



NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Northern Region

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SUBJECT: R. Stresau Laboratory joins Wisconsin Green Tier program

SPOONER, WI. - R. Stresau Laboratory joined the Department of Natural Resources' nationally recognized Green Tier program, signaling the company's commitment to making environmentally sound practices part of its business plan.

"Stresau is to be commended for publicly setting business goals to reduce the environmental impact of their operations." DNR Secretary Matt Frank said, calling the company a good community neighbor. "It's important to Wisconsin's quality of life to have operations like Stresau Laboratory put the environment in the factors considered to create a winning business plan."

Stresau Laboratory develops, tests and manufactures energetic devices at its plant north of Spooner for a variety of commercial and defense related items. In the manufacturing process, small amounts of reactive hazardous wastes are generated. To ensure public safety and avoid a potential hazardous material spill, the reactive wastes are treated on-site in a licensed thermal treatment unit with the residual ash shipped to an off-site licensed disposal facility. While Stresau is a licensed treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facility, one of fourteen in Wisconsin, it is unique in that it is the only facility that does not accept any off-site material for processing.

Jim Ross, waste management specialist for the DNR, said the company has taken steps to reduce the environmental impact of hazardous wastes they generated. Through better inventory control and production procedures, he said, wastes have been reduced by 90%.

Because the company has a smaller amount of hazardous waste to treat, its generator status has changed from a Small Quantity Generator to a Very Small Quantity Generator. Ross added that less hazardous waste to treat means reduced potential air emissions and less energy consumption by the thermal treatment process – both good things.

Over the last two years Stresau Laboratory has focused on energy conservation and has successfully reduced energy use by 50 percent. They did an energy audit, insulated older buildings, and installed high efficiency fluorescent light bulbs, HVAC programmable thermostats, high efficiency LP gas and hydronic furnaces.

Stresau also changed its work week to four 10-hour days. This has lowered the amount of energy consumed by the facility and by employees during their commute, and has an effect not only on energy but also on greenhouse gas emissions.

An effective recycling program is now in place for recycling scrap metal, aluminum, plastic, cardboard, fluorescent light bulbs and pallets. Employees have become an active team to reduce, reuse and recycle, contributing to the environment and the bottom line. New recycling bins in break and lunch room areas for the collection of plastics, aluminum, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, including CFLs, and old eyeglasses provide a bright face to this initiative. Employees are even encouraged to bring in these items for reuse or recycling rather than landfilling them.

As a participant in Green Tier, Stresau Laboratory is committed to implementing an Environmental Management System that will engage them in continuous improvement of their environmental performance. Their goals include further reductions in air emissions, energy use, and solid and hazardous waste generation.

Green Tier is the first program of its kind in the nation. Under Green Tier, qualified businesses and associations make binding commitments to superior environmental performance. In exchange, these businesses are given incentives proportional to their environmental commitments. Green Tier enables good environmental actors to perform even better and recognizes their work. This allows DNR to focus its resources on those facilities that need greater attention and assistance in meeting environmental requirements.

Stresau Lab 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 a single point of contact with the department for easier communications, the use of the Green Tier logo in written marketing materials, deferred enforcement of civil violations, and annual public recognition of participation.

For more information about Green Tier and [Stresau Laboratory, Inc.'s participation](#), visit <http://greentier.wi.gov>.