

# P2 award: Silver-bearing wastes kept from the environment

N. T. and H. Enterprises, Inc. plays a major role in the reduction and elimination of silver-bearing wastes entering the environment. And for their efforts, they have been awarded a 2002 Kansas Pollution Prevention Award from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Roy and Norma Henderson founded N. T. and H. Enterprises in 1979 to provide an efficient, reliable, and economically beneficial means of recovering and recycling silver from both the liquid and solid wastes generated by radiographic, lithographic, and photographic industries. At that time,

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**"We benefit the environment in an economically feasible manner that is compliance friendly."**

—Kevin Henderson

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Roy was manager of the x-ray department at the Hertzler Clinic in Halstead and was consistently aware that silver-recovery needs were not being met. He began a project to take care of those needs as a sideline job to help put his children through college.

The business grew and expanded, and in 1999 the company became incorporated. Roy and Norma's son Kevin, who said, "I started in the business in 1982 to keep from being unemployed," is

now corporate president and general manager of N. T. and H. His wife, Diane, is corporate secretary-treasurer and office manager, and Roy is the "retired" corporate vice president of the firm. Norma passed away in 2000.

"We were very pleased to be recognized with the P2 Award," Kevin said. "It's nice to have the validation for all the hard work we've done. Our company is an example of a win-win situation. We benefit the environment in an economically feasible manner that is compliance friendly."

N. T. and H. Enterprises, Inc. recycles approximately 1.5 million pounds of silver, film, and paper each year. The recycled material yields 177,441.37 troy ounces of silver, valued at approximately \$4.65 per troy oz., for an annual economic impact of \$825,102.37. One 90-gallon polycart of non-recyclable trash is sent to the landfill every other week by the firm—a vast reduction in the amount of materials needing to be landfilled.

N. T. and H. Enterprises, Inc. contracts with 155 of the 179 hospitals in Kansas and is registered to provide its services to hospital and radiographic departments, as well as lithographic and

photographic processing labs in eight other states.

KDHE has sponsored an awards and recognition program since 1993 for businesses that go above and beyond environmental compliance with regulations. For questions about the P2 Awards program, contact the Pollution Prevention Institute at 800-578-8898. ☼

