

El Dorado Chemical

Paul Rydlund, vice president of El Dorado Chemical, discussed the production of both high-density, fertilizer-grade and low-density, explosive-grade ammonium nitrate. He also pointed out some of the difficulties associated with possible tagging approaches for this bulk explosive chemical.

Institute of Makers of Explosives

J. Christopher Ronay, president of the Institute of Makers of Explosives, presented the IME viewpoint. The IME endorses the use of detection taggants in plastic explosives and supports a national licensing program for purchasers or possessors of commercial explosives. However, it opposes the use of identification taggants—particularly the Microtaggant[®] product—in explosive materials, stating that they can pose safety risks, will have an adverse effect on the environment and mined products, will have minimal law enforcement benefits, and will present significant costs and economic competitiveness issues.

International Society of Explosives Engineers

Jeffrey L. Dean, executive director and general counsel, presented the ISEE viewpoint, which included support for a national licensing program for purchasers or possessors of commercial explosives, increased controls on the proliferation of improvised explosives information, support for explosive detection technologies, and the use of detection taggants in plastic explosives.

Law Enforcement Agencies

The committee heard presentations from Lt. Thomas Spencer and Sgt. Howard Rechtshaffen, members of the bomb squad of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. They indicated that while taggant approaches could offer another tool to locate and convict criminals, new legislation requiring taggants would not address the substantial quantities of explosive materials already in the hands of the public. They also indicated a strong preference for pre-blast detection technologies rather than post-blast identification schemes.

National Mining Association

Terry O'Connor, vice president of external affairs for ARCO Coal Company, discussed the concerns of the National Mining Association with the committee. He indicated that the mining industry uses approximately 90% of the more than 4 billion pounds of commercial explosives produced each year. The NMA endorses the use of detection taggants in plastic explosives (such as those endorsed by the International Civil Aviation Organization). However, it opposes broad requirements to include identification taggants in explosive materials because of concerns about safety, mined product