

# **The Express-Times**

## **More changes at Atlantic States New hires coincide with new emissions system.**

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By TOM QUIGLEY

PHILLIPSBURG -- An ongoing effort to clean up emissions at the Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Co. has led to a restructuring of the plant's environmental engineering department, company representatives announced Monday.

The company has hired Dennis Zurakowski as its new director of the department and Jeff Smith as senior environmental engineer.

"Together the two industry veterans bring more than 40 years of combined experience in environmental engineering and compliance," officials said in a prepared statement.

The new hires come as company officials are installing a new air emissions system scheduled to come on line early next year.

Last month company officials announced the new system, which will reduce mercury emissions. It is designed to trap mercury and other chemicals using a bag house where the pollutants are trapped by an activated carbon mixture.

New Jersey environmental officials have said Atlantic States is the only foundry in North America using the new system and will be four years ahead of the mercury emissions standards set to take effect in 2010.

Company officials said the new emissions system will also reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 60 percent, reduce noise levels at the plant and reduce energy costs.

Installation of the \$9.3 million system is part of a settlement reached with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection following a series of air emissions violations that occurred at the Sitgreaves Street plant in recent years.

The foundry employs 300 workers and manufactures large iron pipes primarily used for underground water systems. It is a division of McWane Inc.

The new system will also eliminate the long familiar steam plume seen rising above the plant for the past 150 years. It may still be visible on extremely cold days, however.

"With the combination of revolutionary infrastructure modifications and the addition of new personnel, Atlantic States is undergoing a significant transformation to build for the future," said Mitchell Kidd, vice president and general manager of Atlantic States.

Zurakowski is a licensed professional engineer with more than 25 years of experience in regulatory compliance, project management, planning and organizational development, company representatives said.

"I'm an environmentalist at heart," Zurakowski said Monday, adding his goal is to reduce emissions to help improve quality of life.

Smith, has more than 16 years of broad engineering, safety and environmental compliance experience.

Five former Atlantic States managers face federal charges of creating a hazardous work environment at the plant and attempting to thwart a federal investigation.

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