

Pinnacle Responds to Late-night Train Derailment

As representatives of the RR's environmental team, Pinnacle's staff over sees clean up efforts.

With rail cars leaking ethanol and posing a threat of fire and explosion, Balaton, MN residents were being evacuated. At least 14 cars, in the 75-car train had derailed. Firefighters and other emergency personnel were called to the scene and the Railroad's haz-mat official was on his way to the site to implement clean up efforts. A train carrying soybean oil and ethanol had derailed in the small town of Balaton, in Southwestern Minnesota, and Pinnacle had been asked to respond.

Getting a late night call at 1:00 am, on the night of July 28th, was not exactly what Pinnacle CEO Jim Holland had expected, although because of past experience, he was ready for it. Once mobilized to the site in the early morning hours Jim, along with a member of his response team, met with a Railroad official and an MPCA representative and completed a site assessment. At this point, the wheels were put in motion to develop a plan for office support of field personnel, including a site safety plan. Working with a team of engineers and technicians, Pinnacle's Project Manager, John Landwehr, developed the site safety plan and made arrange-

ments for its implementation.

Pinnacle's responsibility during this project was to coordinate the work of the subcontractors, and monitor quality control while keeping environmental precautions at the top of our list. Ethanol spills are cause for concern because of possible human health risks and environmental contamination. Project clean up efforts involved cleaning up the spilled ethanol and soybean oil, and appropriately disposing of it by either land-applying it after treatment or to the city lagoons. In addition, arrangements were made for the recovery and transportation of product that remained in damaged tanker cars. Once the product was safely accounted for, railcars needed to be moved and sections of damaged track removed so soils could be excavated and tested. The excavation of soils included sampling, testing and securing site stockpiles.

As part of the clean up efforts, ditch areas around the site were flooded



Many of the cars carried ethanol, creating a hazardous environment for many workers.



Tanker cars are moved out of the way as clean up operations get underway.

with water. Since the sewer line, which connects to the City of Balaton wastewater treatment plant could not accept water pumped from the ditches fast enough, water was pumped into trucks and transported to Balaton's wastewater pond. Once again, Pinnacle was called upon to assist when

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Pinnacle Moves in a BIG Way!

During the month of October, Pinnacle relocated both their corporate headquarters and their Rochester operation to new facilities.

"It wasn't really planned this way—to move both offices within 2 weeks of each other, but that's how it played out," said Eric Hansen, General Manager and VP of Environmental Engineering. "We are glad the hard part is over. Now we need to just fine tune a few things."

Pinnacle's new corporate facility is located at 11541 95th avenue North in Maple Grove. Our Rochester office has moved to a location by the airport at 7389 Airport View Drive Southwest in Rochester, MN. All phone and fax numbers remain the same. Stop on by and say hello.

Environmental Projects in Progress Update

HARBOR DREDGING—Pinnacle is assisting the Winona Port Authority in completing a large harbor dredging project. Pinnacle is responsible for obtaining permits from the DNR, MPCA, Corps of Engineers and the City of Winona for deepening approximately 12 acres of the harbor to a depth of 16 feet. Pinnacle will also be providing engineering services on this project including preparing bid specifications and managing the dredge contractor for the project. This project will result in improved barge facilities for the Port of Winona.

DRY CLEANER INVESTIGATION—Pinnacle is working with the MPCA VIC program to conduct the investigation and cleanup of a chlorinated solvent release from a dry cleaner in the southern metro area. Pinnacle is in the process of delineating the contaminated groundwater plume, which has migrated over one-half mile from the source area. Following completion of the investigation, we will be preparing plans and specifications for the cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater, and partial funding for the cleanup will be provided by the MPCA Dry Cleaner fund.

WISCONSIN NEWS—Regulation Update

Wisconsin Green Tier Legislation Encourages Business to Reduce Pollution

As part of his 'Grow Wisconsin' Economic Plan, Governor Doyle signed Green Tier legislation into law on April 16, 2004. This last major piece in his economic development plan encourages businesses and organizations to develop innovative solutions to enhancing their environmental performance by providing economic incentives for meeting those higher standards.

