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For Immediate Release

Region VI Pretreatment Association Wraps Up Another Successful Workshop

Irving, Texas (August 6, 2010) – The 26th annual Region VI Pretreatment Workshop was held August 2 – 5, 2010. This year’s workshop was held in Irving Texas. Attendance at the workshop was over 300, including professionals working at the local and state government level along with regional and national E.P.A. officials and many exhibitors.

The Region VI Pretreatment Association was incorporated in 2005 to take over responsibilities from EPA Region 6 for putting on this annual workshop. Formation of the Association was necessary for the continuance of the workshop because of cut backs to the national pretreatment program by the EPA, both in terms of manpower and budget. Thanks to the hard work of the members of the Association the workshop continues as strong and vital as it has always been. This workshop is viewed by many as one of the premier industrial pretreatment workshops.

Each year the workshop planners bring in both national and local speakers to address issues of concern to industrial pretreatment professionals not just in E.P.A. Region VI, but also from around the country. Attendees were presented with information ranging from the pretreatment basics to up and coming pretreatment issues.

As has been the case for many years now, Pretreatment 101 classes were conducted prior to the regular workshop presentations. These classes are always a big hit with the newer pretreatment folks. Over a 100 people attended these classes which are taught by both the Region 6 E.P.A. personnel and the state pretreatment coordinators.

The opening remarks were delivered by Miguel Flores, Director, E.P.A. Region VI Water Quality Protection Division. Jan Pickrel, the national E.P.A. Pretreatment Coordinator, gave an overview of federal pretreatment issues. Dr. Barbara Karn with the National Center for Environmental Research presented attendees with information about nanomaterials and some of the implications this new technology has to the pretreatment field. “We have a new nanomaterial manufacturer in our community that we have struggled with regulating, so I was particularly glad to see this topic being addressed by EPA at the workshop” said Lyle Milby, Assistant Coordinator of Environmental Services for the City of Norman, Oklahoma. Another topical subject was addressed by Vicki

Blazer, United States Geological Survey, who spoke about pollutants of emerging concern.

As if these topics were not enough, there were breakout sessions devoted to Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) programs, energy conservation, lab reports, calculating production-based limits, multijurisdictional issues, drug disposal and take-back programs, annual reports, industrial wastewater treatment technologies, pollution prevention, and more. It was definitely an information packed workshop with topics of interest to everyone. "I was able to learn how to successfully implement best management practices from experts who manage pretreatment programs throughout Region VI. In addition, many exhibitors were able to share technologies which could be applied to the City's Pretreatment Program. With so many exhibitors, I was able to do comparison shopping for products and services during the conference," said Ann Wilson, Superintendent of Environmental Services for the City of Alexandria, Louisiana.

On the last day of the workshop an awards ceremony was held to recognize the pretreatment program in Region 6 that had accomplished the most to promote and implement pollution prevention with the industries regulated through their program and their community at-large. The award was presented to Ta' Soriaga, Environmental Quality Division Manager for the City of Carrollton, Texas.

Most of the presentations are available on the Region VI Pretreatment Association's website, www.regionvipretreatmentassociation.org. Start making plans now to attend next year's workshop, scheduled for August 1 – 4, 2011 in Irving, Texas.