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RECORD ATTENDANCE REPORTED AT 2004 BYPRODUCT BENEFICIAL USE SUMMIT

AKRON, OHIO – November 18, 2004 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Waste News, a leading news source about waste and pollution management, announced that a record number of people attended the 2004 Byproduct Beneficial Use Summit. 200 people attended the third-annual conference that was held November 8-9 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. That represents a 34% increase compared to last year's event.

“The EPA created these Summits in 2002 to help build communication on beneficial use of industrial byproducts, identify barriers and, most importantly, identify practical follow-up actions that can address those barriers. Each year the EPA and Summit attendees work together to move these issues forward, and this year was no exception. For example, attendees received updates on demonstration projects that were started at the first Summit as well as ideas for improving the distribution of those and other results. At next year's Summit we'll have even more success stories to share,” said Mary Setnicar, Chief of the Pollution Prevention and Program Initiatives section at U.S. EPA Region 5.

The Summit supports discussions, between industry and regulators to increase the understanding of industrial byproducts and regulatory programs. State regulators share information and experiences on beneficial reuse regulations and determination processes. And representatives from industry communicate their experiences on navigating the regulator process and to assess the potential to utilize each other's byproducts.

Tom Dunne, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was one of the keynote speakers. He chose this event to announce that the federal government needs to focus primarily on material reuse and recycling rather than regulation. “I'm describing a new kind of EPA, or at least a new kind of waste office. An office that would be more of a collaborator, and less of a commander. More of a facilitator, and less of a regulator. More involved in defining the bigger picture, and less involved in the details of individual projects. More willing to assist with projects that may be initiated by state governments, or by industries themselves,” said Dunne.

Cooperating organizations participating on the agenda committee included EPA Regions 5, 7 and 8, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Mid-America Regional Council, the United States Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Kansas City Environmental Excellence Business Network.

“The record number of attendees proves that there is a great deal of potential regarding beneficial reuse. For example, 53-percent of attendees surveyed said beneficial use of byproducts is *very important* to their company while 20-percent said it's *critical*. It's our hope that this event will build a foundation for cooperation between industry players and regulators that will advance this area,” said Glen Stout, Waste News VP/Publisher.

For more information, visit the event website at <http://www.byproductsummit.com>.

Waste News, a Crain Communications Inc. biweekly publication, is based in Akron, Ohio. It reports on all aspects of air, water, hazardous and solid waste management including industrial and commercial companies that generate waste as well as the recycling, disposal, collection, transportation and processing of waste.

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