



EDITORIAL

From the President

Forget scrimping toilet paper; here are some real ideas to help the environment

RECENTLY, US POP singer **Sheryl Crow** got involved in environmental advocacy. She had some good ideas, maybe. But she had one definitely bad idea: Limit everyone to using one square of toilet tissue at a time to save the rainforests and reduce global warming.



Lee Hunt, President

The petroleum exploration and production industry — always painted as an environmental villain — has ideas of its own on how to protect and preserve the environment. All are better than rationing toilet tissue, and none are as laughable. Here are a few examples:

Transocean is a partner in the SERPENT project, which focuses on biodiversity assessment of drilling's impact on marine species, using cutting-edge ROV technology. Currently there are active projects all across the globe, from the Gulf of Mexico to West Africa to the North Sea to Australia.

Noble Technology Services is working with the US Department of Energy and other participants to reduce the environmental impact of rig operations in sensitive areas. By integrating current and new technology — including transportation equipment, drilling methods, completion systems and environment management — the group hopes to develop a new drilling system compatible with restricted-access or off-limits areas.

BP's Milne Point Alaska operation has applied special water treatment and filtering to recycle nearly 6 million gallons of domestic waste water. That is more than enough to supply 100% of the water used at Milne Point to reduce turbine NOX emissions — water that previously was drawn from local lakes.

In BP's deepwater drilling operation 360 km off of the Brazilian Amazon coastline, new waste disposal methods are being used to help

local onshore projects. Waste drilling mud was used to create bricks for use in public housing construction. Used oil was re-refined and the revenue used to fund a local sanitation project. The project purchased 15 new bathrooms for 117 poor residents. In Sheryl Crow's project, they would be issued less squares of tissue than in a single roll of toilet paper. That may save some tissues, but it wouldn't be much help with the problem of sanitation.

Shell has a demonstration project in Australia to produce low-emissions electricity by combining coal gasification with CO₂ capture. In Norway, Shell is working with **Statoil** to apply enhanced oil recovery to solve a power shortage in central Norway and reduce CO₂ emissions by 2.5 million tons a year.

Chevron's switch to natural gas for electricity generation in Kuwait's Wafra oilfield and California's Kern River oilfield has reduced CO₂ emissions by more than 1 million metric tons per year and reduced air pollutants such as sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides.

In 2006, **Talisman** installed a 85-m high wind turbine as part of its plans to construct a deepwater wind farm demonstration project adjacent to its Beatrice field off the coast of Scotland. A full-scale offshore wind farm could generate nearly 20% of Scotland's current electricity demand — enough energy to power a million average UK homes.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

So there we have our choice. Listen to a pop star and save the world by not using toilet tissue. Or, encourage industry to push forward with scientific and technological projects that provide real results in limiting and reducing harm to the environment.

By the way, songster Crow's CDs, which sell in the millions, are packaged in plastic products that are produced from petroleum. Maybe her record label could consider wrapping them in toilet paper instead. ♠