

PMI Vice President receives award

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Joe Cochran, Vice President of PMI, has been selected as the winner of the 2003 Award for Innovative Development in Reduction of Unburned Carbon on Utility Fly Ash by the National Energy Technology Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Cochran was selected based upon his invention of PMI's patented Carbon Burn-Out (CBO) process. The award will be presented Oct. 28 at the 2003 Conference on Unburned Carbon on Utility Fly Ash in Pittsburgh.

PMI, a subsidiary of Progress Fuels Corporation, provides economic ash management solutions to Progress Energy Florida and the utility industry. Its CBO technology takes waste fly ash from coal-fired power plants and "burns out" the residual carbon, producing a valuable mineral admixture (ReadyAsh) for the concrete industry.

The CBO process also eliminates ash land filling at the power plants that utilize the technology. Heat recovered by the CBO process is returned to the power plant, increasing its efficiency.

PMI's CBO process is currently in use at two plants in South Carolina. PMI also operates a plant at Progress Energy Florida's Crystal River Fossil Plant that utilizes a different technology to produce a medium weight aggregate called Aardelite from high carbon fly ash. This aggregate is used by customers in producing concrete masonry and structural concrete.

PMI is currently in negotiations with several potential buyers to use the technology, and plans call for multiple CBO facilities to be built over the next couple years.