

TECO Industry Advisory Council Meeting - 2005

TECO's Industry Advisory Council meeting was held in Shreveport, Louisiana at Sam's Town. The meeting kicked off on Tuesday evening (February 2) with a Welcoming Reception.

The official meeting started on Wednesday morning with the Marketing Session of the agenda. Bernard Fuller provided his assessment of what the North American panel markets can expect over the next two years. Dr. Joe Chang from LSU gave an update to the panel pricing analysis he presented at last year's IAC. As the 2004 Hurricane season in Florida got everyone's attention, we invited Jason Smart of the Institute for Business & Home Safety to share his assessment of the damage and provide ideas for construction improvements. Pat McCullen of the International Accreditation Service (IAS) unfortunately was bitten by the flu bug and canceled but Jim Vogt covered for him nicely.

Steve Winistorfer kicked off the Technical Session of the meeting after lunch with a brief overview of TECO's continuous improvement efforts. Steve was followed by Jeff Smith of Tinius Olsen, who provided insight on the measures that Company takes to calibrate and maintain Universal Test Machines.

Mid-afternoon, shuttle buses took the group to the Shreveport Laboratory. Once at there, the attendees were warmly welcomed to the new and spotless facility. Scott Drake and the Shreveport Lab staff provided a tour of the lab and gave test machine demonstrations. Folks got the opportunity to get a first hand look at the various tests we perform on their products as well as provide the forum for questions and interaction with TECO staff.

After all of the dust cleared, the lab materialized into a party hall. The Red River Playboys, a local band from Shreveport, set up shop and began the entertainment for the evening while Gumbo Daddy's Catering treated the group to a feast of Creole catfish, seafood gumbo, jambalaya, banana pudding and all the fixings for a good experience of Southern cooking. Again, a huge "thanks" is extended to the Shreveport Lab group for making the tour and Open House such a success. Many customers took the time to compliment TECO on both the new lab and the afternoon's experience.

The Technical Session continued on Thursday morning with Bill Arndell, a scientist with Borden Chemical, discussing the resin systems used in structural wood products. He was followed by Bob Carey of Georgia-Pacific Resins, who provided his view on the economics of resins and adhesives used in wood products. Jim Vogt then addressed apparent shortcomings of the existing panel standards with regard to adhesives. To conclude the topic of resins and adhesives, Jon Vehring, a graduate research assistant at Michigan Tech University, presented the findings of a resin mold study that was sponsored by TECO.

The last guest presenter was Dr. Peter Laks, Professor, also with Michigan Tech, who provided his view on the effectiveness of borates for termites and the preservative treatment of wood products. The afternoon concluded with the TECO staff offering updates on current programs and the status of various standards.