

Tuesday Plenary

Environmental Issues Affecting the North American Railroads

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The Association of American Railroads (AAR) represents the freight railroads in North America. AAR is a trade association whose membership includes freight railroads that operate 83 percent of the line-haul mileage, employ 95 percent of the workers, and account for 97 percent of the freight revenues of all railroads in the United States; and passenger railroads that operate intercity passenger trains and provide commuter rail service. AAR also represents the Canadian railroads through the Railway Association of Canada, and two Mexican railroads including Ferromex, and KCS DeMexico. This presentation will discuss current regulatory, legislative, environmental awareness, and pollution prevention initiatives at AAR. Some of the regulatory activities include the current status of efforts to further regulate stormwater, getting used crossties listed as Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials so railroads will continue to be allowed to burn them for cogeneration, the status of EPA's electronic hazardous waste manifest, the US-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council initiative to reduce Locomotive Emissions, sustainability, as well as a brief summary of other environmental issues important to the railroad industry.