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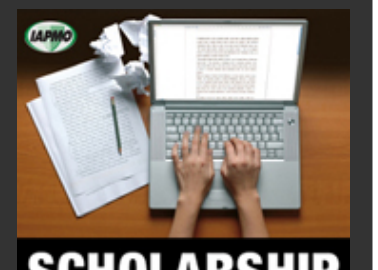
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SCHOLARSHIP

IAPMO Contributes to Stronger Medical Gas Standards in Kansas

Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson has signed Senate Bill 449 (SB 449) into law in response to a devastating medical gas accident last March at a dental facility in Lawrence, Kan. The new law, which was developed with guidance from IAPMO Region 4 Director Bill Schweitzer, amends existing law with regard to the repair, maintenance and inspection of medical gas piping systems in Kansas.

The new legislation requires that all such work must be performed only by a person licensed to perform plumbing work according to a city's or country's statute and who is certified under the appropriate professional qualifications of the American Society of Sanitary Engineering's (ASSE) Series 6000 standard. Installers are now required to obtain a proper permit from the county or city where the medical gas installation will be performed.

Furthermore, SB 449 requires all inspections of medical gas piping systems to be performed by a

certified third party agency and all necessary documentation to be submitted to the city or county before the facility where the system has been installed is occupied.

Austin Stone, the young man whose life was dramatically altered by a cross-connection between oxygen and nitrous oxide gas supply lines during a routine visit to a new dental facility for the removal of his wisdom teeth, attended the signing ceremony along with his family. As a result of the accident, Stone, who was a high school senior at the time, is blind, 60 percent deaf and has difficulty speaking and walking.

"This senseless and completely avoidable tragedy was caused by a contractor who installed medical gas without certified plumbers, without an inspection and without any permits," said Schweitzer, who argued unsuccessfully prior to the accident for the Lawrence City Council to renew the *Uniform Plumbing Code® (UPC)* and *Uniform Mechanical Code® (UMC)*, both of which include the provisions Gov. Parkinson has now signed into Kansas State law. "I thank Gov. Parkinson for signing this bill and giving all Kansans protection from any more incidents like what happened to Mr. Stone. Everyone involved with this bill will remember this young man and wish him and his family the best."

In 2007, the City of Lawrence switched from the *UPC* to the International Plumbing Code (IPC), a decision made by the City Commission despite formal opposition from the City's Board of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters. At the hearings leading up to this decision, Schweitzer warned commissioners that the IPC refers contractors/inspectors to another code, NFPA 99C, which is the standard for medical gas, but does not include a correlation between the installer and the city/county. Many believe this gap is partly to blame for the accident in Lawrence. The *UPC*, on the other hand, requires that permits be pulled and calls for inspections and documents from a third party prior to issuance of an occupancy permit.

Schweitzer and a group of licensed plumbing professionals, including Kirk Miller, UA Local 441, Topeka, Denis Wittman, UA Local 441, Lawrence, and Rich Schaefer, Professional Medical Specialties, Inc., worked with Kansas Rep. John Grange (R-75), Rep. Connie O'Brien (R-42), Dustin Hardison, Policy Director for Kansas House Democrats, and Rep. Paul Davis (D-46), the House Democratic Leader, to craft the language of SB 449 and get it passed.

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IAPMO Technical Committees Wrap Up Busy Week

The IAPMO Technical Committee Meetings were held in Milwaukee, Wis., April 26-30. The committees considered some 414 proposed changes for the 2012 publication of the Uniform Codes (251 for the UPC, 163 for the UMC), a great many of them concerning sustainability and water/energy conservation.

A few of the decisions are listed below:

