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## FLITCH AND PANEL DISPATCH

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### ASSOCIATION NEWS

HOLD THE NOVEMBER 16-18, 2010 HPVA CONFERENCE DATES - Reserve at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs as HPVA will be meeting with the North American Building Material Distribution Association (NBMDA) and the North American Association of Floor Covering Distributors (NAFCD). This joint meeting will feature two **HPVA** sponsored workshops: How to Sell and Market Hardwood Plywood, and How to Sell and Market Hardwood Engineered Flooring. Each workshop will be offered twice: at 1:45 - 3:45 PM on Nov. 17, and again on Nov. 18. **For more information about the conference visit our new web site at <http://www.hpva.org/>.**

INDUSTRY MOURNS BILL WAGNER - A faithful friend to industry left for a better world on July 21, 2010. William "Bill" Frank Wagner was president of Arkansas Face Veneer for 11 years. He served his country as a B-24 and glider pilot in WWII and flew 44 missions in the South Pacific. Many still remember his friendly and helpful presence at **HPVA** meetings.

MERRITT MACHINERY FINALIST AT IWF - Merritt Machinery is one of 22 finalist for 7 Challengers Awards at the August 25-28 International Woodworking Fair 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Challenger Awards occur every two years in recognition of new innovative products. Merritt was selected for its Meinan wide belt sander. The awards will be announced on August 25, 2010. *Panel World, July 2010.*

HPVA TO EXHIBIT AT IWF - Visit **Booth 1364 in Building A** at the August 25-28 International Woodworking Fair 2010 in Atlanta. Brian Sause, Product Evaluation & Standards Director, will be representing **HPVA** and will be available to answer questions and to help during the Fair.

### REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE

BOILERS AND SOLID WASTE - A potential migraine headache may be in store for the wood and paper industry. EPA has proposed a rule, "Identification of Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials," that could result in significant costs to the industry depending on how a wood material is classified.

Specific to the hardwood plywood and wood panel products sectors is "resinated wood products." Manufacturers of hardwood plywood and composite wood products have been using such manufacturing byproducts as fuels for over 50 years. These fuels have high heating values and have emissions no higher than would result from burning virgin biomass. The American Forest & Paper Industry (AFPA) has submitted a 70-page comment on the EPA proposal identifying traditional wood based fuels including resinated wood products. If such products are classified as "solid waste" they would not be available for fuels and would also have to be disposed of in a more costly rule specific manner.

BIOMASS AND WOOD FIBER AVAILABILITY - The Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee's (TPCC) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Working Group have published details of possible government programs to promote the export of wood biomass. While well thought-out efforts to increase exports are commendable and should be supported; there is a chance that these programs will go too far. Potential unintended consequence may occur by not recognizing that the domestic industry also relies on wood biomass and fiber to not only produce value added products but also to have large quantities of renewable energy available. (See Biomass story below.)

PRESIDENT SIGNS FORMALDEHYDE LEGISLATION - President Obama signed S 1660 into law on July 7, 2010 that requires EPA to implement formaldehyde emissions originally established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Hardwood plywood, particleboard, and medium density fiberboard (MDF) sold in the U. S. are specific products impacted. The regulations could put the emission standards in place as early as July 2011; however, EPA has additional time - until January 2013 - to implement the standards and retailers will be allowed "sell-through" time beyond that date.

## **NEWS NUGGATS**

SOUTHERN U. S. TO BECOME MAJOR BIOMASS EXPORTER - European energy companies are showing increased interest in sourcing biomass from the southern U. S. according to the American Wood Fiber Review. The southern U. S. is regarded as a top target because the region has a stable supply of pulpwood (seven pulp mills), a well-functioning infrastructure, and competitive wood fiber costs. In addition, certain sections of the region have a large number of wood to energy facilities. *Wood Based Panels International*, 8/2/10.

REMODELING DIPS IN SECOND QUARTER - The remodeling market slid backward during the second quarter, according to the latest National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Remodeling Market Index (RMI) as it sunk to 40.7 from 43.8 in the first quarter. "Remodelers are suffering from weak consumer confidence and constricted credit lines" said NAHB Remodelers Chairman Donna Shirey, a remodeler from Issaquah, Washington. "Homeowners are delaying remodeling projects because of economic uncertainty." *NAHB*, 7/29/10.

U. S. IMPORTS OF MDF - Sharp increases in MDF imports in 2007 and 2008 are counter to trends as they came amid a backdrop of declining overall demand for wood products. The closure of several U. S. MDF plants during the past few years may have been a factor. China overtook Canada as the largest foreign supplier of MDF to the U. S. in 2008 and has since maintained that position. *Wood Based Panels International*, 8/2/10.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**HPVA 2010 FALL CONFERENCE with the North American Building Material Distribution Association and the North American Association of Floor Covering Distributors - NOVEMBER 16-18, 2010 - The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO.**

**HPVA 2011 SPRING CONVENTION - MAY 23-25, 2011 - Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida.**