



THE SCOOP

A monthly newspaper for Pima County employees July, 1993

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Ina Road Wastewater Power Plant Receives International Award

Wastewater Management's Ina Road Power Production Facility was recently named as the 1993 Cogeneration Project of the Year (Under 5 mega-watts) by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE). Individuals and companies who have achieved national and international prominence in promoting the practices and principles of cogeneration are eligible to participate in the AEE awards program. The prestigious international competition is open to more than 8,000 member organizations in 35 countries.

The Ina Road Power plant was judged on reliability, efficiency, and operational excellence. The plant has averaged less than 26 minutes of downtime in the last 4 years, produces electricity for three cents per KWH compared to commercial power rates of seven to ten cents per KWH, and has an exemplary preventive maintenance program.

The plant has no electrical tie to a commercial power grid — a feature that places unique demands on the professional staff that operates and maintains the plant. The eight-member

crew — under the leadership of Ernie Luna — provides around-the-clock coverage to assure that the waste treatment plant has a constant supply of power, heating, cooling and ventilation. Last year there was no down time at all except for the scheduled annual 5-hour shutdown during the middle of the night for maintenance of the high-voltage electrical switching equipment.

The seven Waukesha v12 engines operate on either natural gas or the gas produced by the digesters at the treatment plant. In fact, all the digester gas produced by the plant is used by the power plant which helps make the \$400,000 annual fuel cost savings possible. Propane is stored as a fuel alternative in the event of emergency. The plant is an impressive achievement which has gained worldwide recognition and has been studied by many foreign enterprises seeking a model for similar projects.

Congratulations to the entire team at the Ina Road Power Plant for your impressive achievements and for the recognition you have received.



Members of the Ina Road Power Plant staff pictured above (l. to r.): Bob Lozano, Wes Stokes, Anna Aguilar and Ernie Luna. Other members of the power plant team not shown are: Dave Coleman, Jeff Shenk, Pete Warren and Martin Jones. Each of the staff members play a vital part in the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Power Plant.

Family And Medical Leave Act

The Family and Medical leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 entitles qualified employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year for the following reasons: the birth of a child; the adoption of a child; the provision of care for a spouse or immediate member of the family; or recuperation by the employee from a serious illness or injury. This federal law becomes effective on August 5, 1993, and requires the employer (Pima County) to maintain any pre-existing health benefits during the leave period and to reinstate the employee to the same or equivalent job, once the leave has concluded.

FMLA benefits working people by allowing a balance between the demands of their work lives and family responsibilities when a serious illness strikes or employees must assume care for a newborn or adopted child or a dependent parent. Following the official adoption of this Act by the Board of Supervisors, appropriate revisions will be incorporated into the Merit System Rules and Personnel Policies which are distributed to all departments within the County Government. Specific questions should be addressed to your departmental Personnel Representative who will receive a presentation during their July meeting.

If you have additional questions or need clarification regarding the policy, please call either Rebecca Hill 740-8116 or Mona Kandell at 740-2786. Questions regarding employee benefits should be addressed to Mike Murphy at 740-8520

Pima County Selects New Long Term Care Insurance Provider

Last month, the Board of Supervisors selected CIGNA Companies as the new provider of the County's long term care insurance benefit. This should be welcome news for employees who feel that they have a need for long term care insurance, either for themselves or family members. Once this new insurance product is introduced employees will be able to have the cost of long term care insurance premiums automatically deducted from their pay checks. They will be able to purchase long term care coverage for themselves or their spouses, parents, or grandparents.

Long term care insurance provides financial protection against the cost of health care and/or custodial services for insured individuals who need nursing home care, skilled nursing care; adult day health care, and/or custodial care. In recent years, long term care insurance has become an increasingly important employee benefit as workers are faced with caring

for their aging spouses and parents. Recent studies indicate that today's babyboomer generation can expect to spend more years caring for a parent than a child. And the cost of long term adult care is not cheap. A lifetime of savings for a planned retirement can be wiped out in six months when an unanticipated nursing home stay becomes necessary. Medicare does not pay for nursing home care until an individual has exhausted all their resources, and then the Medicare benefit is limited. It is this risk of catastrophic and unforeseen long term care costs that prompts Pima County to sponsor a long term care insurance benefit plan for employees.

The new CIGNA long term care insurance plan is scheduled to go into effect in December, 1993. Open enrollment for this benefit will take place in October. Between now and October you will be receiving further information about this new improved supplemental employee benefit.