energy Experts Live, which consists of 20 hours of weekly radio and chats hosted by AlternativeEnergy.com.

The show kicked off with an introduction to the Green Mechanical Council, its goals, interests, and memberships. Tom and Jo explained GreenMech's Green Awareness Certification Program (GAP) and "GreenSpeak," a three-hour workshop for individuals new to the language and culture of "Green."

Pete DeMarco, Director of Special Programs at IAPMO, stopped by to give an overview of the International Emerging Technology Symposium, and to discuss IAPMO's involvement in the green movement.

During this week's show, IAPMO Board Member Doug Fredericksen spent the hour with Tom and Jo discussing the importance of including sustainable practices in the plumbing and mechanical codes.

"The easiest thing to do is conserve and right now that's what we are looking at," said Doug, "that's the most immediate impact we can have."

The program also discussed some of the hurdles facing the green movement, like the cultural acceptance of toilet to tap and the issue of waste.

"One of the biggest conversations at our meeting in Chicago was waste, and it wasn't leaky taps," said Tom, speaking of a growing trend of circumventing green building requirements by playing word games — calling a multiple head shower a vertical spa was the example Tom used.

Another challenge facing the industry is convincing the older generations to change from the old way of doing things, to accept the new technologies and practices. The good news is the education is coming, said Tom, and the next generation is already ahead of us. But he noted that the situation is urgent.

"We've got problems now with freshwater, we've got problems now with energy costs, changing the quality of life in the 21st century," said Tom. I don't think we can wait for the kids to show us the way."

The first few shows have received such a good response that Jo Kearns has been asked to join a second show on Saturday afternoons. Jo will co-host the program with John Skinner, from Enzohouse, and Vincent Beazel from Alternative Energy. The new Talk Radio program "Home2Green" is scheduled to start July 19 and will be geared towards educating homeowners on how to conserve energy and water.

Tune in and join the discussion on the GreenMech Solutions show on Tuesdays (12 pm PDT) at www.blogtalkradio.com/AlternativeEnergyCom.

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HVAC Mobile Green Classroom

The Partnership for Environmental Leadership, a collaboration of the United Association (UA), Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), Mechanical Service Contractors Association (MSCA), Plumbing Contractors of America (PCA), U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Green Mechanical Council (GreenMech), has rolled out

its HVAC Mobile Green Classroom.

The mobile classroom "demonstrates new and innovative technologies to enhance a building's energy efficiency while maintaining occupant health, safety and comfort." Hands-on training and simulators cover topics such as fuel cell technologies, solar heating systems, geothermal, and wind power generation. MCAA's LEED AP training programs and the UA/MSCA's Green Awareness Training and Certification Program are also offered.

The HVAC Mobile Green Classroom will be traveling across the country to bring the latest in green mechanical service and construction technologies. Find out when it's in your area: <http://hvacgreen.net/index.php>

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Conserving Water Made Easier in Oregon

Conserving water in Oregon just got a little easier thanks to the Oregon State Plumbing Board. A new standard passed by the board last month allows homeowners to install systems that reuse grey water from indoor sources for flushing toilets and other non-potable uses.

The new ruling applies to single-family homes, town homes, or row houses, but excludes apartments and duplexes. Commercial buildings are also exempt until the Building Codes Division can get permission from the state legislature to regulate wastewater reuse systems.

Also adopted at the Board's meeting were standards to allow residential and commercial buildings to install a rainwater harvesting system without obtaining a special permit. In the past, homeowners and businesses had to seek exemptions from city building officials on a case-by-case basis.

More information will be available at www.cbs.state.or.us/bcd/boards/plumbing/plumbing.html

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AHRI Sets High Standard as DOE A/C Rulemaking Process Begins

Citing poor cost predictions made during past rulemakings for central air conditioners and heat pumps, the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) called on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to be more "thorough and vigorous" during its next rulemaking process that began earlier this month. DOE will use the rulemaking process to determine whether the minimum efficiency standards, which were increased in 2006, should be revised again by 2016.

AHRI's Vice President for Regulatory Policy and Research Karim Amrane testified June 12, during a public meeting in Washington, D.C., that DOE severely underestimated the cost increase from a 10 SEER to a 13 SEER system.

Amrane called on DOE to perform thorough analyses in three areas:

- Cost increases associated with higher efficiency standards
- Potential cost impact from an HFC cap as part of climate change policy
- Feasibility of various enforcement mechanisms for possible regional efficiency standards

"DOE needs to step back and review past analyses to understand where improvements need to be made," Amrane said. He added that there is evidence DOE's predicted incremental cost of \$335 between a 10 SEER and a 13 SEER split air conditioner was severely underestimated and he cited a 9 percent drop in equipment sales since the 13

SEER mandate took effect. This fact, combined with an increase in parts sales and room air conditioners, he said is evidence that the new standard is not economically justified for many consumers. He also said the energy savings estimated by DOE were probably overstated as well.

Amrane also asked the energy department to "carefully study the impact of climate change legislation on the availability and price of HFC refrigerants." He said there is a real possibility prices will skyrocket and not enough refrigerant will be available to meet the new energy conservation standards.

Amrane explained that higher efficiency products require more refrigerant charge because they have larger evaporators and condensers. He added that despite this fact, dominate in the U.S. Senate is a climate change bill that would set an HFC cap for 2016 at 39 percent below estimated industry demand.

In addition, Amrane told DOE that if regional standards are adopted, either as part of the current rulemaking process or another process, they will present unique enforcement challenges. He said any regional standard above the base national standard will require enforcement of product distribution and installation. He stressed that a successful enforcement plan would require the participation of all stakeholders, including manufacturers, distributors, contractors and code officials.

