

# FPD Highlights – June 2006

## SPI Activities in Support of FPD

**SPI PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL GAS COUNCIL'S NATURAL GAS SUMMIT** on April 3–4, 2006 in Washington, DC. The goal of the summit, which brought together customers of natural gas with natural gas producers, was to discuss the natural gas crisis and to develop consensus on addressing these issues. Participants agreed that greater collaboration is a key to meeting natural gas supply challenges, and that unified messages for policymakers can yield positive results for both consumers and industry. **Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM)**, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, addressed the participants and stated his commitment to work with his Democratic cosponsor, **Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)** and other Senate leaders to pass S. 2253, which would open Lease 181 to natural gas leasing in the Gulf of Mexico. For more information, contact SPI's Senior Director, Federal Government Affairs, Chris Brown, at [cbrown@socplas.org](mailto:cbrown@socplas.org) or 202/ 974-5228.

**SPI PRESIDENT WILLIAM CARTEAUX BLASTED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE for failing to address our country's natural gas crisis.** During Hill visits, he pointed out that U.S. manufacturers continue to be burdened with the world's highest prices for natural gas. This has created more concern for SPI and other manufacturers as an “initial” energy proposal put forward by House Republicans on April 26 addressed the gasoline issue but failed to address the need for increased natural gas supplies. In an SPI letter to **Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL)**, **SPI President William Carteaux** wrote, “On behalf of the 1,100 member companies of SPI, I want to strongly urge you to include natural gas supply language in any future proposed energy legislation. The price of natural gas has increased 700 percent in seven years. This price increase is an extremely serious issue for our members, and we need Congress to address this energy crisis in addition to the price of gasoline.”

**SPI EXPLORES FEASIBILITY OF GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS** – Responding to the single most requested benefit, SPI is exploring the possibility of offering group health insurance for member companies. By putting together a large pool of many member companies and their employees, SPI could be able to help companies enhance employee benefit packages and lower overhead costs by garnering more cost-efficient group rates and multiple plan designs. We need your input to assess the feasibility of implementing this type of program, including basic demographic data from your company. **If your company is interested, contact SPI's Director of Human Resources, Anne Clark, at [hr@socplas.org](mailto:hr@socplas.org).**

**HOSTING A PLANT TOUR** – All SPI members are encouraged to invite lawmakers to visit their facilities. This is an excellent opportunity to educate lawmakers on the issues facing the industry while also allowing them an opportunity to meet with constituents. For information on how to host a plant tour, or to work with SPI staff to coordinate a tour, contact Natha Freiburg in SPI's Government Relations Department at 202/ 974-5216 or [nfreiburg@socplas.org](mailto:nfreiburg@socplas.org).

## FPD Activities

**FALL 2006 CONFERENCE** will be held at Barton Creek Resort – the golf capital of Texas – in Austin on September 17-19, 2006. **Mike Haley** and **Steve Schwartz** are the co-chairpersons. The preliminary program topics include: an Issues Management Update, “Innovation in Fluoropolymer-based Products” by Dr. Sina Ebnesajjad, Successful Exit Strategies for Business Owners, International Tax Strategies for Growing Companies, and more.

**SPRING 2007 CONFERENCE** will be held at the Hyatt Tamaya Resort in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM (near Albuquerque) March 25-27, 2007. **Dan Loffa**, AGC Chemicals Americas, and **Kenneth Koziel**, Saint-Gobain, are the conference co-chairs.

**FALL 2007 CONFERENCE** is planned for the Venetian in Las Vegas on Sept. 23-25, 2007. Please save these dates.

**MONTHLY FPD HIGHLIGHTS** – Please include **E. Robert (Bob) Hill** on your press release list at [eben\\_hill@msn.com](mailto:eben_hill@msn.com), so we can note your **company and staff accomplishments and honors**.

**FLUORONEWS SUMMER 06 ISSUE** will be posted on the web site in late July and issued in hard copy in very early August. Now is the time to brag on your Company and your Staff. Please send your input to Bob Hill at [eben\\_hill@msn.com](mailto:eben_hill@msn.com) by late June.

**FLUOROGUIDE** – We plan to update FluoroGuide and the related Section and Member tables again by mid-June. A full update was posted on this web site in late January 2006. Please check your company input on our website and give Bob Hill any needed further revisions at [eben\\_hill@msn.com](mailto:eben_hill@msn.com).