- UPC Technical Committee accepted as amended Proposal No. 98 regarding 601.2.2.1 Alternate Water Sources: "Alternate water source systems shall have a purple background with black uppercase lettering..." This amendment applies to field labeling of pipes carrying gray water, reclaimed water, on-site treated water and rainwater catchment.
- UPC Technical Committee accepted Proposal No. 105 adding "603.3.11 Backflow prevention devices with atmospheric vents or ports shall not be installed in pits, underground, or submerged locations." Backflow devices could be submerged and therefore rendered inoperable.
- UPC Technical Committee rejected Proposal No. 118, which would have removed cross link polyethylene (PEX) tubing from the UPC.
- UPC Technical Committee accepted as amended Proposal No. 174, which would add "Part III: Vacuum Waste Drainage Systems" to Chapter 7 of the UPC. This section regulates the design and installation provisions of these "green" drainage systems.
- The UPC Technical Committee accepted as amended Proposal No. 182, which would add Section 911.0 Air Admittance Valves to Chapter 9 of the UPC. The UPC Technical Committee accepted as amended Proposal No. 5, which would add Section 203.0 Air Admittance Valves definition to Chapter 2 of the UPC. The UPC Technical Committee accepted Proposal No. 250, which would add L10.0 Air Admittance Valves into Appendix L of the UPC.
- Item No. 202 concerning UPC 1214.3 Test Pressure in fuel gas pipe was accepted by the UPC Technical Committee. The new language would change the testing pressure from a minimum of 1.5 times the maximum operating pressure to 10 psi for 15 minutes.
- The UPC Technical Committee accepted Proposal No. 231, which would add four classifications of alternate water sources to Chapter 16 of the UPC: gray water systems, reclaimed (recycled) water systems, on-site treated non-potable water systems and rainwater catchment systems.
- The UPC Technical Committee accepted as amended Proposal No. 251, which would add Appendix M: Green Plumbing Code Supplement to the Uniform Plumbing Code.

SUBJECT MATTER ESSAY CONTEST

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE



NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

A subscription to Official is just one of the many benefits available to members of IAPMO, which include substantial discounts on most IAPMO publications and educational programs, the opportunity to update and improve the UPC and UMC, participation in local IAPMO chapters and an invitation to attend IAPMO's Annual Education and Business Conference. The conference offers superb educational seminars. Find out more at www.iapmo.org.

DW&BP MAGAZINE



Drinking Water & Backflow Prevention Magazine subscriptions: 1-888-FOR-DWBP (888-367-3927)

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- The UMC Technical Committee accepted as amended Proposal No. 21, which would add balancing requirements for all HVAC systems, including hydronics systems, in accordance with recognized standards.
- The UMC Technical Committee accepted Proposal No. 3, which would govern the maintenance of residential HVAC systems in accordance with ACCA 4 QM.
- The UMC Technical Committee accepted as amended Proposal No. 4, which would govern the maintenance of commercial HVAC systems in accordance with ASHRAE 180.

As a reminder to all of those following the code development process, all Technical Committee actions are subject to ballot, which will occur shortly after the TC meetings here in Milwaukee. Ballot results will be included in the Report on Proposals (ROP), which will be available in August.

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Last Chance to Enter IAPMO Scholarship Essay Competition

Those wishing to submit an entry to The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials' (IAPMO) first-ever scholarship essay competition must do so by June 1. IAPMO, a worldwide organization of dedicated professionals striving to make our planet a safer and healthier place in which to live, will award scholarships to five young people affiliated with IAPMO and many of its industry partners as prizes for their winning entries.

The theme for the contest, established by the IAPMO Board of Directors, is "How Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Can Help Save the World." In light of IAPMO's ambitious outreach programs and work in India, Africa, South America and China, this topic reflects the global implications of the plumbing and mechanical trade and its response to a changing environment.

These scholarships are open to members — and their children — of IAPMO, PHCC, MCAA, the UA and ASSE who are currently enrolled in a high school, community college, trade school, four-year accredited college or university or working in an apprentice program.

Submitted essays must be completely original and a minimum of 1,000 words. Entries may be submitted via e-mail, fax or mail to IAPMO World Headquarters. The winning essay will be announced in September at the 2010 IAPMO Education and Business Conference in Seattle. The author of the essay awarded first prize will receive a \$500 scholarship and a one-year paid membership to IAPMO. Second place winner will receive a \$250 scholarship and three third place winners will each receive a \$100 scholarship. All winning essays will also be published in Official, IAPMO's award-winning membership magazine, and on the IAPMO Website.

Individuals who meet the qualifications to submit an essay to the competition should include your name, your school's name and yours or your parent's professional affiliation with one of the qualifying trade associations or union locals. All essays should be sent to Ms. Gabriella Davis at IAPMO by e-mail at gaby.davis@iapmo.org; by fax at (909) 472-4222; or by standard mail to her attention at IAPMO, 5001 E. Philadelphia St., Ontario, CA 91761.

