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Upcoming Events:

2008 PTS
May 3-4, 2008

2008 Annual Meeting
May 4-6, 2008

Hyatt Regency
San Antonio, TX

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Polytopics

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Climate Change May Be Industry's Next Big Challenge

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Emerging Policies on Climate Change Will Impact Industry

As U.S. policies on global warming and climate change continue to emerge, industry may face new business challenges within the next few years. Although some critics are not convinced by the scientific evidence to support climate change, restrictions and limitations on carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases ("GHG") appear to be a reality for the U.S. Political momentum for action to reduce GHG at the national level is accelerating, new legal precedents and scientific research are reshaping the priorities of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and states, and the results of the 2008 elections are likely to drive more aggressive requirements that may place constraints on the growth of U.S. manufacturing.

Recent Developments

A wide range of activity has occurred on climate change in the past year, including: reignited international negotiations, California's highly controversial carbon initiatives and a new energy law signed by President Bush on December 19, 2007. The following less-visible activities will also be critical in shaping the political and regulatory agenda for U.S. climate change policy:

- **U.S. Supreme Court** – The court rules six months ago in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, a decision legal observers note may be "the most important case in the history of environmental law" in the U.S.

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** – EPA is reacting to the Court's decision and reviewing the scope of its regulatory reach to regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act affecting not only automobiles but also manufacturing facilities, which means major requirements for many segments of manufacturing.
- **U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works** – Under the leadership of Charwoman Barbara Boxer, the panel by a vote of 11-8 approved legislation on December 5, 2007 to set limits on U.S. GHG emissions at 70% of 2005 levels by 2050. How these numbers were derived would be interesting to know.
- **Midwest Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord** – In one of three major U.S. regional efforts pursued by groups of states, nine Midwestern states and a Canadian province formalized an agreement on November 15, 2007 to set emission reduction targets and create a market-based system within the next twelve months to achieve these goals.

Outlook

Regardless of whether Congress enacts major climate change legislation in 2008, EPA must sort through several major regulatory and legal matters that will set the stage for future action, and key state regional agreements will advance new arrangements for regulating GHGs. In the meantime, the November elections will serve as a milestone for how far and how fast climate change policy will move forward.

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What Can Industry Do?

Industry needs to be well informed on legislation being considered at the State and Federal levels and, as a matter of good engineering and business management, focus on wise use of energy efficient technologies in planning capital projects. PMA will attempt to provide follow-up articles as this legislation evolves.

Don't forget to update your PPE hazard assessments!

PMA Annual Meeting...coming up fast!

If you have not yet registered for the PMA Annual Meeting or Processing Techniques Seminar (PTS) – sign up today! Space is still available, but advance registration is required and the hotel is almost sold-out!

http://www.pmahome.org/news/annual_meetin_2008/annual_meeting_2008.htm

Visit the PMA web site to:

Register yourself or your staff

See who else is attending

Add a guest/spouse to your registration

Sign up for the John Jarvis Golf Outing

Submit an abstract for a Poster

Review detailed information about the sessions and speakers

Find local restaurants and activities for Monday's Open Evening

Hope to see you there!

PMA New Members

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