

# Eastern Washington Chapter Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers Newsletter

June 1999

Issue 99-3

## *Mark your Calendars!*

*Be sure you don't miss this meeting. The EWC-ACHMM's plans its last full chapter meeting on June 17 (until next September). Be sure you attend this Thursday evening at WSU/ Tri Cities Campus Main Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.*

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This month's speaker is Barry Vedder. He will be discussing the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and its applicability at Hanford.

Barry has been at the Hanford site for 20 years. He initially worked as a plant engineer for the N-Fuels Fabrication Facility in the 300 Area. For the last 10 years he has worked with environmental regulations, particularly RCRA, CERCLA, and MTCA. He served on Ecology's External Advisory Committee for revisions to the state Dangerous Waste Regulations and has evaluated and commented on a numerous environmental regulations.

Barry is currently with the Bechtel Hanford, Inc., where he provides RCRA and CERCLA regulatory support for the Hanford Environmental Restoration Contractor.

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## 1999 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The remaining EWC-ACHMM General Membership Meetings will be held at the WSU/ Tri Cities Campus Main Auditorium Meetings are scheduled as follows:

June 17  
September 17  
October 21

## ACHMM NATIONAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 3 – 7, 1999

*“Environmental Strategies for the New Millennium”  
at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO*

The ACHMM National Conference, Environmental Strategies for the New Millennium is scheduled for October 4-6, 1999, in Kansas City, MO. This conference invites us to look beyond the day-to-day environmental compliance toward a long-term view. Through speakers, workshops, and interaction with our peers, the focus of the conference will be the forces that have the power to reshape the way we work and live in the new millennium.

It will be an enlightening and rewarding experience for all environmental professionals.

One of our members, Steve Williams, of “Bighorn Environmental” in Oregon will be giving an overview of Training System Management. Many technical sessions are scheduled for Monday, October 4 and Tuesday, October 5.

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*EWC-ACHMM Launches  
a Coordinated Effort with the  
Willamette-Columbia Chapter from  
Oregon*

## ACHMM Convention

**August 13-16, 2000**

**To be held at the**

**Doubletree Jansen Beach Hotel**

**Portland, Oregon**

**Facing the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

## **EWC-ACHMM Coordinated Effort –**

**Chris Brevick, our EWC-ACHMM President, has arranged a coordinated effort with the Portland, Oregon Chapter. The Year 2000 Conference will be getting EWC-ACHMM support with vendor and booth arrangements, as well as with logistics.**

**This activity is a great opportunity for the EWC-ACHMM! Anyone who has time this summer to work from home on this important task, please contact Chris Brevick at 372-0833 for more information.**

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## **National Registry of Environmental Professionals**

Stan Jones, Chairperson of Professional Development, provided the following information for the EWC-ACHMM's use.

The National Registry of Environmental Professionals (NREP), "The Environmental Registry (sm)," is incorporated and legally recognized as a not-for-profit, non-member certification and accrediting organization providing professional credentials in the form of certifications and registration to qualified individuals. The organization was officially established in 1983. NREP is comprised of a Board of Directors, Governing Council and advisory boards of environmental educators, governmental officials and industrial managers. Individuals who become professionally credentialed by NREP may participate on its boards and committees. Their code of ethical practice includes, among others, the following:

- To practice only in those areas of environmental science, safety, health or technology in which professional competence has been attained.
- To take all appropriate measures to prevent any conflict of interest that could compromise the planning and management of environmental activities.
- To perform assigned or contracted environmental planning and management duties always in a professional manner respectful of laws and regulations and the needs and concerns of others.
- To use the best principles of environmental science, health, safety and technology in planning and management to protect and enhance environmental quality.
- To comply with applicable environmental quality, occupational health and safety, and product safety laws and regulations.

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## **THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN MAY IN THE TRI-CITIES**

The Pacific Northwest Hazardous Materials Conference was held at the Pasco Double Tree on May 17, 18, and 19<sup>th</sup>. The EWC-ACHMM's booth was actively visited. We provided a complimentary Hazardous Materials Management book as a door prize for conference participants that was quite popular. The conference was an opportunity for the EWC-ACHMM volunteers to network with other hazardous materials professionals and to obtain the names of persons that may want to participate in the CHMM sponsored course at Washington State University. This was a great event. More of you may want to participate in next year!

**REGULATORY  
LIAISON  
MAY/ JUNE REPORT**

*From: Melinda Brown*

**WASHINGTON STATE,  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Ecology published a list of the 27 chemicals that they consider to be PBTs, chemicals that are toxic, long-lasting substances. Among the PBTs listed are cadmium, mercury, DDT, PCBs, dioxins, and furans.

