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Industry In The Spotlight

Chinese Hardwood Chip Imports Expected To Double

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Chinese hardwood chip imports will double from 6.3 million bone dry metric tons (BDMT) in 2011 to 12.7 million BDMT in 2016, according to the International Pulpwood Trade Review forecast.

China's imports of hardwood chips have increased six-fold over the last four years (2008 to 2011) from 1 million to 6.2 million BDMT. This surge in volume was the result of large new pulp mills being built in China near port facilities. The expected construction of a series of new pulp mills over the next several years will drive China's demand for hardwood chips even higher. While China's demand grows, Japan's projected decrease in domestic production of bleached hard-

wood kraft pulp will continue to diminish its demand for imported hardwood chips.

NY Bill Strikes Language Preferential Toward Plastic Ties

ALBANY, N.Y.—On May 29, New York State Assembly Bill A5580 was amended to delete language considered preferential to plastic composite railroad crossties.

For the purpose of providing background, on Feb. 23, 2011, New York State Assembly Bill 5580 was introduced, giving preference to the purchase and use of plastic composite railroad ties over treated wood ties for certain subway and railroad track systems.

In early 2011 (preceded by similar work in 2010), a coordinated effort was made by the Treated Wood Council, the Railway Tie Association,



Jack Hughes, NS senior research engineer, left, stands next to Howard Tomlinson, center, VP manufacturing and sales, and Doug Mellott, VP of Mellott Wood Preserving, during an inspection of some of the first CuN ties produced at Mellott.

Mellott Reengineers Operations To Meet NS's Need For CuN Ties

In the Jan/Feb issue of *Crossties* Norfolk-Southern (NS) announced its intention to purchase Copper Naphthenate (CuN) ties from two sources for its Piedmont Subdivision. Mellott Wood Preserving reengineered its operations to include this process for NS. ■

Creosote Council and several railroads with New York State Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh to eliminate preferential language for the purchase of plastic ties in New York State A5580.

"We are pleased that this language has been eliminated in

the current amended bill A5580," said Jim Gauntt, RTA executive director. "This is but one example of how leveraging all interests can achieve effective results. Working together, we can accomplish more than individually." ■

KOPPERS NEWS

Roanoke Plant Wins Environmental Award, Branthoover Takes On Customer Service Role

ROANOKE, Va.—Koppers Inc.'s Roanoke facility is the recipient of the Virginia Water Environmental Association's (VWEA) 2012 Industrial Waste and Pretreatment Environmental Excellence Award in the silver category.

The award "recognizes outstanding industries throughout the state of Virginia for their hard work and dedication to protecting the environment," according to the award notice sent to Tim Ries, plant manager.

Water authorities throughout Virginia are asked annually to identify and nominate industries that have consistently achieved 100 percent compliance with the requirements of their pretreatment permits and demonstrated dedication and commitment to pollution prevention, waste elimination/reduction, or conservation through the implementation of an Environmental Management System.

The Western Virginia Water Authority nominated Koppers to receive the



2012 award in the silver category.

"How we manage priorities such as compliance and environmental protection is a demonstration of what is important to the people who work for Koppers," Ries said. "We take these issues and priorities very seriously."

In other Koppers News, Heidi Branthoover has been appointed customer service/product specialist for the CM&C business unit of Koppers. In this position, she will report to Mike Trygar, manager, marketing and sales.

Branthoover has been with Koppers since 2007 as executive assistant to the vice president and general manager of the Railroad and Utility Products and Services business unit. ■