

RAM 2000™

Experience at NIPA Hardwicke Inc.

Excerpts from the
NIPA Hardwicke
Community
Connections
Newsletter

Community Connections

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and its employees

NIPA
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Infrared Beam Technology Being Put to Use at NIPA Hardwicke Inc.

NIPA Hardwicke has brought the latest in emissions/odor detection technology to its plant with the installation of the FTIR ("fourier transform infrared" spectrometer).

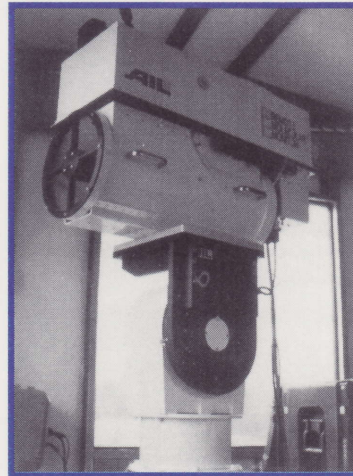
The FTIR draws on modern laser technology to detect odor-causing organic compounds with an infrared light beam. Once every 5 minutes, the FTIR system transmits an infrared light beam from a telescope transmitter. The beam then passes through the atmosphere along NIPA Hardwicke's fence lines to two separate reflectors. The reflectors reflect the infrared light beam back to the telescope transmitter.

The FTIR then analyzes the portions of the infrared light spectrum that have been absorbed by organic compounds in its path. With this information, the FTIR can determine the type and amount of organic vapors at NIPA Hardwicke's fence line.

"Now we have real time, accurate measurements of fence line emissions. That hard data helps give our neighbors confidence that we are protecting our community."

*—Jeff Batson, NIPA
Hardwicke manager of
environmental affairs*

The FTIR was developed from existing military technology and has been in operation at NIPA Hardwicke for approximately a year. At last



FTIR Unit

count, Hardwicke was the only industrial plant east of the Mississippi River to invest in this advanced odor reducing technology.

Before the FTIR was installed, NIPA Hardwicke estimated its fence line emissions based on engineering calculations. According to Jeff Batson, manager of environmental affairs, that concerned some of NIPA Hardwicke's neighbors. Batson explains that "now we have real time, accurate measurements of fence line emissions. That hard data helps give our neighbors confidence that we are protecting our community."

If organic vapors are detected, NIPA Hardwicke immediately traces the substance back to its source and works to reduce the emission. According to Dennis Weatherford, vice president of plant services, "The great advantage of the FTIR is that when we know what's at the fence line, we can quickly find the source and correct potential odor problems before they start."

From the plant manager

Health, Safety Environmental



Charles Marble

NIPA Hardwicke's parent company, BTP Inc., has set forth high standards for each location relative to health and safety. Reflecting BTP's commitment, 30% of all capital expenditure in the last three years was related to improving health, safety and environmental performance.

Health and safety is a part of our every day work and forms part of our normal responsibilities and accountability. The people most influencing safety are those doing the job and those managing their activities. Line managers are responsible for ensuring that established safety requirements are followed. Following established safety requirements is an employee responsibility. The Health and Safety Department help the line manager fulfill their responsibilities.

To further enhance safety at all sites, BTP has established a new BTP Supervisor Training Program (see article p. 4) to recommit the company to managing for safety.

Another addition to our safety program is the reorganization of the plant's Safety Committee (see article p. 4). Members of the Safety Committee take their jobs very seriously, and I thank each and every one of them for their valuable work.

While safety is our top priority, another of our concerns is odor reduction. Our leak detection and repair program, "L-DAR" (see article p. 3) improves both safety and odor control. We are especially excited about the FTIR technology (see article p. 1) which allows us to detect potential odors at our fence line with an infrared light beam. While this technology is newly arrived, it has the potential to revolutionize the way manufacturers keep odors and other vapors from reaching their neighbors.

The NIPA Hardwicke Community Advisory Panel continues to meet once every two months. At these meetings, NIPA Hardwicke officials and other community members tackle hard issues and share information and concerns. I urge any of our neighbors to contact a Community Advisory Panel member (see article p. 1) if you have a question you would like addressed at a future meeting.

Charles Marble,
plant manager

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