



## NEW ENGLAND KILN DRYING ASSOCIATION

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Our 2011 **Fall Meeting** of the **NEKDA** is being held on **Wednesday and Thursday November 2 & 3**, at the **Holiday Inn** <http://www.hivermont.com/> in **Rutland, Vermont**. The hotel is at 1 Holiday Drive, Rutland, VT 05701 (for GPS input), just to the south of Rutland, on the west side of Rte. 7, just north of Rte 4 (bypass). Please call them promptly at **800/462-4810** and let them know you are *with the NEKDA* group to be sure of obtaining a reservation at the **NEKDA special rate of \$79/night**. Our room block is being held till October 26, after which reservations are at a space and rate available basis.

Your NEKDA Officers and Board of Directors have put together an excellent meeting program with important and informative topics and opportunities for kiln operators and managers, along with interesting tours of **Rutland Plywood, Mill River Lumber, and Vermont Wood Pellet**.

Please mail your preregistration form (enclosed) with check directly, and promptly, to Bill Smith (to be received by **October 26**). Note the \$15 per person surcharge for late registration. Please check the web at [www.esf.edu/nekda](http://www.esf.edu/nekda), or email or call Bill Smith (wbsmith@esf.edu 315/470-6832, 6880; fax 6879) with any questions. Also, please note that **tour participants are required to preregister**.

### Wednesday, November 2 - "World Class Kiln Operations"

**Plant Tours** (as you travel to the meeting, pre-registration required, please bring hardhats and safety glasses; meet at main office)

#### **Rutland Plywood Corp. 8:30 tour**

One Ripley Road, Rutland, VT 05701

Rutland Plywood [www.rutply.com](http://www.rutply.com) manufactures a wide variety of high quality hardwood plywood and engineered hardwood composites for industrial, commercial, sport and specialty product applications.

Take business route 4 (US-4-BR) about 1.6 miles west of the intersection with Rte 7 in Rutland. The plant is a short distance south on Ripley Road, just across the RR tracks.

#### **Mill River Lumber Ltd. 10:30 tour**

2639 Middle Road, N. Clarendon, VT 05759

Mill River Lumber [www.millriverlumber.com](http://www.millriverlumber.com) saws, kiln dries and dresses high quality eastern white pine lumber.

About ¼ mile south of Rte. 7 and Rte 4 intersection, turn right (to the west) onto Middle Road. Middle Road curves around to the south; continue south about 1.5 miles. The mill is to the right (west) just beyond the RR tracks.

#### **Vermont Wood Pellet Company 12:00 tour**

1105 Route 7B, N. Clarendon, VT 05759

The Vermont Wood Pellet Company [www.vermontwoodpellet.com](http://www.vermontwoodpellet.com) manufactures high quality wood fuel pellets from local mill residues and forest sources. The plant is located on Rte 7B (central) across from the airport. From Rte. 7 take Rte 103 about ¼ mile, then turn south on Rte 7B.

**At the Holiday Inn** 1:15 - 1:45 **REGISTRATION and Lunch** (in the meeting room), and introductions.

#### 1:45 - 2:15 **Accuracy and Calibration of Kiln Controllers**

**Bob Pope, USNR, Montpelier, VT**

2:15 - 5:00 **Kiln Operator's Clinic** - led by Bill Smith, Peter Garrahan, Joe Denig. Informal and practical instruction and discussion on such things as the basics of kiln operation, maintenance, stacking, DH, conventional, and high-temperature drying, stain and discoloration, scheduling, changing species, wood-moisture fundamentals, kiln loading and baffling, moisture meters, restarting kilns, drying degrade, etc. Bring your individual problems, questions, and solutions! Please note any particular interests for discussion on your registration form.

3:15 - 3:30 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

5:00 - 6:30 **Stress Relief** with **Vendor Displays**: while relieving stress with hors d'oeuvres and beverages,

visit with vendors displaying the best in various kiln drying equipment, supplies and services (interested sponsors and vendors should contact Bill Smith at [wbsmith@esf.edu](mailto:wbsmith@esf.edu) or 315/470-6832 by Oct.19).

6:30 - 8:00 **BANQUET, and Student Scholarship Awards**

## **Thursday November 3 - "World Class Kiln Operations"**

7:00 - 7:45 Board of Director's Meeting

7:45 - 8:00 Registration and Coffee

8:00 - 8:05 Welcome and Introductions

**Jason Ayer**, NEKDA President (*Hardwick Kilns, Cersosimo Lumber*, Hardwick, MA)

Moderator: **Wayne Cate**, NEKDA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (*H.G. Wood*, Bath, NH)

8:05 - 8:40 ***Manufacture of Wood Pellets***

**Chris Brooks**, *Vermont Wood Pellet*, N. Clarendon, VT

8:40 - 9:45 ***Increasing Kiln Productivity***

**Joe Denig**, *NC State Univ.*, Raleigh, NC

9:45 - 10:20 ***Wood Moisture Meters- Tools & Accessories to Enhance Use***

**Tom Laurenzi**, *Delmhorst Instrument*, Towaco, NJ

10:20 - 10:30 COFFEE BREAK

Moderator: **Brian Hughes**, NEKDA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (*Wagner Lumber*, Cayuta, NY)

10:30 - 11:15 ***Dry Kiln Safety***

**Peter Sformo**, *WJ Cox Associates*, Clarence, NY

11:15 - 11:45 ***Characteristics, Product Details and Use of Shade-Dri Cloth***

**Peter Duerden**, *U\*C Coatings*, Buffalo, NY

11:45 - 12:30 ***Enhancing the Air Drying Process***

**Brian Hughes**, *Wagner Lumber*, Cayuta, NY

12:30 - 12:45 ***NEKDA Annual Business Meeting, Elections***

12:45 - 1:30 LUNCHEON BUFFET

☺ → **NEKDA Elections.** Elections will be held at our fall membership meeting for several open positions on the NEKDA Board of Directors. We encourage any who are interested in this most stimulating and rewarding activity, and in becoming more active in the NEKDA, to consider serving as an Officer. Please contact Jason Ayer at 802/254-4528 or [jayer@cersosimo.com](mailto:jayer@cersosimo.com), or Bill Smith ([wbsmith@esf.edu](mailto:wbsmith@esf.edu) or 315/470-6832) with nominations or questions.

☺ → **And always remember**, research has confirmed what many in the sawmill, dry kiln, secondary manufacturing, and other wood processing operations have suspected for years; because log and lumber prices are impossible to control, sustained profitability and competitive advantage in the marketplace is most assured by quality kiln drying. Participate in NEKDA meetings for prosperity and profits!