

Janesville company keen on being green

By Gazette Staff

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JANESVILLE — Evonik Goldschmidt Corp. of Janesville, one of the world's leading specialty chemical companies, has been recognized as a business that goes beyond current rules and regulations to reduce its environmental impact.

Gov. Jim Doyle signed Green Tier into law in 2004 to encourage a collaborative approach to environmental performance between the DNR and Wisconsin businesses. As part of Green Tier, Wisconsin organizations voluntarily commit to reduce their environmental footprint by developing and implementing environmental management systems.

As a Green Tier participant, Evonik Goldschmidt plans to enhance its environmental performance by:

- Reducing methyl chloride stack emissions;
- Using less natural gas;
- Reducing wastewater biochemical oxygen demand loading;
- Monitoring progress of the environmental objectives identified through its environmental management system;
- Identifying and implementing new objectives through on-going environmental management programs.

"Congratulations to Evonik Goldschmidt for stepping forward in the chemical industry to lead by example," said DNR Secretary Matthew Frank. "Keeping Wisconsin green and growing, both economically and environmentally, is critical and we believe Green Tier can get us there."

Evonik Goldschmidt, formerly known as Goldschmidt Chemical Corp., specializes in producing raw materials for detergents, fabric softeners, cosmetics, and household cleaners as well as defoamers for detergents and odor absorbents for household products.

Evonik Goldschmidt's environmental activities have taken it beyond mere compliance with environmental laws. The company installed an emissions scrubber that has reduced two hazardous air pollutants and upgraded the secondary containment for storage tanks to assure that potential spills don't leave the site. Wastewater contaminant loading has been reduced by 30 percent.

"We are committed to superior environmental performance," said Dr. Reinhold Brand, president of Evonik Goldschmidt. "We continually seek to integrate protection of the environment into our daily business activities because we realize that good environmental practices make good business sense."

Evonik Goldschmidt is a Tier 1 participant in Green Tier. In exchange for a commitment to superior environmental performance, the DNR grants benefits to Tier 1 participants including deferred civil enforcement, a single point of contact within the department, use of the Green Tier logo on written materials and annual public recognition of participation.

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