

# EWC-ACHMM NEWSLETTER



**Eastern Washington Chapter of the  
Academy of Certified  
Hazardous Materials Managers**

1370 Jadwin, Ste 113  
Richland, WA 99352

<http://www.ewcachmm.org>

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1993—Bruce Vesper

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This will be my last submission to the EWC/ACHMM newsletter as chapter president. I want to thank everyone for their help in the past year as I learned quite a bit about what it means to be in such a leadership role. This is a great organization and we have some really wonderful people dedicated to keeping it running smoothly and providing professional opportunities to our members and the public in general.

As you know, it is time to hand over the reins of leadership responsibilities for 2008. We have a great team lined up and I am excited about the activities being discussed for next year. Also, we recently held our Annual Awards Banquet on December 6th. We were pleased to have Michele Gerber as our keynote speaker who provided us with some history on the B Reactor. Also, Michael Mandracchia, the current National ACHMM President-elect was in attendance. This was a great opportunity for us to learn what ACHMM National is up to and to ask questions on the activities that benefit our members.

Also, I want to thank both Fluor Hanford (FH) and CH2MHILL for their support of our awards and to thank Con Murphy, FH, and Moses Jaraysi, CH2MHILL, for presenting the awards.

The past few months have been very busy. We had two general meetings in October. On October 12<sup>th</sup> we had our annual winery event and social at Airfield Winery in Prosser. We were provided with a tour of the facility, information on wine production, and some history of the winery and the surrounding area. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Mike Ritter, from Fish & Wildlife, presented information on the 2007 Summer Fire Season on the Hanford Reach National Monument; it was quite a season. November was a month of planning activities. Committees finalized the awards and scholarship decisions. There were some outstanding award nominations. This is a good recognition program and we hope that more will be willing to nominate outstanding teams, projects, and individuals in the future. Details of both Scholarships and the Awards are included in this Newsletter.

In conclusion (yes, I am about done here) I would like to recommend that everyone consider getting more involved in the chapter activities. Partly for what you have to offer the chapter and partly for what you can learn about yourself. I have learned so much about myself and have a much better understanding of what it means to be in a leadership position. I must admit, I feel a little more empathy with management and the complexities that can arise in trying to get a good job done.

Thank you,  
Andrea Prignano

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# Hanford's Waste Retrieval Project Wins 2007 Excellence in Hazardous Materials Management Award

The Waste Retrieval Project (WRP) at Hanford is responsible for the retrieval of 15,000 m<sup>3</sup> of suspect Transuranic (TRU) waste from burial grounds 218-W-4C, 218-E-12B, 218-W-3A, and 218-W-4B by December 31, 2010. Retrieval is defined as removing soil overburden from the waste containers within the trenches and transferring them to a permitted and compliant treatment, storage, and disposal facility.



Despite the increasingly deteriorated containers, the WRP has safely retrieved more than 18,000 containers while achieving all legally mandated waste volume removal milestones defined in the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (i.e., the Tri-Party Agreement). The WRP has maintained an exceptional safety performance record without any significant hazardous material management issues.

The first step in retrieval operations involves reviewing the original burial record. The detail on the record varies and the older records generally tend to have less information. Review of the waste records can provide container identification numbers, location in the storage module, physical waste form, container weight, radionuclide, chemical content, and details about the source of the waste (facility/process that generated the waste).

After planning, drums and boxes are retrieved from the

burial grounds. The boxes vary in size, shape, and weight and are constructed of different materials (e.g., metal, concrete and/or fiberglass reinforced plywood).

Excavation activities are controlled closely and hand tools are used to supplement the digging, and for access and removal of the plastic and plywood materials covering the containers.

Containers are visually inspected and surveyed for contamination and deformities.

Inspections that identify drum characteristics and influence how the container will be handled during retrieval include the following:

- Dose and radioactive contamination surveys
- Industrial health monitoring (organic vapor surveys, etc.)
- Structural integrity and vent status
- Other conditions (e.g., such as bulging, which could indicate pressurization)

Much of the retrieved waste includes debris-type items such as plastic (gloves, glove bags, greenhouses, personal protective clothing), metal (tools, pipe, cans/lids), rubber (boots, masks, foam, hoses), and cellulose (brushes, paper, tape, cloth gloves).

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico is the only facility that accepts defense-related TRU waste for disposal.

