

Environmental Action Program ...

Kohler Aim: Protect Air, Land, Water

"Man has been creating a new world but neglecting to prepare himself to live in it in a rational way," Walter J. Kohler, Sr., said nearly 40 years ago.

"He has great power to control his environment, but he has made something of a mess of it. It is high time to take the problem earnestly in hand."

Walter Kohler made that prophetic statement when the Society of Arts and Sciences awarded him its first National Service Fellowship medal for his role in the planned development of the Village of Kohler.

But similar concepts have guided Kohler Co.'s commitment to the improvement of its environment for more than 70 years.

Since it moved to its present site at the turn of the century, the company has tried to minimize air and water pollution, as well as soil erosion, and it continued a program of planting trees, maintaining grounds to

keep them clean and safe, and constructing factory buildings that are aesthetically pleasing.

This spring Kohler Co. announced that it is replacing its iron foundry melting furnaces with a \$6.6-million, smoke-free system of electric induction units.

This is the third major environmental improvement the company has undertaken in its current \$8-million, two-year program.

The 9,000-kilowatt electric furnaces will begin operation in late summer of 1974, replacing present coke-fired cupola equipment.

The units will remove all iron oxide, fly ash, mill scale, and other unburned particles from air and water discharged from the foundry.

The foundry installation represents a major investment in environmental improvement and protection. The electric furnaces

will be virtually pollution-free and will surpass substantially the emission standards and requirements of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and federal environmental agencies.

Retention Lagoons

Twin retention lagoons have been built south of Kohler along the Sheboygan River. The system will process waters from the company's storm sewers before they are discharged into the river. The eight-million gallon lagoons will remove suspended solids from industrial processes and storm water carried by the company's storm sewer lines.

Coal-to-Oil Conversion

Another improvement is the conversion of the power house boilers from coal to oil, a cleaner-burning fuel.

Four large-capacity, underground oil storage tanks and three sets of fuel oil or natural

gas burners in the power house boilers have been constructed.

The \$700,000 project will virtually eliminate particulate emissions from the company's power house smoke stack.

Continuing Program

Kohler Co. was one of the first manufacturers in eastern Wisconsin to install water-washing and "wet cap" emission abatement equipment in its foundry furnaces.

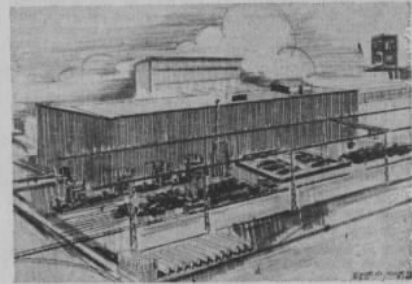
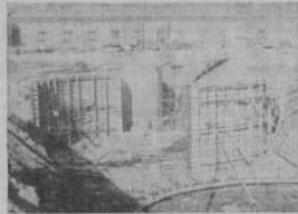
The company maintains separate sanitary and storm sewer systems on a plant-wide basis.

Regularly during the past 80 years, land has been bought adjacent to the Sheboygan River as a means of protecting it. In land deeded in 1962 to Sheboygan

County for building an extension to the University of Wisconsin, a covenant requires that the river and its immediate area be preserved.

When there were no state or national parks nearby, the company made the Black River Forest Preserve and Wild Life Refuge available to the public for recreational use. The area since has been presented to the state of Wisconsin as John Michael Kohler State Park.

Since 1953 the company has disposed of solid wastes on a large tract of company-owned farm land, in accordance with state regulations. When one of the clay-lined weirs is filled, it is covered with soil and top dressing, graded and planted in grass.



Two water-retention lagoons, left, with capacity of eight million gallons, will clarify process and storm water carried by company's storm sewer lines. Conversion of power house furnaces from coal to oil-burning units, right, is scheduled for completion in 1974.

9,000-kilowatt electric furnaces will replace existing coke-fired cupolas for melting iron. \$6.6-million system is scheduled for completion in 1974.