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Water Quality Still Deficient

A new report by the World Health Organization and UNICEF states that the world is on track to surpass the Millennium Development Goal for drinking water access, but will fall short by one billion people for sanitation if current trends continue; access to a water source does not imply a quality water source.

The Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2010 Update finds that 2.6 billion people, more than one-third of the world's population, do not use improved sanitation. Progress has been made in northern Africa, southeast Asia and east Asia, but large parts of south Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa remain without proper toilet facilities.

In 2000 the United Nations set goals for increasing access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation among the world's poorest people. Known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), they created quantified targets for improving life for these people by 2015. The goals focused on poverty, health, hunger, education and gender equality, with the water and sanitation target aiming to half the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. This goal uses 1990 as a baseline year for comparison.

According to the UN definition, improved sanitation ensures that people do not come in contact with faeces. Examples of such systems include flush and pour-flush toilets, ventilated pit latrines and



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composting toilets. According to the WHO/UNICEF report, open defecation (the most unsanitary behaviour) is declining.

The report also found wide gaps between coverage in rural and urban areas for both drinking water and sanitation. More than eight out of ten people without improved water sources and seven out of ten people without adequate sanitation live in rural areas, according to the report. People familiar with the report, which uses data gathered between 2007 and 2008, said it should be a call to action as the MDG deadline approaches.

This emphasis on drinking water has led to an expansion in coverage, according to data in the report. Global access to an improved water source, defined as being protected from outside contamination, exceeds MDG targets. Nearly 1.7 billion people have gained new access since 1990. Improved sources include piped household connections, protected wells and springs, public taps, and boreholes. However, the report acknowledges that there is no way of knowing whether the water coming from improved sources is actually higher in quality.

The requirements for an improved drinking water source assess the infrastructure used to access the water, while water source quality is another matter. The WHO allows its guidelines for microbial and chemical contamination to be modified by each country, so there is no global standard in place. In an attempt to draw attention to this problem, the theme of World Water Day this year was water quality.

'We know how many people have access to water,' said the Prince of Orange during the event, 'but we don't know how many have safe water.' A forthcoming WHO/UNICEF pilot study of country-level water quality testing found that 90% of piped systems met WHO microbial standards, but only 40-70% of other improved sources were in compliance. The study also found that such water quality tests on a global scale were too expensive, especially considering the other ways in which the money could be spent.

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Maya Plumbing, First Pressurized Water Feature Found in New World

Article courtesy of Penn State University, reprinted with permission

University Park, Pa. — A water feature found in the Maya city of Palenque, Mexico, is the earliest known example of engineered water pressure in the new world, according to a collaboration between two Penn State researchers, an archaeologist and a hydrologist. How the Maya used the pressurized water is, however, still unknown.

"Water pressure systems were previously thought to have entered the New World with the arrival of the Spanish," the researchers said in a recent issue of the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. "Yet, archaeological data, seasonal climate conditions, geomorphic setting and simple hydraulic theory clearly show that the Maya of Palenque in Chiapas, Mexico, had empirical knowledge of closed channel water pressure predating the arrival of Europeans."

The feature, first identified in 1999 during a mapping survey of the area, while similar to the aqueducts that flow beneath the plazas of the city, was also unlike them. In 2006, an archaeologist returned to Palenque with a hydrologist to examine the unusual water feature. The area of Palenque was first occupied about the year 100 but grew to its largest during the Classic Maya period 250 to 600. The city was abandoned around 800.

"Under natural conditions it would have been difficult for the Maya to see examples of water pressure in their world," said Christopher Duffy, professor of civil and environmental engineering. "They were apparently using engineering without knowing the tools around it. This does look like a feature that controls nature."

Underground water features such as aqueducts are not unusual at Palenque. Because the Maya built the city in a constricted area in a break in an escarpment, inhabitants were unable to spread out. To make as much land available for living, the Maya at Palenque routed streams beneath plazas via aqueducts.

"They were creating urban space," said Kirk French, lecturer in anthropology. "There are streams in the area every 300 feet or so across the whole escarpment. There is very little land to build on."

These spring-fed streams combined with approximately 10 feet of rain that falls during the six-month rainy season also presented a flooding hazard that the aqueducts would have at least partially controlled.

