

PD-ABG-088

82796



WEC STAFF

TRIP REPORT

TO

HUNGARY

MAY 9 - 15, 1993

WORLD ENVIRONMENT CENTER
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JUNE 1993

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I. PURPOSE OF TRIP

Dr. Bohdan Aftanas of the World Environment Center traveled to Hungary to establish direct contacts with industrial enterprises and to select, among them, candidates for planned Waste Minimization Demonstration Projects (WMDP), and for Environmental Assessment (EA). Also, he met with officials from the Hungarian government and various other organizations to inform them about the program and to obtain their cooperation.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Waste Minimization Program for Hungarian industry was presented by WEC to various enterprises and to governmental and private officials.

The BHG Telecommunications Works in Budapest and the Magyar Viscosa Plant in Nyergesújfalu were selected for the Waste Minimization Demonstration Project. Also, the Perion Akkn-Battery Plant in Budapest has confirmed their interest in participating in such a project. The plant anticipates that the privatization procedure will be concluded shortly, and then, if still possible, the WMDP can be initiated within one to two months. However, in view of the limited funds available, WEC can perform only two (2) WMDPs. The first WMDP will be conducted at the BHG Telecommunications Works and a reconnaissance trip of WEC's team, including a pro bono specialist and paid consultant, is scheduled for July, 1993. Final selection of the plant for the second project (either Magyar Viscosa or Perion Plant) will be made in the near future.

The WEC Waste Minimization Program was presented and discussed with the newly appointed Dr. Denes Olessak, Head of Environmental Department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. He strongly endorsed the program and expressed readiness to cooperate and to assist if required. To accomplish maximum impact of the Waste Minimization Program through a wide spectrum of Hungarian organizations, WEC's staff met with representatives from the University of Veszprem, the Scientific Society of Hungarian Mechanical Engineers and the Consulting Engineering Company, Pyrus. WEC's program was enthusiastically received with offers of close cooperation. The program was especially of great interest to the University of Veszprem, where the subject of waste minimization is included in the curriculum of the School of Environmental Engineering.

III. MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

May 17, 1993 - Budapest

Met with Dr. Akos Redey, Head of the School of Environmental Engineering at the University of Veszprem, in Veszprem, (which is one of the largest universities in Hungary). The university is the first school in Hungary which included environmental engineering in their teaching. Dr. Redey was very interested in cooperating with WEC, especially on waste minimization, since this subject is also included in their curriculum. He would like to be involved in the demonstration projects as a member of the Waste Minimization Coordination Committees. Dr. Redey expressed interest in the concept of establishing a Pollution Prevention Center of Excellence. He offered his assistance in identifying, through his contacts, enterprises for WMDP and for EA. Also, he asked if the equipment which WEC would purchase for WMDP could not be donated to the University rather than to the enterprise, provided that they will participate in the demonstration project.

May 17, 1993 - Budapest

Met with Ms. Agnes Horvath, Leader of the International Group at the Perion Akkn-Budapest Battery Plant. In the month of May 1993, the company celebrated their 100th anniversary. According to Ms. Horvath, the privatization procedure seems to be close to completion and it will be accomplished within the next one to two months. The plant will be owned by Hungarian shareholders. As is usual each year, plant operations will be shut down for three weeks commencing July 25 until August 14, 1993. Ms. Horvath suggested that if WEC wants to perform WMDP at the plant, the best time to begin will be the month of September 1993. Ms. Horvath also informed me that the plant has started a waste minimization initiative by developing, in cooperation with the Johnson Control Corporation, a patented system for reclaiming lead scrap material generated during the manufacturing of batteries. However, they are still interested in WMDP and they will inform WEC when the project can be initiated.

May 17, 1993- Budapest

Met with Mr. Ferenc Melykuti, Project Development Specialist, at the U.S. Agency for International Development Mission, in Budapest. I briefed him on WEC's present and planned programs in Hungary, including Environmental Assessments and the Waste Minimization Demonstration Projects with a follow-up workshop, and the publicity campaign. I also discussed with him current difficulties in identifying enterprises for WEC projects which could meet established selection criteria. Mr. Melykuti recommended that this matter be discussed with the State Property Agency (SPA) and/or with the State Holding Agency (SHA). (The SPA

is a governmental organization whose function is to privatize/sell state-owned enterprises to Hungarian and/or foreign entities. The SHA is responsible for economic organizations which, by government decree, are to remain under permanent state ownership either partially or wholly).

May 18, 1993- Budapest

Met with Dr. Denes Olessak, Head of the Environmental Department; Mrs. Hibbeyne Joo, Deputy Head of the Environmental Department and Mr. Attila Hajdu, Senior Advisor at the Environmental Department, all at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Dr. Olessak and Ms. Joo assumed their posts just the day before this meeting, replacing Dr. Arpad Bakonyi and Ms. Agnes Fekete, who were released from the Ministry. Dr. Olessak was very interested in the waste minimization program and expressed his full endorsement and readiness to cooperate with WEC. Mr. Hajdu asked if it would be possible for WEC to sponsor subscriptions to technical magazines for the Ministry. He would furnish the titles of such magazines in the near future. The WEC staff promised to keep the Ministry posted on the development of our activities.

