Our 2006 Spring Meeting of the NEKDA is being held at the Sheraton Harborside in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on Wednesday and Thursday, March 29-30.

Your Board of Directors has put together an excellent meeting program with important and informative topics and opportunities for kiln operators and managers, along with interesting tours of Northland Forest Products, Abenaki Timber, and Lavalley Lumber.

The Sheraton Harborside is located right along the river, at 250 Market Street in historic downtown Portsmouth. Contact them promptly at 888/627-7138 or 603/431-2300 to make your overnight reservations, being sure to note specifically that you are with the NEKDA group. Please book soon as our NEKDA room block and special rate of $119/night for March 28 and 29, has a cut-off date which has been extended only a week beyond March 8. Reservations made after that will be on a space-available basis and may be at a higher price. This is a very nice hotel in a popular area near the New Hampshire and Maine seacoast and the hotel is likely to fill quickly.

Please mail your preregistration form (enclosed) and check directly, and promptly, to Bill Smith (to be received by March 22). Note the $15 per person surcharge for late registration. Please check the web at 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.

"Optimize your Kiln Drying Processing and Efficiency"

Wednesday March 29

Wednesday Plant Tours (on your own as you travel to the meeting, preregistration required)

**L Abenaki Timber Tour at 9:00 am**
361 Pleasant Street, Epping, NH

The Abenaki Timber concentration yard in Epping, NH kiln dries and processes high quality hardwood lumber. On the tour we will see their air and kiln drying operations, inspection, trimming and grading lines and planing.

www.abenakitimber.com Take the Beede Road exit 6 from NH-101, towards Depot Road (0.4 mi). Turn right onto Depot Rd (0.7 mi) then take sharp right onto School St (<0.1 mi), then left onto Pleasant St (0.5 mi).

**L Lavalley Lumber Tour at 9:00 am**
563 New Dam Road, Sanford, ME

Lavalley Lumber manufactures high quality NeLMA grade white pine lumber. On the tour we will see their sawmill, kiln drying, boiler and planing facilities.

www.lavalleylumber.com From I-95 exit 19 take ME-109 (6.9 mi) then turn right onto Kennebunk Rd. Go 1 mile, take slight left onto Whichers Mill Rd for 0.2 mi, then take slight left onto Stebbins Rd for 1.1 mi, then turn left onto New Dam Rd for 0.6 mi.

**L Northland Forest Products Tour at 11:00 am**
36 Depot Road, Kingston, NH

The Northland Forest Products concentration yard in Kingston, NH kiln has offers both wholesale and retail operations. The offer top quality hardwood lumber and certified lumber. On the tour we will see their picture tally system, dry kilns, grading, inventory handling and retail lumber operations.

www.northlandforest.com From NH-101, ~ 8 mi south on rte 125. From I-495 in MA, ~10 mi north on rte 125. From I-95, exit 1, then ~ 11 mi nw on rte 107. At intersection of rtes. 125 and 107, go west on Scotland Road, then take immediate right onto Depot Road. NFP is 100 yards on right.

At the Sheraton Harborside
12:45 - 1:15 REGISTRATION and Box Lunch (in the meeting room), and introductions.

1:15 - 1:45 **L An End-Users Perspective of Quality Kiln Drying**
Tim McIntyre, Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers, Auburn, ME

1:45 - 5:00 **L Kiln Operator's Clinic** - led by Bill Smith, Peter Garrahan, Bill Rice. 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 at the clinic on your registration form.

3:00 - 3:15  REFRESHMENT BREAK
5:30 - 6:30  STRESS RELIEF
6:30 - 8:30  AWARDS:  Jim Catterick Industrial Award
              Bill Rice Achievement Award

"Optimize your Kiln Drying Processing and Efficiency"
Thursday March 30

At the Sheraton Harborside
7:00 - 7:45  BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
7:45 - 8:00  REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
8:00 - 8:05  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Sean Barrows, NEKDA President (Mill River Lumber, N. Clarendon, VT)
Moderator:  Scott Ferland, NEKDA 1st Vice President (Cersosimo Lumber, N. Hartland, VT)
8:05 - 8:40  L  Picture Tally: A New System to Tally Lumber
            Rick Fafard, River City Software, Exeter, NH
            Fred Doane, Northland Forest Products, Kingston, NH

8:40 - 9:15  L  Hardwood & Softwood Kiln Emissions:
             An Update on Safety and Health Concerns
             Bob Rice, University of Maine, Orono, ME

9:15 - 9:55  L  Managing Boilers for Your Kiln
             Dave Nichols, Technical Services, Claremont, NH

9:55 - 10:15  QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION, COFFEE BREAK
Moderator:  Rod Santaw, NEKDA 2nd Vice President (Morse Hardwoods, Essex Jct., VT)
10:15 - 11:10  L  Pathology and Wood Quality
               Walter Shortle, USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH

11:10 - 11:45  L  Risk Management and Lumber Drying Operations
               Lew Castle, Johnson Insurance, Middlebury, VT

11:45 - 12:30  L  Proper Valve and Actuation Selection for the KilnDrying Industry
               Terry J. Ingram, Allagash Valve & Controls, Falmouth, ME

12:30 - 12:40  QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
12:40 - 1:30  LUNCHEON BUFFET

L  2006 Dues.  If you have not yet paid your NEKDA Dues for 2006, please send your check and form quickly to Bob Pope, NEKDA Treasurer, at 13 George Street, Montpelier, VT 05602.  Your membership and contributions are most appreciated, and enable the NEKDA to maintain its activities, mission and service to the wood drying and processing industry.  If you need a new a membership form, please print one from www.esf.edu/nekda.  Prompt receipt will help insure correct listing in the 2006 Membership Directory.  Please also provide email addresses.

L  Be sure to consider nominating one of your employees, colleagues, or yourself for the prestigious 2006 JIM CATTERICK INDUSTRIAL and BILL RICE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS.  These are to recognize outstanding performance in the area of dry kiln and drying related and/or associated manufacturing, and outstanding people who have made significant contributions in service, education, and/or technology in the area of dry kiln and drying related and associated operations.  The awards, will be presented at our Spring Meeting with an engraved plaque and a $500 cash prize.  Award application forms can be found online at www.esf.edu/nekda, or from any NEKDA Officer or Board Member whom you can also contact with any questions.  Applications are due by March 17.