

Emerging Leader Award

Julie Rolffs

Caterpillar Inc.

Julie Rolffs, environment, health, and safety professional III, joined Caterpillar in 1990 as a student in the engineering cooperative education program at Michigan Technological University. After she graduated in 1993 with a B.S. in environmental engineering, Rolffs accepted a position as environmental, health, and safety coordinator in Caterpillar's chemical products business unit.

In her 18 years with Caterpillar, Rolffs has successfully developed and improved several environmental, health, and safety management programs. She has created written programs and training courses to address environmental, health, and safety requirements and has led compliance-driven activities at many Caterpillar facilities.

In 1998 Rolffs was promoted to environmental professional and environmental team leader of a large complex in East Peoria, Ill. She was charged with managing all environmental aspects of the site, which covered 700 acres and had been in use for 80 years. Rolffs leveraged regional support for improved air management practices by initiating quarterly "air synergy" meetings — forums for Caterpillar environmental professionals from 10 regional facilities to discuss pertinent air issues. Rolffs' management of the air emissions program enabled the facility to adjust capital projects to anticipated regulations of boilers and diesel generators. To prevent soil and groundwater contamination, Rolffs initiated a project to replace 25-year-old underground piping at the facility, a project that won her a Caterpillar Environmental Excellence Silver Award.

In 2001, Rolffs elected to move from full-time to part-time work at Caterpillar in order to dedi-



CITATION:

For demonstrated leadership and outstanding work in safety, health, and environmental engineering, and for benevolent community work.

cate more time to her growing family. Also in that year, she became a certified industrial wastewater treatment works operator and received the Caterpillar Environmental Excellence Bronze Award for her work on "Oily Industrial Wastewater Sludge." Her drive to implement wastewater treatment improvements earned her a second Caterpillar Environmental Excellence Bronze Award in 2006 for her project on "Oil Sludge Management."

To reduce waste and consumption of municipal water, in 2006-2007 Rolffs oversaw the purchase and installation of a mechanical vapor recompression evaporator for recycling of waste coolant. In the first year, 2 million gallons of waste coolant were treated, and 2 million gallons of water and 1,800 gallons of oil were recycled, saving the company more than \$340,000. This project was later awarded Caterpillar's highest environmental honor: the Chairman's Environmental Excellence Platinum Award.

In her most recent position, Rolffs managed the collection, calculation, and reporting of 40 environmental metrics for 350 Caterpillar facilities worldwide. These data are used for Caterpillar's sustainability reports, the Dow Jones Sustainability Index submission, the Carbon Disclosure Project, the EPA's Climate Leaders program, and internal reporting.

As a result of the current economic conditions, Caterpillar has placed Rolffs on temporary layoff. She and her husband, Rodney, have two daughters, Katie and Jordan. Rolffs is a leader for the girls' Brownie troops, and is active in her church, where she has led three mission trips to help rebuild communities in hurricane-ravaged areas of Louisiana.