

# Institute for Briquetting and Agglomeration



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IBA WEBSITE: [www.agglomeration.org](http://www.agglomeration.org)

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## FROM BILL'S DESK:

### **9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGGLOMERATION 2009**

This event will be held June 22-26, 2009, at Sheffield, UK, with a two-day granulation course on June 22, 23 and the actual symposium on June 24, 25 and 26. The announcement was issued by the University of Sheffield ([simon.butler@sheffield.ac.uk/content/1/c6/09/13/57/All\\_abstracts.pdf](mailto:simon.butler@sheffield.ac.uk/content/1/c6/09/13/57/All_abstracts.pdf))

For registration: [www.shef.ac.uk/agglom2009/registration.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/agglom2009/registration.html)

The first ever International Symposium was held in 1961 in Philadelphia, PA, USA.

141 accepted abstracts is an impressive number and this promises to become a popular agglomeration event. Past symposia have been held in several different countries (Germany, France, UK, Thailand, Japan come to mind as well as USA and Canada).

There was a time, when IBA was somewhat concerned, when the IBA Conference fell into the same year as this international event. One time, when I was involved with the symposia and also assisted in planning the IBA event, we managed to contact the symposia event planners, who at the time agreed to refer nonselected abstracts to IBA. We actually picked up several papers that way, all good topics and of interest to IBA participants.

Just a thought.

## **INDEX TO ARTICLES 1987-2008, POWDER AND BULK ENGINEERING**

This annual PBE index appeared in the December 08 issue. The agglomeration section lists 3 case histories, 2 custom processor articles, 2 on new installations, 5 on test centers and 44 technical articles, including 15 agglomeration advisor columns from 2001 to 2008. For current and past articles contact [www.powderbulk.com](http://www.powderbulk.com), click article index and search by subject, organization or author.

## **TABLES & CAPSULES, NOV. 2008**

PBE's sister publication for the pharmaceutical sector (Buyer's Guide) has a listing for agglomeration equipment, by category, e.g. encapsulator, extruder, fluid bed, granulator, mixing agglomerator, pastillator, roller (i.e. roll compactor), rotary fluid bed, spherodizer and spray. Tablet presses are listed as a separate category, almost 3 pages. Another listing of T&C, of interest to agglomeration practitioners is "excipients", with a sub-category of "binders."

## **COAL AGE, OCTOBER 2008**

There are 11 US states with coal preparation (cleaning) plants, with the highest number in Kentucky and West Virginia, 73 and 70 respectively, of a total of 275 prep plants. Leaders in this field are CONSOL Energy, Massey Energy, Patriot Coal, Peabody Energy, Alpha Natural Resources, International Coal Group and James River Coal.

The conference and exhibition serving this market has just been announced, International Coal Prep 2009, April 27-30, Lexington, KY, with approximately 180 exhibits and a 3 1/2-day conference program.

For more information: [www.coalprepshow.com](http://www.coalprepshow.com)

## **MORE COAL AGE, NOVEMBER 2008**

This issue brings a comprehensive review of one of the largest and most important international mining shows, sponsored by National Mining Association, held last year in September at Las Vegas, NV. This is held every 4 years. 2008 featured almost 1300 exhibitors. Attendance was said to be 44% higher than 4 years ago. This show covers all types of mining and minerals processing and support services. Publications covering these fields include Coal Age and Engineering and Mining Journal.

## **FROM COAL AND MINERALS TO LIFE SCIENCES**

Not so big a leap, since agglomeration can be found at many places, the 2009 INTERPHEX conference/exhibition, is announced for New York, March 17-19, co-locating with BIOTECHNICA America, and covering pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical devices. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year for this event. Info: [www.interphex.com](http://www.interphex.com) or 888-334-8704.

## **WORLD OF COAL ASH CONFERENCE 2009**

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY will be the site of this event (American Coal Ash Association and UK/CAER), planned for May 4-7. For info: [www.worldofcoalash.org](http://www.worldofcoalash.org)

The above is straight news. The following is, perhaps, more of an opinion piece, drawn from the daily paper, in this case the East Tennessee coal ash sludge pond rupture and resulting concerns about toxic and potentially problematic contaminants, to be studied and, hopefully, remedied. A typical news report in January 7<sup>th</sup> New York Times, goes into detail about regulated and unregulated (their term) ash impoundments and, in the light of the recent spill, future concerns.

This writer is looking forward to see a program at WOCA, which addresses this recent and potentially future topic to the enlightenment of the coal industry, the energy producers and the general public, with perhaps many towns, homes and streams nearby.

I am sure the topic will be red hot and timely and no one would be pointing fingers, but rather come up with a plan for a solution, or better prevention.