May 18, 1993 - Budapest

Met with Dr. Erzsebet Lukacs, Director of the Department of International Relations and Dr. Gyorgy Baranovszky, Attorney in the Legal Department, both from the State Property Agency (SPA). The State Property Agency is a governmental organization established to privatize state-owned enterprises by selling them to Hungarian or foreign buyers. The agency is involved in assessing the value of the enterprises, preparing and advertising for tenders, negotiating with prospective new owners and transferring ownership. For each enterprise on the SPA's list, there is an appointed officer who is responsible for the case, including following-up everyday developments at the plant. Dr. Lukacs was keenly interested in WEC's program and expressed her surprise that the program is being stymied by the privatization process. (She also explained that there is another institution, named State Holding Agency, which is responsible for economic organizations destined to remain in permanent state ownership either partially or wholly).

Dr. Lukacs was unaware of the Perion-Battery Plant's Board of Directors' objection regarding the Waste Minimization Demonstration Project offered by WEC. She suggested that we speak to the case officer at the SPA who could provide us with more specific information. In conclusion, Dr. Lukacs again expressed her favorable impression of WEC's program.

May 18, 1993 - Budapest

Met with Mr. Janos Egerszegi, Managing Director of Pyrus-Hazardous Disposal Site in Aszod and Consulting Engineering Company in Budapest. The purpose of the meeting was to present to Mr. Egerszegi WEC's waste minimization program as well as opportunities for the Hungarian consulting engineering firm to learn and develop new services and to be able to render such services to industrial plants. He was very interested in the program and expressed his readiness to participate in the WMDP. I also informed him that because the Hazardous Disposal Facilities at Aszod is now owned by Austrians, WEC would cancel the workshop planned at those facilities.

May 19, 1993 - Budapest

Met with Mr. Janos Mihok, Head of the Development Department and Ms. Zobb Ibolya, Environmental Expert, both at BHG Telecommunication Works in Budapest, to present WEC's waste minimization program and to discuss possibilities of conducting WMDP at their plant.

BHG Telecommunication Works was established in the year 1874 to manufacture telegraph equipment (two years before the telephone was invented). The company consists of seven plants situated in different towns, with the main plant and headquarters located in Budapest which employs about 2,000 workers. BHG manufactures a wide range of products including telephone exchanges, satellite receivers, VHF and TV transmitters, antenna systems, work and process control dispatcher systems, electronic cash registers, etc. The plant is provided with all equipment and technologies necessary for the manufacture of the product including plastic material injection-molding, metal plate processing, cutting, coil and transformer manufacturing, cable forms, mechanical assembly, printed wiring and printed circuit boards manufacture, production equipment manufacturing and surface treatment.

It seems that the plant management fully recognizes the importance of environmental protection. However, there are still some issues regarding meeting air and wastewater discharge quality standards as well as compliance with regulations concerning generation and disposal of hazardous waste. BHG is very interested in WEC's waste minimization demonstration project and has confirmed such interest with their formal written request.

May 19, 1993 - Budapest

Visited the Scientific Society of Hungarian Mechanical Engineers (SSHME) in Budapest and met with Prof. Dr. Tibor Konkoly - President of Metal Hardening and Heat Treatment Division, Dr. Friwaldszdy Gyula, Executive Director and Dr. Szilvia

Somogyi - Secretary. SSHME is interested in WEC's activities in Hungary. They especially wanted to participate (possibly as a member of the Coordination Committees) in our Waste Minimization Demonstration Projects or in the workshop on this subject.

May 20, 1993 - Nyergesujfaln

Met with Mr. Szilveszter Hermann, Technical Director of Magyar Viscosagyar - Synthetic Fibre Plant. The plant is situated in the town of Nyergesujfalu, about 30 miles northwest of Budapest. It was established in 1941 on a 160 acre site. About 2,000 people are employed at the plant.

The plant's main products and annual (1991) production in metric tons was as follows:

polyacrylnitrile fibers	30,000
polyamide fibres	4,000
polyamide 6 granules	2,500
plastic nets	1,000
viscose staple fibre	4,000
carboxymethylcellulose	12,000

In December 1991, the Viscosa Plant already had the opportunity to cooperate successfully with our organization when WEC's pro bono specialist performed an environmental review at the plant. The review resulted in a number of practical recommendations for improvements, some of which have already been implemented. The company would like to continue further cooperation with WEC and, therefore, is most interested in participating in the waste minimization program. The plant management believes that there is a good opportunity at their plant for such a project and will confirm the plant's interest in the project by sending WEC their official written request.

IV. ITINERARY

May 16, 1993

- Arrival in Budapest

May 17, 1993

- Meeting with Dr. Redey, Head of School of Environmental Engineering at University of Veszprem
- Meeting with Ms. Horvath from Perion-Battery Plant
- Meeting with Mr. Melykuti from U.S. Agency for International Development

May 18, 1993

- Meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Meeting at the State Property Agency
- Meeting with Mr. Egerszegi from Pyrus Company

May 19, 1993

- Visit to BHG Telecommunications Works in Budapest
- Meeting at Scientific Society of Hungarian Mechanical Engineers

May 20, 1993

- Visit to Magyar Viscosagyár

May 21, 1993

- In Budapest

May 22, 1993

- Departure for United States

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