**UPDATED FLUOROPOLYMERS SAFE HANDLING GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE** – The Guide to the Safe Handling of Fluoropolymers Resins - Fourth Edition is now posted on the FPD web site at [www.fluoropolymers.org](http://www.fluoropolymers.org) as a pdf file. This valuable guide is free from FPD.

**FPD WEB SITE HITS** continue to increase steadily, and reached 454k hits, up from 415k hits in the prior quarter. The Safe Handling Guide update continues to be the most popular hit, followed by FluoroGuide, and the Material Suppliers Table. Winter 2006 Issue of FluoroNews was in the #4 position.

## **FPD Section Activities**

FPD Section activities continue to be strongly emphasized at all of our conferences. The PFOA issue is a major issue in all sections.

### **CUSTOM COATERS**

PFOA remains the key issues for the coaters section. A coaters membership drive is underway.

### **PTFE PROCESSORS**

The Processors Web Site is now online at [www.ptfeparts.org](http://www.ptfeparts.org) and several enhancements are planned. A key issue is threats of globalization to U.S. businesses and strategies to address this threat. The Fall Conference program will include an update on the PFOA issue, a presentation by KC America, and a presentation on the future outlook for the processors.

### **WIRE & CABLE SECTION**

**Gary Stanitis** (Daikin-America) is the Section's new Chairman. Three consultants are under contract and funded. Working with SPI to address acidity issues in WTO. The Section requested the FMG develop a PFOA statement that W&C can use at code hearings.

## **People on the Move**

**DUPONT CABLING SOLUTIONS** recently named **Robert D. Kenny** as global technology manager, further enhancing the company's industry leadership in cabling expertise. In his new role, Kenny will oversee research and development of fluoropolymer cabling resins that help to preserve critical IT infrastructures in the event of a fire.

**SPI** announced the promotion of **Karen Toliver** to Vice President, International Affairs And Trade Counsel on April 19, 2006. “Since joining SPI in January 2005 as Senior Director, International Trade And Industry Statistics, Karen has done excellent work for SPI members and the U.S. plastics industry by re-engaging our organization with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative’s Office, increasing SPI’s presence in trade advocacy, and expanding trade education and information available to our members,” said SPI **President Bill Carteaux**. “Her promotion to this newly created vice president position reflects our organization’s recognition of the importance of international activities as a core service provided to SPI members.”

In her new role, Toliver will be responsible for leading SPI’s international trade services, broadening international awareness of SPI and its activities on behalf of the U.S. plastics industry, and helping to forge relationships with plastics associations in overseas markets. She will also continue to advocate trade issues on behalf of SPI members and the U.S. plastics industry.

## Industry Highlights

**COLORANT CHROMATICS** will participate in the following upcoming events:

- **Wire China 2006** at Shanghai New International Expo Centre (Pudong), 25-28 September, 2006
- **Fakuma 2006** at Messe Friedrichshafen, Germany, 17-21 October, 2006
- **K 2007** at Messe Düsseldorf, Germany, 24-31 October, 2007

**W. L. GORE**, a world leader in supplying high-performing specialized venting and filtration media to medical device manufacturers, announces its latest product - the 5 µm GORE™ Medical Membrane specifically designed for venting applications requiring extremely high airflow as well as liquid resistance.

**ADVANCED FLEXIBLE COMPOSITES, INC. (AFC)** the recognized leader in open mesh drying and curing belts, has added two new products to its DuraFlow® product series. DuraFlow Series 27-34 and 27-37 are available in standard tan or black (for use in UV applications). Both 27-34 and 27-37 offer a flatter and smoother surface, smaller window openings as well as superior strength and characteristics. DuraFlow® belts provide outstanding performance in application in a variety of industries including packaging, food processing, can seaming, screen printing and textiles, polymer processing as well as any high temperature drying and curing requirements.

AFC’s Director of Marketing, Mike Baker commented, “AFC has been the leader in open mesh drying and curing application for the past 17 years. With the introduction of DuraFlow® 27-34 and 27-37 the Leader Just Got Better! AFC is committed to developing solutions that in turn provide value to our customers and markets. DuraFlow® 27-34 and 27-37 is exactly that.” For further information, contact Michael Baker, Director of Marketing at (800) 334-9372.