

Economic Recovery Means—"Getting Back to Business"

by Jim Holland P.E./CEO

With the post-war economy showing signs of recovery, Pinnacle anticipates the latter half of 2003 to be one of "getting back to business". With increasing sales and a more positive business climate, many companies are revisiting the need to address business change and expansion issues that were tabled because of limited budgets or lack of funding. Business expansion is becoming a more talked about possibility within the last few months than it has been in over two years.

Pinnacle's services assist business developers, business owners, as well as corporate management in supporting the needs of business expansion, equipment upgrades and regulatory compliance requirements. With this in mind, I foresee a select group of Pinnacle's services being at the forefront as key stepping stones in business recovery—**Land Development and Redevelopment**, and **Industrial Services**.

Our **Land Development and Redevelopment** service sector consists of the following services: Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments; Environmental Reviews (EAW/AUAR); Environmental Permitting; Geotechnical Investigations; and Wetland Delineations, Permitting and Mitigation. Our **Industrial Services** sector includes Environmental Compliance and Reporting; Facility and Process Engineering; Construction Management Services; and Staff Augmentation Services.

Pinnacle's full-service engineering allows a timely response to issues on site, eliminating project delays and unnecessary cost over-runs. From Geotechnical borings and engineer reports and recommendations, to Materials Testing services, Pinnacle's services encompass a complete "*cradle to grave*" approach.

A key aspect to the success of our projects is the close level of interaction between the interested parties. Pinnacle works closely with the parties involved to ensure that critical issues are integrated with the developer's plans. We take pride in these relationships and point to them as the reason for our consistent success. Pinnacle instills innovative thought along with industry proven measures to meet regulatory requirements while striving to meet our client's development/redevelopment goals and budgets.

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New Services Broaden Market Scope

In expanding our approach as a full-service environmental consultant, Pinnacle has expanded our consulting capabilities into two new market areas—the **Agricultural** sector with *Lagoon Sampling* and *Air Quality Sampling*, and the **Construction Management** sector.

- **Agricultural Services**

In the Agricultural sector, Pinnacle is conducting ambient air quality monitoring at a swine production facility in central Minnesota. Hydrogen sulfide concentrations from local lagoons and an on-site treatment system are monitored continuously. Monitoring data is compared to State Ambient Air Quality Primary Standards. The monitoring consists of three locations surrounding the property, including a weather station to provide local wind speed, direction, temperature and relative humidity readings.

- **Construction Management Services**

As the economic recession has taken hold, many Pinnacle clients find themselves too short staffed to appropriately manage their construction and plant modification projects. Pinnacle's Industrial Services group recently provided contractor management services to an ethanol processing facility. The project required the integration of structural, electrical, mechanical, and earthwork contractors. The entire facility was scheduled to be taken out of production for a period of 6 days while the project was completed. Pinnacle successfully completed the project in 4 and 1/2 days thus adding nearly \$100,000 of production time to the facility's schedule.



Installation of a corn dryer

Storage Tank Compliance Issues

November 1, 2003 AST Rule 7151 Deadline: all aboveground storage tanks need to be brought into compliance or be taken out of service by this date—no extension currently offered. Greater than 70% of all tanks still need to be upgraded within a 10 month time period—schedule your inspection now while reimbursement dollars are still available. Currently, a tank owner can get up to a \$10,000 reimbursement based on 90% of the total upgrade or decommission costs. Based on budget concerns, State reimbursement dollars for such compliance upgrades may soon be coming to an end.

“Regulated” Underground Storage Tank Record Keeping: Even though you have updated your system, are you in compliance with required, monthly record keeping?—penalties could cost you thousands! UST Monthly Record keeping is one of Pinnacle's new services. Call us for more information.

For more information on any of the above issues call John Landwehr at 763-315-4501.

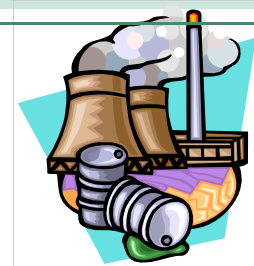
Employee Highlights

Marley Ayres is responsible for Air Quality services at Pinnacle. He has been with Pinnacle for almost 3 years, assisting large industrial clients



with Title V permitting, complex NSR/PSD reviews, and air dispersion modeling. Marley's area of expertise consists of permit application writing and compliance, facility audits, and NAAQS computer dispersion modeling compliance. Marley's education includes a B.S. degree from Iowa State University in 1996, and a law degree from Drake University in Des Moines, IA in 1999 with an emphasis in environmental law.

New SPCC Plan Amendments—What do they mean?



What Facilities Are Affected? In particular, the regulation applies to non-transportation related facilities that:

- Have an aggregate storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons or a completely buried* storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons; and
- Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil in harmful quantities into navigable waters of the United States.

