Water Management in the Apparel & Textile Supply Chain

CEO Water Mandate Second Working Conference
August 21-22, 2008
Linda Hwang, Business for Social Responsibility
Agenda

- BSR’s Sustainable Water Group – history and objectives
- Information management and reporting
- Membership = Requirements for implementation
- Expansion ‘upstream’ and into new industries
**Sustainable Water Group**

Dedicated to responsible practices around water use and wastewater discharge in supply chains using industry-developed guidelines.

**Emergence of an Industry Standard:**

1. Clear and consistent expectations for the environmental performance of mills and laundries regarding wastewater

2. Standards are reviewed by environmental and textile industry experts to ensure adequacy and technical feasibility

3. Standards designed to allow individual companies to implement a water effluent treatment program that fits their business objectives

**Member Companies**
- Coldwater Creek, Inc.
- Gap Inc.
- H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB
- JC Penney Company
- LL Bean
- Levi Strauss & Co.
- NIKE, Inc.
- Nordstrom, Inc.
- Timberland
Information Management & Reporting

WebH2O: Online Environmental Information Database Tool

The New Way
- Web-based tool for collecting, storing, sharing, displaying and analyzing environmental and geospatial data
- Combines Information Management System with Geographic Information System, science modules and built-in technical expertise
- Controlled and secure user access

The Old Way
- Combination of word documents and excel spreadsheets
- Static information
- Very inexpensive
- Easy to learn and use
WebH2O: Online Environmental Information Database Tool

Information Management & Reporting

BSR-AWQWG WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES & TESTING STANDARDS

Parameter | 2006 | 2007 | 2008
--- | --- | --- | ---
Sampling |  |  | 
Temperature |  |  | 
pH |  |  | 
Traditional Parameters:
Total Suspended Solids | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Biochemical Oxygen Demand | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Chemical Oxygen Demand | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Chemical Constituents:
Antimony | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Arsenic | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Cadmium | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Chromium | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Cobalt | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Copper | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Cyanide | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Lead | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Mercury | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Nickel | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Zinc | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Color | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Foam: | ❌ | ❌ | ❌
Domestic Sewage: | ❌ | ❌ | ❌

BS-FACTOR Y: FACTORY: FABRIC PLANT C. 20 #131 C. 37 Y 29 BACA YUCATAN 97450
ADDRESS: SEWING PLANTS C. 20 #84 X 15 Y 17 CP 97450 BACA YUCATAN 97450
LATITUDE: 21.08333
LONGITUDE: 89.335

Street View | Traffic | More... | Map | Satellite | Terrain

Map data ©2008 LeadDog Consulting, NAVTEQ™, Europe Technologies® - CenterView™
The credibility of the group depends in part on implementation requirements.

- Each company will be required to implement wastewater guidelines within x months of becoming a member.
- “Implementation” is defined by the collection of water and wastewater data from x number of suppliers.
- Membership may also require the sharing of a basic set of water-related statistics to the entire group.
Expansion ‘Upstream’ and into New Industries

From Apparel Water Quality Working Group to Sustainable Water Group.

- Members voted to expand the focus of the group into existing members’ additional consumer products (footwear, leather and accessories).
- Expansion will also include management of facility-level water use.
- How will we break down “water use”: textile dilution, color matching, laundering, line cleaning, etc.
- How much energy and chemicals usage do we save when we increase water efficiency?
- Food processors in the U.S. have similar requirements for water management.
Sustainable Water Group

There are always more opportunities for collaboration.

- Industry guidelines for water use in the supply chain
- Supplier training / industry awareness
- Technical expertise
- Database of best practices
- Database of national regulations and permit systems
- Promotion of POTWs
- Community engagement programs
- Capacity-building for local government