

Environotes from TVA

By John E. Culp

TVA is working with Missouri agencies and industry organizations in a program aimed at "preventing pollution at agricultural dealerships." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is also a cooperator in this program. The objective is to prevent potential environmental contamination through changes in design and operation of fertilizer and pesticide handling sites.

The focus of this new program is a demonstration project at Brunswick River Terminal near Brunswick, MO. This is a bulk fertilizer and pesticide dealership. TVA staff are involved in identifying areas where changes in business practices could reduce or prevent pollution of the environment.

We are addressing solid waste, hazardous waste, wastewater, storm water and air quality. The TVA staff are also developing engineering designs, conducting an environmental site assessment, and recommending operational changes to prevent pollution.

This project will help demonstrate ways to successfully reduce or prevent pollution at agricultural dealerships. TVA will conduct educational tours beginning in late 1993 to provide reliable information to agricultural retailers.

Spin-offs will include organizing a pollution prevention information clearinghouse focusing on agriculture and a self-assessment package for fertilizer/agricultural dealers.

Partners will include the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Ag Industries Council, University Extension at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Crowder College, the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority and the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

TVA Shifts NFERC Emphasis

TVA's National Fertilizer and Environmental Research Center (NFERC) at Muscle Shoals, AL, is restructuring to bolster its work in the environmental area. Dr. Ronald Ritschard, TVA's newly appointed Vice President and Senior Scientist at NFERC, is redirecting the agency's work to demonstrate environmental research and development leadership.

Major focus of the Center's work will be conducting research and developing and introducing new technologies in waste and waste conversions, atmospheric controls, and remediation and cleanup technologies.

Although TVA will shift resources into several areas not currently addressed, the Center will maintain a strong presence in agriculture. It will conduct research to develop cost-effective ways to reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations. It will also conduct demonstrations to showcase research results and technology advancements that provide pollution prevention opportunities. Another important objective of the Center will be to encourage the development of a research park around the TVA center.

The recently completed TVA/California video is a tool that agricultural retailers are using in their work with customers. Title of the video is "Grower's Guide to Safe Environmental Handling of Fertilizers." A user's guide is a part of the video package. Both help agricultural retailers provide environmental information to their customers.

For information about this video and eight others developed by TVA, contact the Technical Library, TVA, Post Office Box 1010, Muscle Shoals, AL 35660. ■

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