



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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GKN DRIVELINE SANFORD PRECISION FORMING FACILITY RECOGNIZED AS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD

RALEIGH – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources today recognized the GKN Driveline Sanford Precision Forming facility as the 2005 Environmental Steward. The award recognizes the 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.

"GKN is a leader in the development of management systems for efficient and environmentally friendly manufacturing," said DENR Secretary William G. Ross Jr. "The company strives to reduce its environmental footprint not only for the betterment of North Carolina, but also for future generations worldwide."

A 12-member advisory workgroup appointed by Secretary Ross provides program direction and implementation and recommended the GKN Sanford 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 GKN Sanford include:

- Integration of environmental management into core business operations through multiple processes for internal communication of environmental issues, and driving environmental awareness through efficiency improvement and awards programs;
- Manufacturing processes that significantly minimize energy, water use and waste generation;
- Streamlining wastewater treatment plant operations to decrease pollutant levels significantly below permit requirements; and
- Sustainable development to embrace harmony between the environment, the economy and the community.

"GKN Driveline Sanford Precision Forming Facility is very honored to have been selected as the 2005 Environmental Steward by DENR," said Charles Corwin, global director of GKN Forging Operations and the Sanford facility plant manager. "The award reinforces our employees' commitment to environmental excellence and sustainable development through the implementation of an effective environmental management system based on active employee involvement. In accepting this recognition from DENR, GKN is looking forward to a stronger partnership with the state, our customers, suppliers and above all our employees," he added.

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The ESI program has two additional 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 Environmental Rising Steward level is recommended to organizations that have a mature EMS in place and have set site-specific measurable environmental performance goals.

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 Norma Murphy with the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at (919) 715-6513 or Norma.Murphy@ncmail.net.

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2006 Advisory Workgroup Members

Jennifer Adams	Corning Inc.
Katy Ansardi	Sustainable North Carolina
Kristin Beck	Progress Energy
Jack Blackmer	Novozymes North America Inc.
Jimmy Carter (chair)	Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Alex O. Davis	U.S. Naval Air Depot Cherry Point
Eric Henry	TS Designs
Preston Howard Jr., P.E.	MCIC
Matt Jordan, P.E.	City of Gastonia
Todd Miller	North Carolina Coastal Federation
Ivan Urlab	North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association
Danny Yount	ASMO North Carolina