*Those underground storage tanks subject to all of the technical requirements of the UST regulations are **exempt**. Any facility or portions of certain facilities used exclusively for wastewater treatment are also **exempt**.

How can Pinnacle help? Pinnacle's role is to understand and decipher the provisions of the SPCC rules and regulations and determine how or if any apply to your facility. Pinnacle will prepare a SPCC Plan tailored toward an individual facilities needs.

What are the NEW SPCC Rule amendments? The revised rule reduces the number of facilities regulated and the overall regulatory burden.

Highlights of the final rule:

- Exempts completely buried storage tanks subject to all of the technical requirements of the UST regulations;
- Exempts portions of certain facilities or any facility used exclusively for wastewater treatment—does not apply to production, recycling, or recovery of oil;
- Exempts a container size of less than 55 gallons;
- Establishes an aboveground storage capacity threshold of greater than 1,320 gallons and removes the 660 gallon threshold;
- Changes from 3 to 5 years the period in which an owner or operator would be required to review the SPCC Plan;
- Allows deviations from most rule provisions (with the exception of secondary containment requirements) when equivalent environmental protection is provided (substituting one required measure for another);
- Revises the trigger for submitting information on spills at SPCC regulated facilities and reduces the information required to be submitted to the EPA
- The rule allows a professional subordinate to conduct the site visit in place of the Professional Engineer (PE), but the PE must review the subordinate's work and certify the Plan.

For implementation deadlines and any additional information contact a member of Pinnacle's Industrial team:

Bill Kelsey—Leader, Industrial Group Services, Minneapolis, MN
Steve Schleicher—VP, Regional Operations, Rochester, MN

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507-280-5966

Projects in Progress ...

- **Dredge Feasibility Study, Southern, MN**—Pinnacle is assisting a Southern, MN city in evaluating the feasibility of dredging a large lake to improve the quality of the lake. The project involves completing an EAW, evaluating wetland impacts, and obtaining dredging and wetland filling permits.
- **Retail Store Development, Southern, MN**—Pinnacle is assisting a major pharmacy retailer in developing a parcel of land for construction of their store. Pinnacle will be conducting a geotechnical evaluation of the soils, delineating wetlands, and coordinating civil and structural engineering issues.
- **Manufacturing Facilities, MN**—Pinnacle is completing Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Form R/Form A reports for various industrial clientele.
- **Industrial Site Remediation, MN**—Pinnacle is providing a corporate client engineering assistance in dealing with an extensive release of chlorinated solvents to soils and ground waters beneath the facility. Pinnacle has provided guidance that will assist the client in saving several hundred thousand dollars over previous consultants remedial estimates.

Regulatory Calendar

July 30, 2003 (MN)—Air Emissions Deviation Report
July 31, 2003 (MN)—MCES Industrial Wastewater Report

October 24, 2003 (MN)—Hennepin County Grant Program Application deadline

October 25, 2003 (WI only)—Brownfield Application

November 1, 2003 (MN)—Metropolitan Council Brownfield Grant Application deadline

November 1, 2003 (MN)—MN Trade & Economic Development Grant Application deadline

November 1, 2003 (MN)—AST Upgrade Requirement—Rule 7151 deadline—(see compliance issues, page 2)

December 15, 2003 (MN)—Hazardous Waste Annual Report, and Hazardous Waste License Application (Hennepin County)

December 31, 2003 (MN)—Air Emissions Equipment Inventory Report, Hazardous Waste Training, and MCES Industrial Wastewater Sampling

January 30, 2004—Air Emissions Deviation Report, and Air Emissions Annual Certification

January 31, 2004—MCES Industrial Wastewater Report, Hazardous Waste Annual Report, and Hazardous Waste License Application—Metro Area

June 30, 2005—Minnesota Petrofund Sunset—the final date to perform reimbursable investigation or cleanup of petroleum storage tanks in Minnesota—(see compliance issues, page 2).

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In closing, I would like to highlight an example of Pinnacle's engineering effort involving a retail center development project in Winona, MN. The project encompassed all aspects of our environmental engineering services, including wetland delineation and mitigation, EAW preparation and environmental permitting, soil and groundwater contaminant investigation and remediation, and geotechnical investigation. This project required coordination with a number of regulatory agencies, including local, state and federal government. Pinnacle's emphasis on tight project management was key to the successful completion of the project.

For additional information on any of our services, feel free to contact me directly in Minneapolis at 763-315-4501 or, if you prefer, **Steve Schleicher** in Rochester at 507-280-5966.

Upcoming Events

Tradeshows/Conferences:

- **8th Annual Minnesota Development Conference**—October 8-10, 2003, Radisson Hotel South, Bloomington, MN.

Staff Development:

- **Wetland Assessment Workshop**—Scott Thelen and Matt Bartus, August 2003.
- **NSR Modeling (Refresher Course)**—Marley Ayres, September 2003.



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