

Eastern Utility Pole Conference

October 18-19th, 2011

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Timonium, MD

Tentative Program

Sponsors by: Oregon State University, Mississippi State University, Louisiana State University and the North American Wood Pole Coalition

Tuesday, October 18th

7:30 am- 8:15 am Registration

8:15 am Opening/Welcome

8:30 am *State of the industry* (Andy Stewart, President, EDM International). A wide ranging talk on how government policies, economic decisions and a host of other factors will affect the utility industry from one of the most knowledgeable people in the field.

9:30 am *NESC/ANSI updates* (Nelson Bingel, Osmove Utilities). An overview of the changes to both the NESC and ANSI standards that have the potential to affect utility operations

10:15 am Coffee Break

10:30 am *Alternative pole materials*: You hear about how wonderful all pole materials are- this is chance to see a series of short presentations on the attributes of various alternative pole materials and ask questions about each.

Laminated timbers (Bob Reisdorff, Laminated Wood Systems)

Ductile Iron (Rick Simpson, McWane Co)

Steel/Concrete (Danny Lonergan, Valmont Newmark)

Fiberglass (Scott Holmes, Utility Composite Solutions International)

Noon Lunch

1:00 pm *A Primer on Wood Poles* (quality, treatment) (Mike Barnes, Mississippi State U). A general overview on how to produce a quality wood pole beginning with developing a good specification, progressing through procurement, treatment and finally quality control

1:45 pm *Avian issues for poles* (Rick Harness, EDM International). An overview of issues related to Raptors and woodpeckers on poles along with a primer on methods for discouraging their presence by one of North America's leading experts on avian issues in Utilities

2:30 pm *Aging utility structures* (J. Morrell, Oregon State University). As utilities extend the service life of their system through inspection and maintenance at groundline, they will likely face issues above the ground such as top decay. This presentation will examine the potential issues and outline the possible solutions

3:00 pm *Field Demo*: A chance to see various treatments for poles. In the past, we have demonstrated wood pecker repair kits, pole inspection devices, and pole reinforcements

4:15 pm *Supplier's Expo*: Over 20 vendors will be available to show their wares at a hosted reception

Wednesday, October 19th

8:00 am *Inspection and repair of steel poles* (TBA, Osmose Utility Services). Steel is often viewed as maintenance free and while it performs well in a variety of environments, it must also be inspected and periodically refreshed. This talk with overview inspection and corrosion remediation.

8:45 am *Inspection and remedial treatment of wood poles* (Randy Gross, Polesinc). Wood poles provide exception service life at a very reasonable cost, but they perform even better when they are regularly inspected and supplementally treated. The methods for inspecting wood poles along with the remedial treatments available for extending pole service life will be reviewed.

9:30 am *Pole Disposal* (Jim Roewer, USWAG/EEI). Poles must eventually be disposed of and how that happens depends on the material and the location. The speaker, one of the leading authorities on pole disposal options, will review these options.

10:00 am *Managing data for maximizing value* (Bob Butera, Osmose Utilities). The NESC mandates that utilities regularly inspect their systems, but how can they use that data to maximize service life, allocate scarce resources, and improve safety. This presentation will focus on how the volumes of data generated by a utility can be used to produce enhanced return.

10:30 am *Life Cycle Analysis of pole materials* (Stephen Smith Aquatera). All utilities are seeking to soften their impacts on the environment and life cycle assessment is one method for examining the impacts of various materials. A recent LCA of pole materials will be discussed

11:00 am *Selecting cross arm materials, one utility's experience* (Megha Tiwari, Exelon Energy). Identifying appropriate materials can be a daunting challenge for a utility. The speaker will discuss how Exelon Energy went about examining their cross arm needs and what materials they selected after this process.

11:30 am *AWPA/ANSI*. Colin McCown, AWP. ANSI 05, the committee charged with setting standards for wood used by utilities (*poles, crossarms, braces, etc0) will now be manage through the American Wood Protection Association. The potential utility benefits of this change will be discussed.

Noon Lunch in Expo area

1:00 pm *New developments* (a series of 6 to 9 ten minute vignettes about new ideas, developments, etc.- sort of like AWP Research symposium)

Potential use of barriers for improving pole performance J.J. Morrell

A new failure prediction technology. Wes Wall, Genics, Inc.

Status of copper naphthenate as a wood preservative? Jeffrey Lloyd, Nisus

Effect of treatment on gaff penetration. Todd Shupe, LSU

A new program for educating line crews about steel (TBA)

Bleeding of oil-type/oil-borne preservatives. MH Freeman, Memphis, TN

2:30 pm *Utility roundtable* (A moderated session that will use question previous solicited from the attendees, follow-up question from the previous session as well as audience questions)

3:00 pm Adjourn