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FTC To Examine Green Building Claims

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is hosting a public workshop on July 15 to address environmental advertising claims regarding buildings and textiles. The workshop will explore environmental or "green" building or textile claims, consumer perception of those claims, and substantial issues.

More information can be found at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-13014.pdf>

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ASTM Approves Biodiesel for Heating Oil

The ASTM International Main Committee has approved a set of specifications for inclusion of B5 biodiesel (5 percent by volume) in heating oil.

Other biodiesel specifications to pass the committee ballot:

- Adding requirements for up to 5 percent biodiesel to existing ASTM D975, Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils.
- Revising the existing ASTM D6751, Specification for Biodiesel Fuel Blend Stock (B100) for Middle Distillate Fuels, to include a requirement for cold soak filterability.
- A new specification for blends between 6 (B6) and 20 (B20) percent biodiesel for on- and off-road diesel.

"ASTM's consensus process requires a procedural review that is now under way," says David Bradley, D02 staff manager. "After completion and acceptance of the review, the standards will be prepared for publication."

The ASTM press release can be found at: <http://69.7.224.88/default.aspx?pageid=1436>

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New Desalination Process Cuts Energy Use in Half

Over 80 percent of conventional desalination costs can be attributed to the energy required to turn seawater into drinking water. This costly, energy-intensive process has kept it from becoming a viable source of drinking water.

That soon may change. A team of researchers from Siemens Water Technologies has developed an innovative desalination technology that could cut energy consumption by at least 50 percent. Instead of using a conventional membrane to separate salt from water, the process passes sea water through an electric field to draw out the salt.

The breakthrough helped Siemens win a \$4 million grant from Singapore's Environment and Water Industry Development Council (EWI). EWI had challenged innovators to design a process that consumed only 1.5 kWh per cubic meter of water, which is about half of what has been demonstrated with the best available technology.

Siemens will use the research grant to develop the technology at the company's Singapore-based global R&D center.

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U.S. Puts Hold on New Solar Energy Projects

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has initiated a joint programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) with the Department of Energy (DOE) to assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with solar energy development on BLM-managed public land in six western States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

The PEIS will put a hold on all new applications for solar projects on BLM-managed land. BLM plans to continue processing the 125 applications already received for rights-of-way for solar energy development. The 125 existing applications, says the bureau, cover almost one million acres of land and have the potential to generate 70 billion watts of electricity, or enough to power 20 million average American homes.

The study, which is expected to take two years, will consider the impact of construction and transmission lines on the surrounding vegetation and wildlife. Another focus of the study is the water consumption — some concentrating solar plants require water to condense the steam used to power the turbine. The PEIS will establish a process for accepting future applications, possibly through a competitive process, which is likely to attract companies with the experience and resources necessary to quickly deploy solar energy projects.

Solar companies are concerned that the freeze on new projects could seriously hurt the industry. The BLM administers 258 million acres of land, much of it ideally suited for solar energy. The hold may force solar plants to turn to more expensive private land for development.

The solar industry is already facing a potential setback - Congress has yet to renew the federal solar investment tax credits that are set to expire at the end of this year. Solar proponents say that these two issues combined will stunt the growth of an industry that is relatively new and still trying to get up on its feet.

The BLM is accepting written comments related to scoping that are postmarked or delivered by July 15, 2008, and electronic comments that are received by the same date. More information can be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html>

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L.A. County Turns to Cloud Seeding

Los Angeles County is resuming its controversial cloud seeding program in an effort to refill its reservoirs to cope with a prolonged drought.

The \$800,000 project relies on injecting clouds with silver iodide particles to induce rain.

Los Angeles County has experimented with cloud seeding since the late 60's. The program was halted 30 years ago when local families sued the county after a severe rainstorm triggered landslides that killed 11 people.

Cloud seeding is popular in China and Russia too. China, who spends millions of dollars on cloud seeding each year, is hoping to use the technology during the Olympic games to induce rain to clean the heavily polluted air during the evening, and ensure clear skies during the day.

Russian citizens were recently reminded of its government cloud seeding program when a Russian Air Force aircraft accidentally dropped a 55-lb bag of cement on a Moscow home.

Critics of the program call cloud seeding unproven in its results, saying the money would be better spent on conservation efforts.

"It's a bit of a sign of desperation," Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute, told the Los Angeles Times. "They've been doing cloud-seeding for decades, but we've never clearly been able to show if it's what we've done or what nature has provided."

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Events Calendar:

Southeast Building Conference
July 30 - August 2, 2008
Orange County
Convention Center

**IAPMO Emerging
Technology Symposium**
August 19-20, 2008
O'Hare Marriott

ARCSA Annual Conference
September 16-18, 2008
Santa Monica, CA
www.arcsa.org

Orlando, FL
www.sebcshow.com

Chicago, IL
www.iapmo.org

World Plumbing Conference
September 24-27, 2008
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
www.worldplumbing.org/2008.html

**79th IAPMO Annual Education
& Business Conference**
Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, 2008
The Sheraton Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia
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ISH North America
October 1-3, 2008
The Sheraton Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia
www.usa.messefrankfurt.com

126th PHCC Convention
September 29 - October 4, 2008
Atlanta Marriot Marquis
Atlanta, Georgia
www.phccweb.org

**WaterSmart Innovations Conference
and Expo**
October 8 -12, 2008
Las Vegas, Nevada
www.watersmartinnovations.com

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