

For the AWMA Journal

I am saddened to report that Dr. Aaron Teller passed away on June 26 in Palm Beach FL. Dr. Teller previously received an AWMA award for excellence in technology innovation, and was the father of the dry scrubber, which is used in many applications today.

Dr. Aaron Teller had a brilliant career as a chemical engineer, and was Dean of Engineering at Cooper Union University in New York. He authored many technical papers and books, and has numerous patents, including the advanced air scrubber packing Tellerettes, that are still in use today.

I met Dr. Teller, around 1980 and learned that he initially developed the dry scrubbing air cleaning technology from the aluminum industry, and saw one of his APC systems on a secondary aluminum furnace in Toronto Canada. I knew that he had developed this concept from the primary aluminum furnace control systems that appeared in the late 60s, that successfully controlled both acid gas and particulate emissions.

Dr. Teller first applied his dry scrubber to a municipal incinerator in Framingham, Massachusetts in 1974. The Japanese later licensed this technology several years later, and took this advanced air pollution control system to Japan for control of municipal incinerator emissions.

In the early 80s, I tried convincing our New York State, air pollution control agency to specify the dry scrubber as BACT for WTE facilities. Unfortunately, this technology wasn't applied until almost a decade later, after dioxin emissions became an issue. To hear a radio podcast on this history of control of WTE emissions go to www.wtert.org.

I was proud to join with Dr. Teller in June 1983, to present a paper **Control of Dioxin Emissions from incineration** at the APCA's annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Teller's dry scrubber technology was later acquired by other firms, and is widely used today especially in the waste to energy industry.

Aaron Teller was far more than an air pollution control technology pioneer. He was kind and wise, and cared for people, having a very ethical nature. I am proud to have had him as my mentor. There are certain good people that we'll never forget. Aaron Teller inspired many of us as he advanced the art of air pollution control, to protect public health and the environment. May his memory live on with us forever.

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