



# AICHE Orange County

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SECTION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

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March 2003

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

### Six Sigma – Breakthrough Strategy or Your Worst Nightmare?

Jeffrey T. Gotro, Ph.D.

**Tuesday, March 25, 2003**  
**5:30 PM**

Is Six Sigma just another total quality fad? What is the real bottom line impact from Six Sigma programs? It depends. Many companies have successfully implemented Six Sigma and realized millions of dollars of cost savings. Other companies have trained and implemented Six Sigma with mediocre or disappointing results. The key to success is top management support and a sound implementation strategy. We will highlight the key factors for successful implementation and outline some potential pitfalls to avoid.

- Learn what works in Six Sigma projects, leading to significant savings and real bottom line impact
- Avoid some of the common pitfalls that have limited the impact in some companies
- Learn how to involve the whole organization in multifunctional projects.

Jeffrey T. Gotro is currently Director of Research & Development for Ablestik Laboratories in Rancho Dominguez, CA. Jeff has 20 years experience in R&D, manufacturing, and application of advanced polymers for electronic applications. He has held technology leadership positions at IBM, AlliedSignal, and Honeywell. Jeff has a Ph.D. in Materials Science from Northwestern University. On a more personal note, Jeff is a certified Black

Belt and has taught Black Belt and Champion training for California State University at Fullerton.

### Meeting Schedule:

5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:30 p.m.	After-Dinner Program

**Place: Wyndham Garden Hotel, Costa Mesa**

**Directions:** From Interstate 405, go north on Bristol Ave., right on Anton, left on Avenue of the Arts. The Wyndham is on the right at 3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa.

**Reservations: Please make a reservation at (949) 261-2622 by voice by Friday, March 21, 2003. Or, you may email your reservation to [janice.west@ps.ge.com](mailto:janice.west@ps.ge.com).** Please specify your preference for either the main menu or the vegetarian menu when making your reservation.

**Cost:** Members, \$20 with a reservation, \$25 at the door; Non-Members, \$25 with reservation, \$30 at the door; Students/Unemployed/Retired, \$15 with reservation, and \$20 at the door.

## Southern California AICHE Meetings

The section for the LA area normally meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. For reservations call (800) 274-3847. Visit their web site for the latest information [www.geocities.com/aiche\\_sc](http://www.geocities.com/aiche_sc)

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Presenters wanted for dinner topics and poster sessions for a special technical series tentatively scheduled for this summer. Warm-up for a national meeting, or just present your Senior Project. Please contact the Program Chair with your topic.



## States Announce Plans To Sue EPA Over Global Warming

Peter Hsiao and Siegmund Shyu, Morrison & Foerster LLP

Attorneys general from seven states announced on February 20 that they intend to sue the federal government and EPA over global warming from power plant emissions. The states planning to sue are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington. The states plan to allege that EPA has violated the Clean Air Act's requirements that mandate updating the analysis of emissions from power plants. The states charge that EPA has not performed such an update in at least 20 years, whereas they allege the law requires an update every eight years. The states believe that the analysis would show that industrial emissions of carbon dioxide should be added to the list of pollutants under the Clean Air Act, which would further tighten operations of power plants. The lawsuits from the states would complement similar actions by environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and Our Children's Earth Foundation.

### EPA Proposes New Cancer Risk Guidelines For Children

EPA proposed on March 3 new, stricter guidelines for evaluating cancer risks to children. The guidelines would require the assumption that children would be as much as 10 times more vulnerable than adults to certain chemicals. These certain chemicals would be limited, for the time being, to those that damage a person's genes by causing them to mutate (called "mutagenic chemicals"). Such a category would include some pesticides, as well as some chemicals used to make plastics. Current policy assumes cancer risks to a fetus or an infant are no greater than for a similarly exposed adult. The proposed guidelines will be reviewed by EPA's science advisory board in May, with the final guidelines to be issued in the summer. EPA based the new proposal on findings from animal studies, and

partially on studies of survivors of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan in World War II. Potential ramifications for the new guidelines include tightening restrictions on the use and disposal of hazardous materials, and making it easier for plaintiffs to recover in toxic tort lawsuits.

### Something Completely Different

Call it the circle of life. According to Reuters, endangered Seattle salmon recently received some assistance in their battle for survival, after a group of 13 killer whales, or orcas, feasted on the salmon's main predator, harbor seals, in a two-month feeding binge. The migrating killer whales were apparently drawn to the area by the large supply of some 1,500 Hood Canal seals, which individually could grow as large as 250 pounds through its daily diet of some 200 salmon per day. The black-and-white whales, which can grow to be as large as 10 tons, have apparently left the area and will likely head north next. The seals, some seen huddling on shore in Hood Canal near Bremerton, Washington, had lost upwards of 50% of its population. Said a Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife official, "It will probably benefit salmon runs in the short term, and in the long run we expect the seal population to recover. This is probably just a natural cycle."

*Legal Corner reports on recent news, and is not intended to be legal advice. The reader should consult an attorney about the specific facts before acting upon this information.*

### **Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?**

Newsletter delivery by e-mail has proven to be more reliable and expedient than the postal version. If you would like to receive the e-mail version, especially if you only want the e-mail version, please contact the editor at [Kris\\_lp@edwards.com](mailto:Kris_lp@edwards.com). Postage presently consumes a significant portion of our budget and volunteer time.

### **Newsletter Contributors Wanted**

The newsletter editor would like to hear from you if you have one or more brief articles to contribute, especially a review or brief discussion of a good website, technical book, etc.



## Professional Engineering Employment Update

**Job Seeking Members** can receive a list of web sites of area companies that sometimes hire ChEs. Contact the Senior Member Everett Knell at [EWKnell@aol.com](mailto:EWKnell@aol.com) to receive this list by e-mail.

## Job Opportunities

### Environmental Manager

Qualification: BS degree in Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering with 5+ years experience in environmental compliance management including remediation effort project management.

Duties include:

- Conduct environmental status and procedural compliance audits in conjunction with the Legal Department.
- Review and interpret new, revised, and existing legislation, regulations and ordinances to determine their impact on our facilities. Communicate impacting changes across the organization.
- Manage / implement the programs needed to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements such as:
- Air, Water, Hazardous Material Permitting, and environmental based employee safety (PSM).
- Prepare Permit Applications and ensure timely compliance reporting according to permit conditions. Assist locations in preparing reports required by various regulatory agencies.

Company location is Orange County California, with some travel. Great company. Great benefits. Super leadership position.

Please contact: Kirk Johnson  
SRA San Diego South Bay  
Executive Global Search  
Office 619.482.2393  
Fax 619.482.1799

## 2003 Orange County AIChE Officers

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① If you have an employment opportunity in Southern California for a chemical engineer, the newsletter will advertise it for free.



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