

EMD Mid-Year Leadership Meeting
November 18, 2006

Web Committee Report
Creties Jenkins, Chairman

On July 1, I assumed chairmanship of the EMD Web Committee from Brian Cardott. Brian has led the effort over the past three years to create a top-notch website and he generously continues to serve in an advisory role. Brian and I have also received outstanding support from Janet Brister, Norma Newby, and David Campbell who has served as our volunteer webmaster.

Because David Campbell has recently become very busy with paying work, we are transitioning the webmaster duties to another individual who will be able to receive requests directly from the EMD leadership and make updates. At the current time, all requests come through the Web Committee Chair which is not very efficient. Unless the web pages can be updated quickly and often, there will be little incentive for members to submit new items for posting.

Numerous updates have been made to the web pages since July 1, and we are currently awaiting the contributions of the Committee Chairs and Councilors. On October 26, an Email was sent to these individuals requesting a minimum set of information including the mid-year meeting report, technical references, and links to key websites by November 18 for posting. The intent is to ensure that a basic amount of consistent information is displayed for each commodity and section/region, and that this is updated at least semi-annually. The Chairs and Councilors are also encouraged to submit additional information, but experience has shown that only a few have made this extra effort.

The EMD webpages are one of the most important tools we have for attracting and retaining members. By offering timely information about professional activities and access to key information, it becomes easy for members to justify the \$20 they spend each year for EMD membership. I welcome your ideas and input for how to make the webpages more important and relevant for our membership.