The feature the researchers examined, Piedras Bolas Aqueduct, is a spring-fed conduit located on steep terrain. The elevation drops about 20 feet from the entrance of the tunnel to the outlet about 200 feet downhill. The cross section of the feature decreases from about 10 square feet near the spring to about a half square foot where water emerges from a small opening. The combination of gravity on water



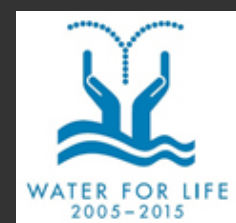
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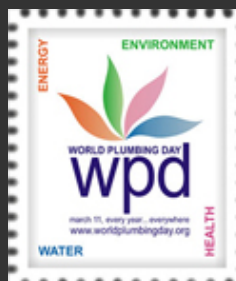
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flowing through the feature and the sudden restriction of the conduit causes the water to flow out of the opening forcefully, under pressure.

"The conduit could have reached a theoretical hydraulic head limit of 6 meters (about 20 feet)," said Duffy.

At the outlet, the pressure exerted could have moved the water upwards of 20 feet.

"The experience the Maya at Palenque had in constructing aqueducts for diversion of water and preservation of urban space may have led to the creation of useful water pressure," said French.

The Piedras Bolas Aqueduct is partially collapsed so very little water currently flows from the outlet. French and Duffy used simple hydraulic models to determine the potential water pressure achievable from the Aqueduct. They also found that Aqueduct would hold about 18,000 gallons of water if the outlet were controlled to store the water.

One potential use for the artificially engineered water pressure would have been a fountain. The researchers modeled the aqueduct with a fountain as the outlet and found that even during flood conditions, water would flow in the aqueduct, supplying the fountain, and above ground in the channel running off the slope. Another possibility could be to use the pressure to lift water onto the adjacent residential area for use as wastewater disposal.

"The palace has features that suggest something similar," said French

The National Science Foundation and the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies supported this work.

Photos can be viewed <http://live.psu.edu/album/2261>

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Architecture Billings Index Reaches Highest Mark in Over Two Years

Business Conditions Slowly Improving

For the third straight month the Architecture Billings Index (ABI) has gone up. As a leading economic indicator of construction activity, the ABI reflects the approximate nine to twelve month lag time between architecture billings and construction spending. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) reported the April ABI rating was 48.4, up from a reading of 46.1 the previous month. Although this score reflects a continued decline in demand for design services (any score above 50 indicates an increase in billings), it is the highest score since January 2008 when revenue at architecture firms headed into recession. The new projects inquiry index was 59.6.

"It appears that the design and construction industry may be nearing an actual recovery phase," said AIA Chief Economist Kermit Baker, PhD, Hon. AIA. "The economic landscape is improving, although not across the board, but doing so at a gradual pace. It is quite possible that we will finally see positive business conditions in the foreseeable future."

Key April ABI highlights:

- Regional averages: Northeast (51.0), Midwest (49.2), South (46.5), West (44.7)
- Sector index breakdown: commercial / industrial (48.5), mixed practice (48.4), institutional (46.8), multi-family residential (45.8)
- Project inquiries index: 59.6

About the AIA Architecture Billings Index

The Architecture Billings Index is derived from a monthly "Work-on-the-Boards" survey and produced by the AIA Economics & Market Research Group. Based on a comparison of data compiled since the survey's inception in 1995 with figures from the Department of Commerce on Construction Put in Place, the findings amount to a leading economic indicator that provides an approximately nine to twelve month glimpse into the future of nonresidential construction activity. The diffusion indexes contained in the full report are derived from a monthly survey sent to a panel of AIA member-owned firms. Participants are asked whether their billings increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the month that just ended. According to the proportion of respondents choosing each option, a score is generated, which represents an index value for each month. The regional and sector data is formulated using a three-month moving average.

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WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition Announces

Keynote Speakers

Best-selling author Steven Solomon and "natural capitalism" advocate Hunter Lovins will be keynote speakers at the third WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition, slated for Oct. 6-8, 2010 at the South Point Hotel and Conference Center in Las Vegas.

Registration for the world's pre-eminent urban water efficiency conference is now underway. WaterSmart Innovations is offering an "early bird" registration fee of \$330 through Thursday, June 3. Beginning Friday, June 4, the full registration fee will be \$390. To register and for more information, visit www.WaterSmartInnovations.com.

Lovins, president and founder of Natural Capitalism Solutions and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute and California Conservation Society, will keynote the conference's opening session Wednesday, October 6.

