

Patent perfection



Glen Daigger

Protecting intellectual property is one of the firm's key initiatives.

Unlimited caught up with CH2M HILL's Glen Daigger

to get his perspective on the importance of capturing and protecting unique ideas through patents, copyrights and trademarks.

Daigger, Technology Director for the Water Business Group, earned his first patent in the mid-1980s when he and Liliana Maldonado codeveloped, with the Hampton Roads (Virginia) Sanitation District, the "VIP Process." The VIP process extended conventional secondary treatment for the removal of organic matter, to the removal of biological nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous from wastewater.

His second patent came in 1994 with the STEP-BioP Process. This was

also an improved method of nutrient removal that required less tank storage than conventional wastewater treatment.

Unlimited: *How do you feel about our firm's potential for creating intellectual property?*

DAIGGER: Pound for pound, we have the best and most creative people anywhere. Our unique inventions and ideas have distinguished us in the marketplace and have opened doors for us since the firm was founded.

How is CH2M HILL's intellectual property important to the firm in the marketplace?

With regard to the patents that I was a part of, we are now regarded as experts in nutrient removal. Since nutrient removal has evolved to be a differentiator in the entire municipal wastewater treatment market, our recognized expertise in this area provides us a distinctive competitive

advantage in this significant market area. So, one would have to say that our efforts at innovation in this area have paid us back well beyond expectations. For example, our knowledge and competitive advantage in BNR (biological nutrient removal) was one of the factors that allowed us to win the Manukau project in New Zealand.

How can intellectual property be personally valuable to the inventor?

It's a tremendous feather in your cap from a career development standpoint. You gain recognition and respect among your peers and within your industry.

Do you have any recommendations for someone who thinks they may have a great idea?

Don't be too conservative. Assume that it can be patented, and then try to disprove it rather than the other way around.

Intellectual Property

Top honor goes to Glen Daigger

Congratulations to Glen Daigger for receiving a top honor from the preeminent professional society for water/wastewater managers.

The Water Environment Federation bestowed the Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal to Daigger on Oct. 16 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The medal is awarded for "research that makes a vital contribution to the existing knowledge of the fundamental principles or process of wastewater treatment, as comprehensively described and published in a federation periodical," according to WEF.

WEF published Daigger's paper, *Improving Aerobic Digestion by Pre-thickening, Staged Operation and Aerobic/Anoxic Operation: Four Full-scale Demonstrations in the Spring of 2000*. It addresses

a more reliable, efficient process for treating biosolids for agricultural use. The process reduces the use of chemicals and thereby makes it more economical for use by small and medium size wastewater treatment facilities.

Daigger is an international technology leader in wastewater treatment and has been a guest lecturer at universities throughout the United States. He has received numerous industry awards and has been instrumental in developing a variety of technologies for improved wastewater treatment.

A copy of the Eddy award-winning paper can be obtained through the Water Business Group's web site library on the Virtual Office or by requesting a copy from ch2munlimited@ch2m.com.