

A 2006 Eco-Efficiency Success Story



APC Coatings Ltd.
Dartmouth, NS

Efficiency All Around!

APC Coatings is a Nova Scotia-owned, ISO 9001:2000 certified supplier of technologically advanced, high quality hot dipped galvanizing of various steel structures. The company has been in the coating industry for almost 20 years, developing galvanizing processes and a solid track record of steel protection and customer satisfaction along the way. APC Coatings is the largest full-service coatings operation in Eastern Canada. With a 35,000 square foot galvanizing facility combined with advanced technology, APC is a recognized leader in the coatings industry.

The company's unique galvanizing processes and solid track record of steel protection has led to a wide range of business opportunities. Driven by constant innovation and adherence to the latest industry standards and techniques, APC has worked on almost every offshore project since 1997.

APC has 20 employees at their Burnside location. The metal finishing industry has traditionally had many serious environmental issues that include generating hazardous waste products, and consuming large quantities of water and energy. This necessarily requires a conscientious company to have a greater awareness of environmental regulations, potential problem areas as well as best practices and new technologies to make improvements, not to mention simply keeping the business financially successful. APC continually review their operations to ensure that they are complying with regulations and operating efficiently. They are always watching for new opportunities to gain a competitive edge.

For example, APC has worked to extend the life of their acid baths and have succeeded in increasing the life from six months to 13 months with a goal of 24 months. This has resulted in large cost savings in water, chemicals, and waste treatment. When the acid baths do need to be changed, the rinse water, which previously went to drain, is captured and sent off site to be treated and purified. All sludge collected from the bottom of the acid baths is sent to be stabilized before going to landfill. Even the floor sweepings, which contain some iron and zinc, are gathered and shipped to have the iron and zinc reclaimed. Some zinc dust is actually being used by another company as an ingredient. APC capped their plant drains with concrete in 2002 to prevent any liquid in the plant from entering the storm or sewer drain systems.

APC Coating's commitment to the environment extends well beyond their facility. They have an environmental management and emergency response plan covering all possible disaster scenarios at their facility. Their in house teams are trained to respond. The fire department has been through the facility several times and neighbouring companies have a copy of the plan and understand what they need to do in the event of an emergency. Before a waste hauler or salvage company is contracted, they must complete an in-depth 20 page audit detailing how they handle and dispose of the waste. Once contracted, the haulers must complete this audit annually.

Backed by ISO and the Society for Protective Coatings' QP3 certification, and experience in both land and marine applications, APC Coatings is prepared to handle the job in any industry in an environmentally sound manner.



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