Through NCS, Lovins educates senior public- and private-sector decision-makers about strategies to enable companies, communities, and countries to become more sustainable. The co-author of nine books and hundreds of papers, Lovins developed the Economic Renewal Project and is a founding Professor of Business at Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco. Time Magazine in 2000 named her a "Hero of the Planet" and in 2009 Newsweek dubbed Lovins a "Green Business Icon."

Solomon, author of the best-selling book *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power and Civilization*, will keynote the conference's luncheon on Thursday, October 7.

In *Water*, Solomon describes a world in which access to fresh water has replaced oil as the primary cause of global conflicts that increasingly emanate from drought-ridden, overpopulated areas. Solomon also has written for *The New York Times*, *BusinessWeek*, *The Economist*, *Forbes*, and *Esquire*, and has appeared as a commentator and frequent guest on a number of television news shows. He also is the author of *The Confidence Game*, which warned about building dangers in the volatile global financial system.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority is presenting WSI 2010 in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program, Alliance for Water Efficiency, American Water Works Association, Audubon International, California Urban Water Conservation Council, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, International Center for Water Technology and Irrigation Association.

Major sponsors include Rain Bird Corp., Caroma, Parsons Corp., Ewing Irrigation Products, Inc., AECOM, Black & Veatch and Water Management, Inc.

Last year's WSI conference and exposition drew nearly 1,200 participants from 43 states and 13 nations. WSI '09 featured more than 130 professional sessions and an expo hall with 100 exhibitors.

More information is available at www.WaterSmartInnovations.com.

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"Direct Potable Reuse" as a Source of Water Supply

The National Water Research Institute (NWRI) recently published a White Paper that identifies 10 key issues that need to be addressed by regulatory agencies and water utilities in California interested in pursuing direct potable reuse — or, the introduction of highly-treated recycled water into a drinking water distribution system — as a viable option to satisfy the State's future water demands.

The 32-page NWRI White Paper, entitled "Regulatory Aspects of Direct Potable Reuse in California," was developed in response to a growing interest among water utilities, water-related associations, and environmental advocacy groups in California to assess the research needs, regulatory requirements, and other factors necessary to implement direct potable reuse.

California's water supplies are becoming limited due to population increases, droughts, and reductions in imported water. To help conserve our water supplies, the State encourages the use of recycled water — municipal wastewater that has been extensively treated — for a range of applications, such as flushing toilets and urinals in office buildings, replenishing aquifers, and irrigating pastures, crops, golf course greens, school yards, parks, athletic fields, cemeteries, nurseries, and other vegetation.

Direct potable reuse would provide water utilities with the opportunity to augment their current drinking water supplies (such as surface water, groundwater, or imported water) with a local, abundant, and reliable source of water.

To date, no regulations or criteria have been developed or proposed for direct potable reuse in California or the United States.

The only example of a direct potable reuse project is in water-scarce Windhoek, Namibia, where highly treated recycled water is put into a drinking water system that serves 250,000 people. The direct potable reuse system in Windhoek has been in operation since 1968.

As identified in the NWRI White Paper, the following key regulatory issues need to be resolved for direct potable reuse to be considered as a source of water supply:

- Clarify what constitutes direct potable reuse.
- Compensate for the loss of an environmental buffer (a natural water body, such as a lake or reservoir, that physically separates product water from a recycling water facility and the intake to a drinking water plant).
- Determine the number, type, and reliability of treatment processes necessary to serve as multiple barriers (which are incorporated into the design and operation of water recycling facilities to preclude the passage of microbial pathogens and harmful chemicals constituents into the water system).
- Determine if dilution (or, the blending of recycled water with non-recycled waters, such as surface water or imported water) will be required as an added safety factor.
- Determine what monitoring requirements will be needed to assess the efficiency of the treatment process in removing microbial pathogens and chemical constituents.
- Clarify the type and level of public health risk assessment needed (which may include evaluating the risk of treatment system failure and potential health risks due to such a failure).
- Determine if scientific peer review of direct potable reuse projects by expert advisory panels will be a requirement.
- Evaluate how existing drinking water statutes, regulations, policies, and permitting processes may apply to direct potable reuse projects.
- Clarify the roles of regulatory agencies in providing oversight of direct potable reuse projects.
- Develop a communication system for the timely sharing of information between water utilities and regulatory agencies to avoid the distribution of unsafe water.

