



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NEWS RELEASE

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3M BROWNWOOD PLANT WINS STATE'S TOP ENVIRONMENTAL HONOR

AUSTIN (April 19, 2007)—The 3M Brownwood plant has earned the state's highest environmental achievement—the Texas Environmental Excellence Award. 3M is one of 12 winners statewide to be recognized with an award, presented by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Representatives of the 3M Brownwood plant will receive the award on May 2 at the 2007 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards banquet in Austin.

Recognized in the large business/technical category, 3M earned the award for its long-term focus on reducing pollution and saving energy. Every five years, 3M plants set energy use and conservation performance goals which range from ways to prevent source pollution to regulation compliance and waste minimization. The Brownwood plant was one of only a few facilities to meet or exceed every goal set in 2000.

In order to succeed, Brownwood employees launched more than 140 new pollution-prevention projects over a four-year period—more than any other 3M plant worldwide. They reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions by 45 percent; waste per pound of product by 25 percent; and Toxic Release Inventory releases per pound of product by 83 percent. These occurred even as production steadily grew by almost 10 percent a year. These projects have eliminated 398 tons of air pollution and 5,823 tons of solid/hazardous waste, while also reducing energy consumption by 150,000 MMBTUs with an associated savings of \$16.3 million. Overall, since 1990, the plant has reduced VOC air emissions by 96 percent.

The plant has been ISO 14001 EMS certified since 2000, is a charter member of the TCEQ CLEAN TEXAS Program and EPA's National Performance Track Program. Further, 3M Brownwood recently entered into an agreement with Fort Hood, the nation's largest military installation, to provide mentoring and guidance in the development of its environmental management system.

The TCEQ annually presents the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards to environmental projects across the state that demonstrate excellence in resource conservation, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. The award-winning programs reflect the goals of the TCEQ itself: to protect Texas' human and natural resources and ensure clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste. For more information or to submit an application for next year's awards, visit www.teea.org.

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