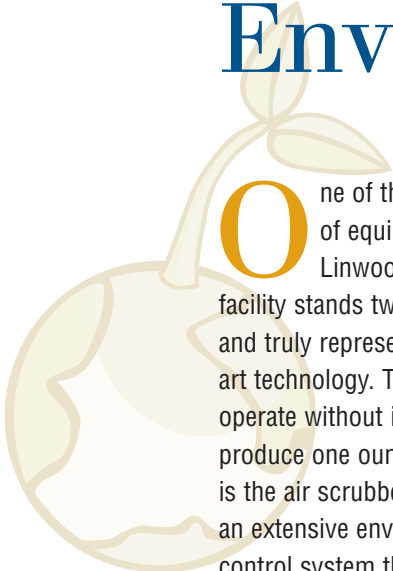




Acrylatest

SPRING 2005

Esschem and Environmental Stewardship



One of the largest pieces of equipment at our Linwood, Pennsylvania facility stands two stories high and truly represents state-of-the-art technology. The plant cannot operate without it, yet it does not produce one ounce of product. It is the air scrubber and it is part of an extensive environmental control system that also includes a water treatment facility and a dust collection unit. Together they remove volatile chemical vapors and dust particles from the air, as well as suspended or dissolved solids from our waste water.

When Esschem built this plant 10 years ago, the company made a decision to look beyond the then current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements. Instead, systems were designed with more stringent controls in

anticipation of future regulations. It was an expensive proposition. Approximately 20 percent of the cost of bringing the new plant online was attributed to the upgraded waste water, dust control and fume emissions systems.

The added expenditure has proven to be a wise choice. Environmental laws have since become even more restrictive. And, production capacity and throughput have increased at the

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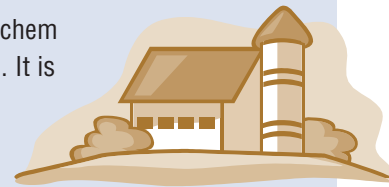
Linwood facility. Even with these challenges, the original pollution control systems still comply with all requirements. Only modest improvements have been necessary over the years.

According to Edward Sobolewski, Vice President of Operations, the same future focus that shaped the decisions in the past continues to keep Esschem ahead of the curve. “We always try to look into the future and do more than is required.” This strategy of making incremental improvements or “tweaking” systems over time eliminates the need for major overhauls that can significantly disrupt production.

Properly maintaining this equipment is also critical. If any key component in our environmental control systems were to fail, all operations would cease until the system was back on line. Unscheduled shut downs can significantly disrupt a 24-hour production cycle that is driven by

The room is bugged!

One of the largest rooms at the Esschem plant is actually a farm—a bug farm. It is home to a collection of microorganisms specifically cultivated for their appetite for the spectrum of methacrylates processed at Esschem. It is the last phase of Esschem’s two-stage waste water treatment system.



Before any waste water from the production stream is discharged into the municipal system, it flows through this biological treatment tank. The microbes digest any waste methacrylate compounds so the resulting effluent is essentially free of regulated contaminants. Cleaning and repopulating or “restocking” the bug farm is one of the primary tasks completed during the plant shutdown each summer.

continuing chemical reactions. As a preventive measure, Esschem adheres to a strict ongoing maintenance schedule.

Much of the work is performed in the downtime between the three daily shifts, but there are some projects that simply take longer. That is why production is halted for two consecutive weeks each summer. This is the one time

when the air scrubber, dust collector and the plant’s waste water treatment facility can be serviced thoroughly.

Taking care of this environmental equipment is a practical and necessary part of Esschem’s operations. It helps ensure that the plant’s waste water, dust and fume emissions pose no threats to Esschem’s employees, visitors, neighbors or the community at large. So, this year as you are scheduling your purchase orders to accommodate the shutdown in August, keep in mind that you are also helping the environment.

Reminder—Summer Maintenance Shutdown

August 1 – August 12

When planning your 2005 purchase orders, please keep in mind our two week preventive maintenance shutdown scheduled for August 1 – August 12.



Meet our Director of Regulatory Affairs, **Barbara Gardocki**

If you were to ask Barbara Gardocki for career guidance, her response is typically “pursue your passion.” As Esschem’s Director of Regulatory Affairs, Barbara has found a way to channel her love of the natural world and respect for the environment into her professional life. She is responsible for ensuring the facility complies with the myriad of federal, state and local regulations that govern chemical manufacturing plants.

The scope of her position is broad. She must be up to speed on everything ranging from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) policies and standards to European Union (EU) directives concerning product ingredients. On any given day, she may find herself reviewing Esschem’s emissions and waste water permits, conducting safety training, researching a customer’s product inquiry and/or responding to a request for Material Safety Data Sheets. Barbara views this diversity as one of the perks of her job. She says, “I like the stimulation. I would get bored

doing the same thing over and over.”

Barbara joined Esschem in 2003 after working for another chemical manufacturer for 24 years. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Agronomy and Environmental Science from Delaware Valley College. She lives in Norristown, Pennsylvania where she cares for a staggering menagerie of friends with fur, feathers and fins that includes two horses, two dogs, two Cockatiels, two Love Birds, two tropical aquariums, one cat, eight ducks and a Koi pond. Barbara is also an avid gardener and a strong advocate for composting and recycling.

It makes fill lines disappear.

New for Nails—CCS Line Eraser™

Maintaining acrylic or gel nail enhancements can be challenging at times. Even experienced nail professionals won’t always achieve picture-perfect results. Although there is no substitute for proper technique, CCS Line Eraser makes the process more forgiving by eliminating tell-tale fill lines.

Our California Chemical Specialty division’s new Line Eraser is an ideal complement to any professional acrylic or gel system. It is easy to use and gives fills and repairs that “like-new” look every time. Just follow the recommended sanitation and fill procedures for the acrylic or gel product you are using. After the primer dries, apply Line Eraser directly to the fill line and allow it to dry for 60 seconds. Complete the process by applying the acrylic or gel product as usual. The results will be flawless fills every time.

Samples are available immediately for evaluation. To request a sample or for questions and additional product information, call CCS today at 1-800-POLYMER or e-mail: polymers@cachemspecialty.com

Line Eraser is the newest addition to CCS’s growing line of cosmetic and natural nail care products. Two other recent advances include CCS Promoted Adhesive Liquid (PAL) monomer and CCS Natural Nail Booster™. PAL is methacrylic acid (MAA)/methyl methacrylate (MMA)-free and requires no primer. This effectively reduces the time required to apply or fill acrylic nails. CCS Natural Nail Booster is specifically formulated to help natural nails grow stronger. Customer feedback on both products has been terrific. If you haven’t tested PAL or CCS Natural Nail Booster, request samples today!



Key Contacts

Two-way communication is essential for building quality customer relationships. At Esschem, we encourage your input and inquiries. To help you reach the right person to assist you, we've prepared the following reference list. Call or e-mail us at any time—we are at your service!

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