The NWRI White Paper was prepared by James Crook, Ph.D., P.E., an environmental engineer with more than 37 years of experience in state government and consulting, including directing the California Department of Public Health's water reuse program for 15 years.

Download the paper: www.nwri-usa.org/pdfs/NWRIPaperDirectPotableReuse2010.pdf

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EPA Launches New Web Tools to Inform the Public About Clean Water Enforcement

Interactive Web tool allows the public to check water violations in their communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a new set of web tools, data, and interactive maps to inform the public about serious Clean Water Act violations in their communities. Improving water quality is one of EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's priorities and in 2009, Administrator Jackson directed the agency to develop concrete steps to improve water quality, to better enforce the Clean Water Act and to use 21st Century technology to transform the collection, use and availability of EPA data. The web tools announced today is part of EPA's Clean Water Act Action Plan to work with states in ensuring that facilities comply with standards that keep our water clean.

"EPA is taking another important step to increase transparency and keep Americans informed about the safety of their local waters," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Making this information more accessible and understandable empowers millions of people to press for better compliance and enforcement in their communities."

The new web page provides interactive information from EPA's 2008 Annual Noncompliance Report, which pertains to about 40,000 permitted Clean Water Act dischargers across the country. The report lists state-by-state summary data of violations and enforcement responses taken by the states for smaller facilities. The new web page also makes it easy to compare states by compliance rates and enforcement actions taken and provides access to updated State Review Framework (SRF) reports.

Interactive Map for Clean Water Act Annual Noncompliance Report:

<http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/ancr/us/>

State Review Framework: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/state/srf/index.html>

Enforcement and Compliance History Online: <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo>

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Plumbing Industry Council Assists St. Louis Families With Plumbing Repairs

Fifty families benefited from the time, talent and donations of local union plumbing contractors as part of the Annual Rebuilding Together St. Louis event held on Saturday, May 1. Plumbing Industry Council (PIC) contractors, supplier members and members of Plumbers' and Pipefitters' Local 562 joined together in providing plumbing repairs and home renovations for elderly, low-income and disabled residents in the St. Louis area.

Rebuilding Together St. Louis 2010 is a special event the Plumbing Industry Council and Plumbers' & Pipefitters' Local 562 are proud to take part in as way to give something back to the community. Contractor members of the Plumbing Industry Council donated service trucks loaded with tools. A wide array of plumbing products (sinks, faucets, toilets, etc.) were also donated by Plumbing Industry Council affiliate (supplier) members. Finally, more than 200 members of Plumbers' and Pipefitters' Local 562 donated their time and talent to assist those in need.

The homes for Rebuilding Together St. Louis are selected after being referred to the program by churches, neighborhood and community service organizations. Individual homeowners can also request services of the program. Applications are prioritized based upon needs and qualifications before final selections are made.

"Rebuilding Together is so much more than just cosmetic work — some of the people we help are living in unhealthy and unsafe conditions," said Mark Morgan, journeyman member, Plumbers' and Pipefitters' Local 562, coordinator of the plumbing portion of Rebuilding Together. "Our members readily volunteer their time, and in some cases when the work is not completed on Rebuilding Together Day, they go back and make sure the project is finished." What makes this even more special this year is that many of the members of Plumbers' and Pipefitters' Local 562 are currently unemployed and yet they still gave of their time and talent.

G. Raymond Hefner, executive vice president of the Plumbing Industry Council, echoed Morgan's sentiments, stating: "This is just another way that licensed, union plumbing contractors give something back to the community by providing quality repairs and installations to those who are in some cases living in unsafe conditions. We are proud to participate in this worthwhile event and assist those St. Louisans who would otherwise not be able to afford quality plumbing repairs."

Rebuilding Together is made possible by the extensive volunteer work of many contractor members of the Plumbing Industry Council and Plumbers' and Pipefitters' Local 562. Initially, retired tradespersons go to the properties and evaluate the situation and identify the needs of the homes chosen for the event. A tradesperson is then assigned to each home being renovated as the captain. The captain is charged with buying the materials for the work, ensuring it is delivered on time and supervising the volunteers completing the repairs and renovations.