How Green Tier works

Green Tier is based on recommendations from an advisory committee representing a wide array of business sectors, industry councils, municipalities and environmental organizations. It involves a system of contracts and charters that streamline environmental requirements in many cases and encourage new environmental technologies. *It is the first program of its kind in the country.*

The "Green Tier" law provides several new incentives to environmentally responsible businesses, including regulatory flexibility and permit streamlining. The law also creates a program in which qualified businesses and associations make legal commitments to superior environmental performance through contracts negotiated with the Department of Natural Resources. In exchange, these businesses are afforded some latitude in how they achieve their environmental goals. These provisions will allow the DNR to focus on environmental problems while improving efficiencies for Wisconsin's good environmental actors.

What is the Program Called?

The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) was created for progressive companies that strive to keep in compliance with all DNR and EPA regulations. It provides assurance that you will not be subject to large forfeitures

for voluntarily reporting violations discovered during a compliance audit. The EIP was modeled after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's audit policy and was included in the 2004 Environmental Results Act, (Wisconsin Act 276) also known as Green Tier.

How will this Benefit My Business?

If you have ever wanted to confirm that your business or facility was in compliance with all Department of Natural Resources environmental regulations but the potential for finding a violation during a voluntary self-audit kept you from a closer look; this program is for you. An auditor you select can check for environmental compliance on whatever practices or operations you wish. If any violations are discovered you will have up to a year to correct them while shielded from civil enforcement.

How Much Will This Cost?

The cost of the audit will of course be proportional to the scope of the investigation and the fee charged if you hire an outside auditor. The incentive for you is that for any violations discovered the forfeiture, if any, is capped at \$500 per violation regardless of how long it occurred. If the violation is corrected within 90 days, and this can be extended to a year with DNR approval, there is no other liability. However, the limited forfeiture does not apply to: violations that present an imminent threat or cause serious harm to public health or the environment, violations discovered by the DNR before submission of an audit report, or violations that were known before the audit was started.

For further information on Wisconsin environmental programs, contact **Karl Zenk**, at **608-784-9001**.

Preparing Pinnacle and Peak for Future Growth

by Jim Holland

Realigning staff creates position of readiness for Pinnacle

Over the last 6 months, we have taken the opportunity to add new people to our staff, as well as move others into positions that better fit their qualifications. We approach the next year with anticipation, knowing that as two closely aligned companies, we are prepared for growth.

John Landwehr has moved from Project Manager of Property Transfer Services in Pinnacle's environmental group, to General Manager of Peak Industrial Services. John's new responsibilities are two-fold. First, as Peak General Manager, he will focus on the management and marketing of Peak's services, and oversee all project management. Secondly, he will continue to serve as the marketing liaison between Peak and Pinnacle's industrial engineering group, so services can be allocated based on the entire project scope and in the best interest of our clients.

Alex McLean has joined Peak as Manager of Field Services—see our Peak insert sheet.

Roy Hill will add Property Transfer Services to his list of Project Management duties for Pinnacle's Environmental Services group. Roy has extensive experience with project work and welcomes the added responsibilities.

Katie White has moved from our Receptionist/Administrative Assistant position into a position that will better fit her on-going college education. She is a fast learner and seems to be settling in well as our Accounting Administrative Assistant. Katie is now responsible for client billings and accounts payable.

Sarah Lunneborg-Vance is new to Pinnacle's Receptionist/Administrative position. She has been with us for over three months now and has really had to learn quickly. With the added workload of the office move, Sarah has had a real initiation to her job.

Unique Wastewater System In Baraboo

by Larry Sibik—VP of Process Engineering

An innovative approach to process engineering proves more convenient and economical for the client.

In July, Pinnacle Engineering was asked to provide waste disposal and regulatory compliance services to support a sewer cleaning project. Unlike other sewer cleaning projects, this one was located at the army ammunition plant in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The typical storm sewer sediments also contained highly reactive dinitrotoluene and other chemical residues left over from the production of propellants for naval armaments.

