Environmental Control Committee

The first meeting of the Environmental Control Committee was held in Dallas on April 27, 1975, with the first order of business being revision of the membership. Those who had retired or were inactive were dropped, and people who could make a contribution and who represented a good cross section of the interests of the Society were invited to become members. The response was excellent, and the current membership consists of the following nine individuals: E.F. Harp, chairman (vice-president and director of engineering, Armak Co.), Reuben O. Feuge (ARS, USDA), Earle Fritz (manager of process engineering, Union Camp Corp.), Edward N. Gerhardt (manager of analytical research, Emery Industries, Inc.), J.P. Krumbein (director of engineering, Reichold Chemicals, Inc.), G.N. McDermott (The Procter & Gamble Co.), Frank E. Middleton, Jr. (director of research & development, The C.F. Sauer Co.), D. Moffatt (manager of engineering, Armour-Dial), Francis B. White (manager of international operations and coordinating manager, Foster-Wheeler Corp.,), and Norman H. Witte (manager of technical dept., Central Soya).

On September 9, the committee submitted to W.E. Link its recommendation on the invitation to AOCS from Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., chairman of the Subcommittee on the Environment and the Atmosphere, to submit written statements for the hearings to be held on the effects and costs of chronic, low level exposure to man-made pollutants.

The next important task the committee faces is to review its present charter and recommend any modifications that will make it more effective.

Local Section Committee

The Local Section Committee is a special committee whose scope is to improve and strengthen relationships among the Society's local sections and to find ways in which they can help each other. The chairman of this committee (currently F.P. Khym) is the elected secretary of the Society. However, an executive chairman (currently R.G.Krishnamurthy), who will serve for a minimum period of two years, is appointed by the Society president to assure continuity in committee functions. The remaining members of the committee are the presidents and vice-presidents of various local sections or their appointed delegates. At this time, they include R. Husch, K.-Y. Tao, F.E. Luddy, R.H. Purdy, J.E. Blum, L.L. Schwalley, and J. Robinson.

Since its inception over a year ago, the Local Section Committee has met three times, establishing a good working relationship among its members. Discussion of ways and means to expand the technical activities of the various local sections has assumed paramount importance on each agenda in view of the impending change to one national meeting a year. The committee's deliberations have resulted in many "actions" and proposals. Among them is the creation of an Ad Hoc committee by the Society's Governing Board. This committee is composed of the chairmen of the Local Section, Education, and National Program Planning committees and is responsible for exploring various avenues to expand the activities of the local sections in the technical area. As a first step in reaching these objectives, the National Program Planning Committee has been asked to compile a list of topics of interest to Society members and possible speakers in each of these areas. The first such list will be presented to the concerned committees at the New Orleans National Meeting in Spring, 1976.

The Local Section Committee, along with other concerned committees, is working toward the following goals: (1) Inclusion of a symposium in the annual Technical Program of each of the local sections; only North Central and Northeast sections have such symposia on an annual basis. Further expansion of such symposia to make it worthwhile for people from distant places to attend. (2) Organization of regional mini-meetings on a rotating basis starting in Fall, 1976, in cooperation with the local sections. (3) Organization of a local section in the South. (4) Integration of the list of speakers drawn from the Bond Award Committee evaluation with that provided by the National Program Planning Committee.

Committee on Soap and Synthetic Detergent Analysis

A technical committee in AOCS and an active working subcommittee (D12.12) in the American Society for Testing and Materials, this 28-member committee has as its scope the development of methods of analysis for soaps and synthetic detergents acceptable to both AOCS and ASTM.

Among the committee's accomplishments is development of a variety of analytical methods, principally in the areas of sampling and chemical analysis of fatty alkyl sulfates and alkylbenzene sulfonates. Prior to 1960, a great deal of method development work on soaps and soap products was also completed. Methods in these areas have been published both in the AOCS Book of Methods and in Part 30 of ASTM.

Chaired by E.A. Setzkorn, the committe is currently working on analytical procedures for a new type of detergent (α-olefin sulfonate) and analytical methods for the analysis of additives in formulated commercial detergents. Its goals are to publish methodology for new classes of surfactants which are offered commercially by the soap and detergent industry and to develop analytical methods for new detergent additives and update older methods as improved techniques become available. At the present time, active task groups exist in the following areas: Analysis of Sodium Citrate in Detergents (TG-34), Analysis of Alpha Olefin Sulfonates (TG-35), Analysis of Carboxymethylcellulose (TG-36), and Analysis of Linear Alkylbenzene (TG-37).

Major goals of future work are to remain as current as possible in developing methods for the analysis of new surfactants and additives and to work in close liaison with the International Standards Organization (ISO), reviewing and commenting on ISO methods prior to ISO publication and selecting appropriate USA methods (ASTM) for submission to ISO and possible subsequent ISO publication. The committee also needs to work in several areas of surfactant analysis in which it has not been partcularly active, such as analysis of nonionic and cationic surfactants. Constant attention must also be focused on revising and updating currently published methods.

Finally, several surfactant analytical procedures have been completed and published in ASTM, but have not yet been submitted to AOCS for possible inclusion in the AOCS Book of Methods. This should be a high priority matter in committee and subcommittee efforts in the next year. ■