<http://www.wa.gov/ecology/eils/bcc/pbtlist.html>

They accumulate in the food chain to concentrations that can be harmful to human health and the environment. As contaminants, PBTs can move between environmental media, traveling long distances, and remaining intact for long periods. In the human body, they can affect the nervous system and reproductive system and cause developmental problems, cancer, and genetic effects

Ecology decided that their strategy is to virtually eliminate the releases of all PBTs into the air, land, or water. The agency concluded that the risk from PBTs remaining in the environment and accumulating in humans required a new approach. In the past, the agency focused its efforts on regulating emissions to specific environmental media, rather than integration of control of all pathways. With help from the public, Ecology is working to create a framework of voluntary compliance actions, new regulatory requirements, and other incentives to eliminate PBTs. Pollution prevention through promotion of cleaner technologies and substitutes will be encouraged

<http://www.wa.gov/ecology/eils/bcc/bccfaq.html>

Ecology published a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry on two air quality programs: the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program and the Best Available Retrofit Technology provisions and PSD provisions of the Visibility Protection Program. The intent of the PSD rule amendment is to update the State program and to clarify the PSD process.

Ecology is also correcting inconsistencies in the Visibility Protection Program and evaluating adjustment of the State program to copy the less-inclusive federal program.

Ecology will establish three different external work groups to provide advice on changes to both programs. EPA and local air authorities will be represented in the working groups.

[Http://www.wa.gov/ecology/elg/wac\\_173400/d99-06a.pdf](http://www.wa.gov/ecology/elg/wac_173400/d99-06a.pdf)

**WASHINGTON STATE,  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

On April 27, 1999, Health provided a news release to alert State residents of a new report that will be issued on water quality. Operators of community water systems serving more than 25 people must provide their customers an annual "consumer confidence report" that detail the quality of the water they receive. All water quality reports must be issued by October 1999 and by July of each year thereafter.

Mary Selecky, Health Secretary, urged consumers to use the reports to become better educated about their water quality. She expressed concern that people who are vulnerable to illnesses, such as organ transplant recipients, very young children, and very old adults need the information to make decisions about sources of the water they should drink. Both consumer groups and water providers support publication of the reports because water users will become more concerned about their water quality and will work to protect their drinking water resources.

[Washington Department of Health News Release 99-34 4/27/99]

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/99\\_News/99-34.html](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/99_News/99-34.html)

House Bill 1642 Surface Water Permits & Rights was delivered to the State Governor at the end of the Legislative Session. The bill allows water permit holders to change the point of water diversion for an undeveloped portion of an existing water right permit. The point of diversion may be changed from an existing authorized diversion point, downstream to an existing intake

structure. Certain conditions must be met: the permit owner cannot change, the season of diversion must remain the same, and the original purpose and place of use of the water must remain unchanged.

Senate Bill 5821 establishes a statewide licensing program for persons who design on-site waste water treatment options.

The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors are required to suspend the license or permit practice of any wastewater treatment system designer who is at least six months delinquent on child support payments.

[Legislative Update 4/30/99]

***FEDERAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY***

The White House Office of Management and Budget conducted a 10-day review of a proposed rule making that would change the RCRA land disposal restrictions for mercury-bearing wastes. The USEPA is considering allowing stabilization technology as a treatment option for high-level mercury waste. (Stabilization is already allowed for low-level mercury wastes).

The current treatment standard requires that high-level mercury wastes be recycled to recover the metal for use in new products. Residues from the recovery process must meet the treatment standard of 0.20 mg/L before disposal.

Most mercury is now recycled; however, mercury bearing high levels of organics is required to be incinerated to destroy the organics. The waste in the incineration ash that remains must then be stabilized to 0.025 mg Hg/L waste for land disposal. The advance notice is expected to include an option to stabilize the high-level mercury waste containing organics without incineration. EPA is not expected to proffer a specific treatment technology because the agency is still considering different stabilization technologies.

USEPA indicated that commercial hazardous waste landfills could meet the land disposal treatment standard (0.025 mg/L for leachate without incineration).

Waste with high concentrations of mercury and organics will likely require thermal oxidation or thermal desorption to separate the organics.

[BNA Vol. 29, No. 50, p. 2526, 4/23/99]

The USEPA will issue a direct final rule in May 1999 that will implement many technical corrections to the PCB mega-rule that was effective in August 1998. The technical rule will remedy mistakes in the mega-rule.

The agency is also preparing a question-and-answer document that will address substantive issues raised during public meetings on implementation of the rule. The document will be available on the internet.

The agency is nearing completion of a final rule governing reclassification of PCB transformers. Adoption of the rule is expected by August 1999. In the rule, owners of PCB transformers are given the requirements to reclassify PCB transformers as old electrical equipment. The final rule will redefine the reclassification process that was established in a 1982 rule.

[BNA Vol. 29, No. 48, p. 2418, 4/9/99]

EPA is developing a proposed rule to address stormwater management for construction activities. The rule will apply to storm water discharges associated with construction, specifically for new development and redevelopment, during the construction and post-construction phases. The rule will affect land developers, home builders, commercial and industrial property builders, and other private and public sector construction site owners and operators.

[BNA Vol. 29, No. 48, p. 2419, 4/9/99]