This, I hasten to add, is an opinion from some one, living in a landscape of slopes, hills, rivers and winding roads. Not too different from Kingston, East Tennessee topography.

## **PBE 2009 SOUTH**

The Southeast Conference/Exhibition will happen in Atlanta, GA, April 28-30, covering the field also done by PTXI, Rosemont, IL, of powder/bulk solids handling and processing in all its aspects. It all happens northwest of Atlanta proper at the Cobb Galleria Center. Online info: [www.powderbulk.com](http://www.powderbulk.com).

## **AIR QUALITY VII, Oct. 26-29, 2009**

International conference on carbon management, mercury, SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter, Arlington, VA, EERC/EPRI, DOE and NETL. For info: [www.undeerc.org/AQ7](http://www.undeerc.org/AQ7)

## **UW IS GOING TO HOUSTON, MARCH 2009**

Two more in the ongoing seminar programs of the University of Wisconsin, Madison; these two at Houston, TX, March 9-11, Chemical Engineering for non-Chemical Engineers and March 17-19, The Art and Science of Industrial Mixing. Other UW courses at various locations and 2009 dates cover: dryer technology, Atomization and Spray Technology, Powder and Bulk Mixing, Pilot Plants.

For details, contact: <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/webK574> or 800-462-0876

## **RECOMMENDED MATERIAL**

Two topics dealing with mixing and blending, in two publications:

- ❖ Mixing and Blending, Selecting Solids Mixers: Factors to Consider, Peter van der Wel, Tablets & Capsules, July 2008
- ❖ Mixer and Blender Capabilities Chart, PBE, January 2009, pp. 74-81 covering 32 manufacturers and multiple mixer types. This is a helpful guide, when doing early comparisons of capabilities, methods, materials handled, capacities, etc.

In the same PBE issue, pp 82-87 is an article on a contract manufacturer (tolling) producing granules, tablets, briquets, as the article title explains, in addition to other processing and packaging steps.

For some one looking for a way to develop a new product without early investment in a permanent plant, or off-site processing, especially involving agglomeration, this article is recommended. One often repeated question this writer gets from the field is “Where can I get “x” 100’s of pounds of “x” tons of my material toll processed?” Here is a least one good answer.

Interested in plastics co-extrusion and compounding? Another article in PBE January 2009, pp. 104-109, “Feeders provide highly accurate repeatable feedrates.” It is about feeders, but also about thermoplastics/resins contract processing.

## **ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**

Well, actually, partly lighter, but also a little serious, in these economically/financially challenged times:

Fortune (March 2006) – I saved it for future review – printed its Most Admired Companies List, with many good names and a few surprises: GE, FedEx, SW Airlines, P&G, Starbucks, Johnson & Johnson, Berkshire Hathaway, Dell Toyota, Microsoft, Apple, Wal-Mart, UPS, Home Depot, PepsiCo, Costco, American Express, Goldman Sachs, IBM, 3M. Times for some, have changed. I don’t have the new list.

**“AGGLOMERATE AND COMMUNICATE!”**

## **IBA UPDATE**

**Tom Feldkamp, Executive Director**

Last June I had unexpected surgery for a brain tumor. So I am just following the doctor's orders for rest, medical instructions and of course to receive as many prayers as I can.

My wife, Marilyn, has been doing most of the work on the upcoming conference, which is in San Antonio in September 2009. Between Marilyn and Tom Barnett I believe most everything is ready to go, but we need a **commitment from more of our members to give a paper** at the conference. At our last conference in Savannah, a number of people inquired if they could receive a CD of the papers when registering at the meeting. This is possible only if we have the papers accepted and delivered to the printer by September 1.

As we get closer and further details are available they will be sent to each member, either by email or a mass mailing. Meanwhile, if you have any questions you can contact me through the website or Tom Barnett directly. The hotel is fairly new and I personally am looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

### **The 2009 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference, September 27-30, 2009**

We are now well into 2009 and plans need to be made to attend our upcoming conference in San Antonio, Texas. Hotel Contessa is located on the River Walk and is a Benchmark hotel. It has 265 luxury suite accommodations which include a bedroom with a separate parlor. Please see their website [www.thehotelcontessa.com](http://www.thehotelcontessa.com)

We have obtained a rate of \$199 plus taxes per night. Reservations can now be made by contacting the hotel at 210-229-9222 or you can visit the IBA website for a direct online link to the hotel for reservations. Be sure to mention that you are with the IBA for the rate.

Fees for the technical conference will be \$580 for IBA members and \$680 for non-members. Spouse/

Guest fees are \$150. A registration form for the conference is included with this newsletter because we are sure you want to sign up early and take advantage of the early arrival and late departure dates based on availability. Meeting Room Amenities include State-of-the-Art Technology, Ergonomic Chairs, and Glare-Free Lighting.

