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ScienceDirect
Journal of Hazardous Materials 159 (2008) 1
Journal of Hazardous Materials
www.elsevier.com/locate/jhazmat

Foreword

This special issue of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials* contains papers presented at the 2006 Annual Symposium of the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center. This event, that was held on 23–24 October 2006 at the Brazos Center, near the Texas A&M University campus in College Station, Texas, focused on research, education, training, and service issues.

The objectives for holding this Symposium are threefold. First, this annual event provides the stakeholders with research reports and updates on the activities and programs of the Center. Second, we strongly believe that the Center can help solve the complex and intriguing problems faced by the industry. Having identified these problems in discussions and forum activities at the Symposium, the tremendous expertise and resources available at the Center can be brought to bear through research and educational programs to solve the problems. Finally, we believe this Symposium provides an independent and unbiased forum for exchange of ideas and discussion among academia, industry, regulators, and the general public.

The papers compiled here have been through a comprehensive peer-review process. Each paper was evaluated by two to three relevant experts for technical content, intellectual merit, and overall quality, and then revised as necessary, based on reviewer comments. These papers cover many aspects of process safety including regulatory issues, hazard assessment and risk management, process management, inherent safety, reactive chemicals, plant security, and others.

We hope you receive maximum benefit from this special issue, and that together, we can fulfill the vision of making safety second nature.

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Available online 13 February 2008

doi:10.1016/j.jhazmat.2008.02.010