

## **Technical Session 3: Environmental and Regulatory Considerations**

### **Get Out from Underneath the Spreadsheets! Let's Streamline EHS Management, Digitize EHS Processes, and Build Customized Collaborative EHS Apps**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Historically, manufacturing companies have stuck to 'known' or comfortable ways of tracking their data for corporate and regulatory reporting. They relied on tools such as Excel, or even paper records, to keep track of what was needed for regulatory reporting purposes or corporate environmental, health and safety (EHS) objectives, with no forward-thinking vision for how data could be collected and utilized differently to help achieve greater corporate goals.

EHS Support has worked with many EHS professionals who are locked into and totally dependent on a spreadsheet that they lovingly designed or that has been passed down. While it's hard to let go, it's important to focus on the quality of the end results submitted to EPA and other regulators. Many people come to realize that spreadsheets are perfect the moment they are created, but they can quickly become bloated, cumbersome, and a burden to maintain. Spreadsheets have their role in your business, but if you're looking for a fast and effective improvement to your EHS compliance and reporting (and your schedule), getting rid of your spreadsheets is the way to go. There are dozens of options for better EHS data management programs and most cutting-edge businesses have jumped on the trend of implementing smart EHS Management Systems to help ensure compliance goals are met in a timely, cost-effective, and user-friendly manner.

Small and large companies struggle with tracking various data. This is especially critical in the wood preservation sector where we see only small amounts of data tracked via different methods and numerous spreadsheets, resulting in fractured project management, workflows, and EHS documentation, such as EHS audits, job safety analyses, risk assessments, and incident management. The solution is to not default to the old way, imposing top-down, rigid IT platforms that do not serve any function well. Instead, focus on a connected application platform that will break down these unintentional silos, maintain flexibility, and perform critical data analysis. EHS Support would like to highlight an interactive, collaborative application to digitize records, forms, inspections, etc. and allow personnel of all skill levels to submit information to the system via QR codes.



# **Environmental Justice Concepts and Recent Developments**

**Nick Skoulis**  
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S Glastonbury, Connecticut

## **ABSTRACT**

Updates on Environmental Justice funding, EPA's Grantmaking Program – Justice40 Initiative, Screening tools, and a list of some of the top Overburdened & Underserved Communities in the US. The new culture and potential impact on Industry and how to prepare if “they” come knocking on your door.



## **Coated and Treated Pilings Mitigate Contamination Concerns from Wood Structures in a Gulf Coast Estuary**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Pressure-treated wood timbers are the standard of excellence for visually aesthetic marine structures with a long service life. In particular, pressure treated pilings, dock boards, and railing structures are in high demand throughout coastal regions for foundations, retaining walls, docks, and walkway structures. However, there have been reported concerns over the potential for preservative treatments to leach from treated timber products when these items are used in a coastal saltwater or mixed salt and freshwater habitat. Preliminary testing of a polyurea-based coating over CCA-treated southern yellow pine timbers indicated that after four months of exposure to an artificial saltwater environment, there were undetectable levels of chromium, copper, and arsenic in the surrounding water. Additionally, the water surrounding coated pilings remained clear and free of microbial growth and other discoloration for the duration of the testing. Next stages of this testing are recommended for placement in 1) a freshwater pond habitat with minimal flow rate and 2) a coastal riparian estuary habitat with active flow. A combination of wood preservatives and coating thicknesses will be tested in the selected areas.



## **Koppers Product Stewardship Efforts to Assess Risk of DCOI Oil-Type Preservative Uses**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Although the P39 DCOI standard has been AWPA approved for many years, only in recent years has the technology gained significant commercial attention. Despite this tenure in the treated wood market,

there is no federal government standard or agency recommended occupational exposure limit for which to evaluate a treater's safe level of exposure. We present a summary of the Koppers recommended safe occupational exposure limit derivation and other information that treaters can employ to ensure their treating plant workers are protected from the potential respiratory and skin effects of DCOI.



## **Regulatory Aspects Affecting Reuse of Treated Timber**

**Jeff Keller**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The circular economy has become a popular topic and the planet seeks to constrain resource use. While treated timber has many positive aspects in the circular economy including carbon sequestration, renewability, and long service life, eventually this material must be replaced. The fate of this discarded material is creating challenges that must be addressed if treated timber is to remain a positive force in material usage. This presentation will briefly overview the regulatory constraints associated with reuse/recycling of treated timber and touch on how those might be addressed.