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## EWC's 2007 Scholarship Winner Announced

Dale Hyatt Jr. is the winner of this year's \$1,000 scholarship. Dale is currently a freshman at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. He is majoring in Construction Management and intends to enter the field of demolition. Dale explained in his application that the segregation of recyclable materials, hazardous or dangerous materials and re-useable items reduces the use of landfills, minimize production of new materials, and helps preserve natural resources. Dale indicated that he became interested in demolition when he helped demolish a 12 ft. travel trailer. The aluminum was recycled, windows and propane appliances were reused (in their family cabin) and the trailer chassis was used to construct a new utility trailer.

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## Certified Hazardous Materials Practitioner (CHMP)

There is another certification now available from the Institute of Hazardous Materials Managers (IHMM) known as the Certified Hazardous Materials Practitioner (CHMP, pronounced "CHaMP"). This credential provides recognition for the non-degreed individual who has at least 5 years of experience (or an AAS degree plus 3 years of experience) in the practice of handling hazardous materials associated with public health and safety, transportation, security, and environmental protection. The CHMP certification is related to the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, but focuses more on hands-on or workplace experience as a practitioner and less on the corporate management aspects of the field. Candidates for CHMP certification must pass a written multiple-choice examination professionally developed by IHMM and administered via computer-based testing (CBT). There are two ways to qualify:

- Five years of relevant experience, with responsibilities directly related to the handling of hazardous materials and/or waste in the workplace; **OR**
- Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree from an accredited college or university in hazardous materials management, environmental science, environmental management, or environmental technology, plus 3 years of relevant experience.

For more information, go to [www.ihmm.org/](http://www.ihmm.org/) or call (301) 984-8969.

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## Hanford Site Historian Provides B Reactor Presentation

Michele Gerber, Ph.D., provided EWC members and guests with a presentation on B Reactor, at the annual Holiday Banquet and Awards Ceremony on December 6th. B Reactor is the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor and was part of the Manhattan Project that operated during World War II.

Recently, B Reactor was recommended for designation as a National Historic Landmark. This was accomplished via a unanimous recommendation by the National Park Service advisory committee in Washington D.C. Michele indicated however, that the current plan for B Reactor is for the Department of Energy to cocoon the reactor in concrete and steel until a decision is made on how to dispose of it. This means that the B Reactor is still vulnerable per the current commitments of the U. S. Department of Energy.

Tours of B Reactor are occasionally provided to the public and when offered are very popular. Michele said that B Reactor is important to our nation's history. It offers both a combination of science and engineering and represents a part of history that should not be forgotten.

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## ACHMM Activities in India

The ACHMM-India Chapter is organizing the second training course on Essentials of Hazardous Materials Management and the first National Seminar from February 1-5, 2008. The ACHMM-India Chapter is also organizing a vendor exposition during the same period. This event will be held at the Bangalore Institute of Technology in Bangalore, India. Over ten ACHMM members from the United States will be traveling to India to teach the training course and participate in the seminar. Some of the team members are visiting India for the second time in view of their special attachment and keen interest in the growth and development of the Chapter. For details, please contact Dr. Rampur Viswanath by phone: (509) 376-9223 or email: [Rampur\\_s\\_viswanath@rl.gov](mailto:Rampur_s_viswanath@rl.gov).

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# Next Year's Officers

- Mark Riess, President
- Jeanette Hyatt, Vice-President
- Tom Ashley/Pat Wicks, Secretary
- Mark Kerns, Treasurer
- Andrea Prignano, Past President

## 2007 Award Winners Announced

### *Hazardous Materials Manager of the Year* (Sponsored by Fluor Hanford)

Winners are:

**Gene Roosendaal and  
Gerald Johnston**

### *Meritorious Achievement* (Sponsored by CH2M Hill)

Winner is:

**Andrea Prignano**

### *Excellence in Hazardous Materials Management* (Sponsored by CH2M Hill)

Winner is:

**Waste Retrieval Project**

### *Outstanding Service Award* (Sponsored by Fluor Hanford)

Winner is:

**Terry Winward**

### *Presidents Award* (Sponsored by Fluor Hanford)

Winner is:

**Robbie Tidwell**

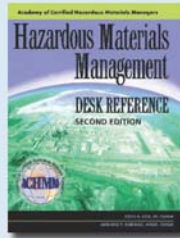
### *Membership Award* (Sponsored by Fluor Hanford)

Winner is:

**Rampur Viswanath**

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## Leadership Training Provider Selected

An agreement with BRANTA Worldwide has been made. They will now be ACHMM's provider for leadership training. This company specializes in developing leadership in the environmental, health, safety and security workplaces. ACHMM members do not have to pay for registration or materials for this annual skills-building leadership training event. BRANTA will conduct a day and half of training at the upcoming Leadership Workshop, which will take place April 24-26 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Among the topics to be covered are personal strength assessments, use of cases to develop essential leadership skills and collaboration simulation exercises.