The Plumbing Industry Council is a local, union trade association affiliated with the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association. The Council represents licensed, union plumbing and mechanical companies in St. Louis. For more information on the Plumbing Industry Council, visit www.picstl.com.

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EPA to Cut Mercury, Other Toxic Emissions from Boilers, Solid Waste Incinerators

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing proposals that would cut U.S. mercury emissions by more than half and would significantly cut other pollutants from boilers, process heaters and solid waste incinerators. These pollutants include several air toxics which are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems and environmental damage. The proposed rules are estimated to yield more than 5 dollars in public health benefits for every dollar spent.

"Strong cuts to mercury and other harmful emissions will have real benefits for our health and our environment, spur clean technology innovations and save American communities billions of dollars in avoided health costs," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "This is a cost-effective, commonsense way to protect our health and the health of our children, and get America moving into the clean economy of the future."

Combined, these proposals would cut annual mercury emissions from about 200,000 industrial boilers process heaters and solid waste incinerators, slashing overall mercury emissions by more than 50 percent. Industrial boilers and process heaters are the second largest source of mercury emissions in the United States.

Mercury can damage children's developing brains and nervous systems even before they are born. When emitted to the air, mercury eventually settles in water, where it can change into methylmercury, which builds up in ocean and freshwater fish and can be highly toxic to people who eat the fish. This sometimes leads to fish consumption advisories to protect public health.

When fully implemented, today's proposal would yield combined health benefits estimated at \$18 to \$44 billion annually. These benefits include preventing between 2,000 and 5,200 premature deaths, and about 36,000 asthma attacks a year. Estimated annual costs of installing and operating pollution controls required under these rules would be \$3.6 billion.

These actions cover emissions from two types of combustion units. The first type of unit, boilers and process heaters, burns fuel such as natural gas, coal, and oil to produce heat or electricity. These units can also burn non-hazardous secondary materials such as processed tires and used oil. Boilers are located at large industrial facilities and smaller facilities, including commercial buildings, hotels, and universities. The second type of unit, commercial and industrial solid waste incinerators, burns solid waste.

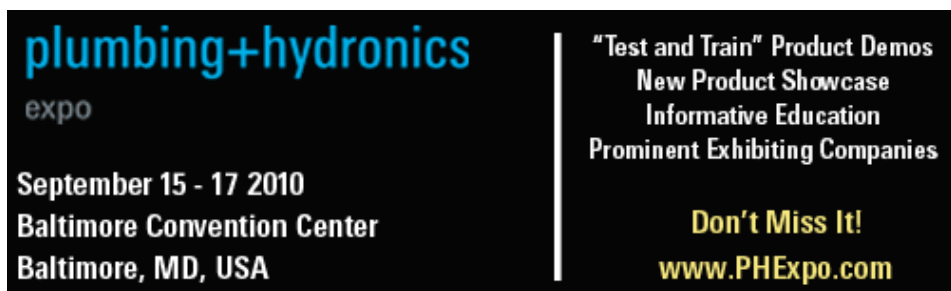
Large boilers and all incinerators would be required to meet emissions limits for mercury and other pollutants. Facilities with boilers would also be required to conduct energy audits to find cost effective ways to reduce fuel use and emissions. Smaller facilities, such as schools, with some of the smallest boilers, would not be included in these requirements, but they would be required to perform tune-ups every two years.

EPA is also proposing to identify which non-hazardous secondary materials would be considered solid waste and which would be considered fuel. This distinction would determine whether a material can be burned in a boiler or whether it must be burned in a solid waste incinerator. The agency is also soliciting comment on several other broader approaches that would identify additional non-hazardous secondary materials as solid waste when burned in combustion units.

EPA will take comment on these proposed rules for 45 days after they are published in the Federal Register. EPA will hold a public hearing on these rules soon after they are published in the Federal Register. For more information on the proposals and details on the public hearings:

<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/combustion>

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www.ashrae.org/

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www.PHExpo.com

IAPMO 81st Annual Education & Business Conference
Sept. 26-30, 2010
Seattle, WA
www.iapmo.org

WaterSmart 2010
Oct. 6-8, 2010
Las Vegas, NV
www.watersmartinnovations.com

Annual PHCC National Convention & Trade Show
Oct. 13-16, 2010
Las Vegas, NV
www.phccweb.org/index.cfm

Greenbuild 2010
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www.greenbuildexpo.org

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