The Monday night off-premise event, which will be held at the Rio Casa restaurant overlooking the river, is within walking distance of the hotel. Details on the spouse/guest tour will be in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

San Antonio River Walk is 8 miles from the San Antonio International Airport. 12 airlines serve the airport providing non-stop flights to and from domestic and international destinations. Taxi fare from the airport to the River Walk is presently \$22. There is also a SA Trans AirportExpress shuttle for \$14.

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**Call for IBA Papers**

Papers are invited concerning, but not limited to, specific aspects of particle size enlargement in the fields of Agrichemicals, Biomass, Ceramics, Charcoal, Coal, Chemical, Environmental Impact, Foods, Iron Ore, Minerals, Pharmaceuticals and Waste Recycling, as well as the scientific fields of Binders (natural and synthetic), Particle Flow, Particle-Size Effects and Quality Control Methods. Articles are invited that describe practical and theoretical studies of the agglomeration process. This includes unit operations within the system. **Abstracts are now being accepted for the September conference**

and may be submitted to: [tnfeldkamp@centurytel.net](mailto:tnfeldkamp@centurytel.net) or IBA, Tom Feldkamp, PO Box 297, Manitowish Waters, 54545. For more information on IBA, consult our website: [www.agglomeration.org](http://www.agglomeration.org). It would be helpful at this time if our members or someone you may know would notify us if there is any interest in presenting a Paper. Our conferences offer excellent, interesting papers and you may know of someone who could add to the diversification that is needed. Our goal is to receive the completed papers by September 1, 2009, so that we can have a CD available at the registration.

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**IBA Workshop/Training Session**

The Sunday afternoon Agglomeration Workshop was a huge success at the 2007 conference. The half-day seminar in 2009 will be **“Particle Size Enlargement through Agglomeration: Methods and Practices”**. The Workshop will include topics such as briquetting, compacting, pelletizing, granulation, extrusion, spray-drying/granulation and tableting. Additional topics will include binders and methods for measuring the quality of agglomerates. The workshop is designed to give the participant a good preparation for the technical conference. The Board of Directors will be meeting in late April and at that time more information will be available. Early registration fee is \$400, but after August 1, 2009, it will be \$500.

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**Vendor Night**

We have had successful Vendor Nights the last few conferences. Last year there were nine different companies/universities that presented their product line in a tabletop fashion. Vendor Night will take place on Sunday, September 27 following the workshop. In addition to the obvious benefit of displaying equipment and/or literature, it gives everybody an opportunity to mingle socially prior to the technical conference the next day. We were told by attendees that this was one of the side benefits of the Vendors Night, for they felt more comfortable and open in discussing applications with their fellow colleagues.

There will be limited space available and therefore an early decision on your part would be advisable. The cost for each vendor will be \$600 and they will be fully acknowledged in our program. If further information is needed, contact me.

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**Something New!**

I am sure you have noticed the new logo on this newsletter. Many thanks to Chris Kozicki of Feeco International and some of his staff for designing the logo along with the updated IBA website at [www.agglomeration.org](http://www.agglomeration.org). The site has many new features in it, from copies of old newsletters to profiles of Board Members and past conference presenters. It is easy to search for information.

There are 15 company links on the IBA website. The fee is just \$100 per year and our year begins May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010. Invoices will be sent out in March/April.

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**IBA Proceedings, Volume 30, 2007**

The CD of the Proceedings from the 2007 conference was sent to all members. Remember we have most back issues available for purchase. Please contact me if you are interested.

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**Current Newsletter**

If you have changed your email address or have not supplied us with one, please do so. We will continue to mail the newsletter to the members who have not advised us of their email address.

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**Membership Dues Invoice for 2009-2010**

2007-2008 biennial membership dues expired December 31, 2008. We are reminding members who have not yet paid and an invoice is attached for their convenience. The Board of Directors have decided to drop the company dues fee, since it covered only two members and more than two members from a company had to pay individual dues.

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**Sharing News**

Please keep in mind that we will gladly share any news with our members. Just let us know.

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**New Members - Welcome**

- Frank Rafter, Aeroglide Corporation, Trevoise, PA
- Mike Weber, Kercher Industries, Inc., Lebanon, PA
- Don Harfield, Alberta Research council, Vegreville, AB, Canada
- Steve Marland and B. Jones, HRL Technology Pty Ltd, Morwell VIC Australia
- Narayan Govindaswami, Charlotte, NC
- Dr. Gregorio Borge, Bostlan, S.A., Spain