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I grew up on a tobacco/cattle farm near the coal fields in Eastern Kentucky---I still have the farm and naturally think it's the most beautiful place on earth. In 1974, I graduated from Centre College with majors in Chemistry and in Economics & Management, which was followed by a five-year stint in the toxicology lab of the state of Kentucky's Medical Examiner's Program in Frankfort.

In 1980, I began working at the University of Kentucky's Institute of Mining and Minerals Research (later the Center for Applied Energy Research-CAER) where I have remained for nearly 26 years. During the first 15 years, I worked on a number of energy-related projects including coal liquefaction, oil-shale pyrolysis, and tar sand extraction. During much of this same period, I was also enrolled part time in graduate school at the University of Kentucky where I obtained a Masters degree in analytical chemistry in 1986, followed by a Ph.D. in 1994. Over the following ten years, my research interests focused mainly on the environmental aspects and the utilization of coal-combustion byproducts (fly/bottom ash). In 1997, I initiated an industrial support program which remains my primary focus with over 1,400 'jobs' completed and in excess of \$3M having been generated to date.

About 8-9 years ago, I became interested in the agglomeration of coal fines after learning that an estimated 2-billion tons of waste fines are stored in waste impoundments and gob piles around the US. An estimated 10% of the coal we mine in this country is discarded due to obstacles related to shipping and handling of fine-coal particles. I felt (and still do) that agglomeration can be the key to resolving these issues. Methods to clean and recover the fines are known but commercial agglomeration must overcome the high costs associated with drying the fine coal and adding a binder. It is the latter, development of more cost-effective binders, which has been the focus of my work in agglomeration. In 2002, I teamed on a DOE-funded project to produce a premium briquetted fuel from waste coal and sawdust. My primary responsibility was to identify cost-effective binders for coal and sawdust blends, results of which were presented at the 2005 IBA meeting in Clearwater. It was also this research that led me to my first IBA meeting two years ago in Sante Fe, at which several contacts were made that have proven invaluable. My research in agglomeration will soon be expanding into disk pelletization as, earlier this year, I received a Homeland security grant to use this method to coat ammonium nitrate prills. This project will be an attempt to eliminate the explosive potential of AN when mixed with fuel oil (ANFO) as used in the bombings in Oklahoma City and the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta. I'm very excited about this project as 1) I have an idea that might actually work and 2) I get to go to Fort Knox and blow things up, not something I get do every day in the lab-or at least not intentionally.

Personal: Married for 31 years with two children, 19 and 23.
Interests and hobbies: 4-wheeling, back packing, skiing, and beer brewing