The typical approach to this type of project is to store the water/sludge slurry in on-site tanks and then ship it off-site for disposal. Because of the high shipping and disposal costs associated with this approach, Pinnacle designed and operated an onsite treatment system that separated the solids and liquids. The liquid phase was then further treated to remove any trace contaminants, providing sufficient water quality to allow the water to be reused in the jetting process.

Pinnacle's approach allowed the project team to be awarded the winning bid, undercutting the competition by nearly \$100,000. The project was a success for all involved.

Computer system update brings versatility

Prior to our move, Pinnacle had been in the process of updating our desktop workstations as well as our corporate server system. Both of our non-metro office locations, Rochester and La Crosse, are now fully linked to our corporate computer system. The availability of data and project information has improved the efficiency of both corporate and client communications. Our increased server capacity has put us in a proactive position for future expansion. In addition, we are currently in the process of updating and revamping our web sites to improve the accessibility of project information and service offerings.

"As Pinnacle looks on to another year, I feel very confident of our position in the market place. Our new location and computer upgrades will allow us to expand as necessary to meet and exceed our clients expectations."

Regulatory Calendar

December 15, 2004—Hazardous Waste Annual Report and Hazardous Waste License Application (Hennepin County Residents)

December 31, 2004—Hazardous Waste Training and MCES Industrial Wastewater Sampling (All Permit Holders)

January 1, 2005—P2 Plan Update (Form R Reporters)

January 30, 2005—Air Emissions Deviation Report and Air Emissions Annual Certification (State and Federal Permit holders)

January 31, 2005—MCES Industrial Wastewater Report, Hazardous Waste Annual Report, and Hazardous Waste License Application (Metro Area: county specific)

February 1, 2005—OSHA 300 Log Posting Deadline

February 4, 2005—Hazardous Waste Annual Report and Hazardous Waste License Application (Greater MN)

March 1, 2005—EPA Pesticide Report, MN Pesticide Report for Sales in MN, EPA Biennial Hazardous Waste Report (large quantity generators) and **Tier II Chemical Inventory Report**

March 31, 2005—Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Annual Report

June 30, 2007—Minnesota Petrofund Sunset—the final date to perform reimbursable investigation or cleanup of petroleum storage tanks in Minnesota. Contact **Mike Hultgren** at **763-315-4501** for additional information regarding the Petrofund program or reimbursement procedures.

August 17, 2005—SPCC Plan—the final date to amend your facility's plan to meet the new rule updates—contact **Randy Cook** at **763-315-4501**.

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dissolved oxygen levels decreased in the City of Balaton's waste treatment ponds. Larry Sibik, Pinnacle Process Engineer, and Randy Cook, Pinnacle's Industrial Engineering Project Manager, went to work preparing several plans to remedy the condition of the pond and prevent further problems. After the installation of an improved pump configuration, and consistent monitoring and water quality testing, the ponds water quality improved rapidly. Treatment of the spilled ethanol in this manner saved the railroad tens of thousands of dollars. Pinnacle staff would like to personally thank the MPCA for working with us to provide a very efficient and cost effective solution to this spill.

Throughout this project, Pinnacle staff interacted with a number of emergency response contractors, city and county personnel, Balaton Public Works department, local fire and police departments, and the MPCA. As the primary response facilitator for the Railroad, Pinnacle was able to improve the efficiency of the overall clean up operation by monitoring the efforts of the contractor crews. Repetitive and unnecessary tasks were eliminated, and clean up procedures were organized to take advantage of the location of various contractor equipment on the site. The clean up cost came in significantly under the Railroad's anticipated expenses for the project.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Peter Baerman—Peter started with Pinnacle in July of this year. He is a recent college graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Engineering Technology. Peter works out of Pinnacle's Rochester office in our Industrial Engineering division. His project responsibilities include industrial environmental compliance, air permitting, and industrial air sampling and monitoring.

Those of you who feel up to it may want to challenge Peter to a round of golf...then maybe not—we hear he is pretty good!



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Watch for a **NEW LOOK** to our Pinnacle web site—coming soon!

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