



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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CORNING'S WILMINGTON OPTICAL FIBER MANUFACTURING FACILITY RECOGNIZED AS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD

RALEIGH – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources today recognized Corning Inc.'s Wilmington Optical Fiber Manufacturing Facility as one of three 2004 Environmental Stewards. The award recognizes the Wilmington facility's superior environmental performance, commitment to continued reduction of its environmental impact and demonstrated commitment to exceed compliance.

The state's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, designed to promote and encourage superior environmental performance by North Carolina's regulated community, began in 2002. An "Environmental Steward" is an organization that has demonstrated environmental leadership through its commitment to exemplary environmental performance beyond what is required by regulation. As an Environmental Steward, the organization commits to reporting annually on its environmental performance.

"Corning continues to set the bar in the development of management systems for efficient and environmentally friendly manufacturing," said DENR Secretary William G. Ross Jr. "The company serves as an example that industry can be both successful in commerce and a steward of the environment in which it operates."

A 10-member advisory workgroup appointed by Ross provides program direction and implementation and recommended that Corning's optical fiber manufacturing facility be selected as an Environmental Steward. Advisory workgroup membership consists of individuals from industry, industry trade groups, environmental and citizen nongovernmental organizations, government, academia and small business. (Advisory workgroup members are listed on p. 2.)

Reasons cited by the advisory workgroup in its selection of Corning's optical fiber manufacturing facility include:

- The establishment of aggressive goals that include raw material substitution to reduce air emissions and market development for waste products;
- Its practice of operating well below permitted limits and implementing management techniques beyond those required by regulation;
- Involvement in local environmental events and service on local environmental associations; and
- Corning's integration of environmental management into its core business operations through activities including performance-based bonuses and evaluation of capital projects based on regulatory and environmental criterion.

"We are very pleased to be recognized as an Environmental Steward by the state of North Carolina," said Tom Nettleman, division vice president and plant manager for Corning's Wilmington optical fiber manufacturing facility. "At Corning we strive to go beyond all applicable laws and regulations, and are firmly committed to protecting the environment through continuous improvement of our processes, products and services."

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Corning is the world's largest and only remaining American-owned manufacturer of optical fiber.

The ESI program has two other levels of participation and recognition: Environmental Partner and Rising Environmental Steward. The Environmental Partner level is designed for adoption by a broad range of organizations that are interested in beginning the process of developing a systematic approach to improving their environmental performance. Partners must demonstrate a commitment to maintain compliance, commit to establishing an environmental management system and set environmental performance goals.

The Rising Environmental Steward is designed for those organizations that have a mature EMS. In addition to demonstrating a mature EMS, Rising Environmental Stewards must set measurable environmental performance goals and demonstrate a commitment to go beyond compliance. The ESI program currently has 40 Environmental Partners, eight Rising Environmental Stewards and five Environmental Stewards.

For more detailed information or to apply for the program, please visit the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Web site at <http://www.p2pays.org/esi> or contact John Burke of the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at (336) 249-1480 or john.burke@ncmail.net.

2004 Advisory Workgroup Members

Dr. Richard Andrews	UNC-Chapel Hill
Kristin Beck	Progress Energy
Jack Blackmer	Novozymes N.A.
Alan Briggs	Sustainable North Carolina
Jimmy Carter (chair)	DENR
Brig. Gen. Robert Dickerson	MCB Camp Lejune
Preston Howard Jr.	MCIC
Matt Jordan	City of Gastonia
Mike Nelson	Conservation Council of N.C.