

# 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>

#### Current Officers:

President: Mark Riess  
Vice President: Robbie Tidwell  
Secretary: Pat Wicks / Tom Ashley  
Treasurer: Mark Kerns  
Past President: Andrea Prignano

#### Committee Chairs:

Professional Development: Mike Schmoltdt  
Membership Development: Robbie Tidwell  
Public Relations: Terry Winward  
Awards: Chuck Mulkey  
Scholarships: Jim Jewitt  
Government Liaison: Rampur Viswanath  
Webmaster: Sebastian Tindall  
Education: Jim Jewitt  
Newsletter: Roni Swan/Rose Nipper  
Past President's Advisory Council:  
Chuck Mulkey (Chair), Terry Winward, and  
Bruce Vesper

#### Past Presidents:

2007—Andrea Prignano  
2006—Robbie Tidwell  
2005—Michelle Y. Mandis.  
2004—Chuck Mulkey  
2003—R. Terry Winward  
2002 – Rampur Viswanath  
2001 – Stan Jones  
2000 – Roni Swan  
1999 – Chris Brevick  
1998 – Robert Newell  
1997 – Delores Lutter  
1996 – Terry Ostrander  
1995 – Bill Holstein  
1994 – Brian Dixon  
1993 – Bruce Vesper

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Mark Riess

On behalf of the entire board of the EWC – ACHMM, we would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would like to thank everyone that has supported the Chapter during this past year. The ability of our members to step up for specific challenges and assignments truly makes this group stand apart from other organizations and one that is enjoyable to work with. My time spent with each of our board members and the opportunities that were provided by this organization to meet other professionals is a blessing. As we move forward, please support Robbie Tidwell during the next year as she takes over the management duties for 2009. It is my hope that each one of you take the time to get involved and to help the chapter grow for the benefit and health of the ACHMM.

Many of our members are part of new M&O organizations in support of the Hanford cleanup and each of you can contribute to the growth of ACHMM in your own way. As a group we have initiated several initiatives with our own as well as other chapters and are starting to see the CHMM credentials provide value within a professional venue as well as the personal benefits each of you has realized. Thank you for a great year and please enjoy the time with your family during this holiday season. Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

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# EPCRA and Lead Acid Batteries at Hanford

*From: Russ Johnson, CHMM (Fluor Hanford, Inc.)*

A change in federal guidelines for hazardous materials reporting on several types of lead acid batteries set in motion an effort by hundreds of personnel from many different organizations at Hanford. To maintain compliance with the updated interpretation, the EPCRA Team, led by Russ Johnson, CHMM, compiled data on hundreds of thousands of pounds of lead acid batteries that had been considered exempt from reporting parameters by the earlier interpretation.

An emerging issue became apparent to the DOE Complex during the DOE-HQ EPCRA teleconference call on December 11, 2007. Lead acid batteries, previously considered exempt by DOE as articles for EPCRA Section 311/312 chemical inventory reporting for the past 20 years, were found to be reportable if thresholds were exceeded (10,000 lbs for lead and/or lead compounds and 500 lbs for sulfuric acid).

Lead acid batteries are exempt as articles under EPCRA Section 313, using the same definition for article that OSHA uses in the HazCom Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200). EPCRA Section 311/312 requires reporting of chemicals that are considered hazardous chemicals by the HazCom Standard, i.e. a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is required. There are exemptions that may apply, including whether a product is considered exempt by OSHA as an article or as a consumer product.

Ten years ago, OSHA gave interpretive guidance that lead acid batteries are not articles, as during normal use, they leak, spill, or break. EPA began enforcement actions in the telecommunications industry in the 2002-2004 time frame, but DOE was unaware of the changed interpretation, until the December 11<sup>th</sup> EPCRA teleconference, chaired by DOE-HQ. Lead acid batteries used in vehicles were still considered exempt as consumer products, but fork-lift batteries, emergency lighting batteries, and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) batteries were not exempt.

The task to capture the previously untracked data was daunting. Data for chemical inventories had been re-

quested six weeks earlier. Many of the facilities had already completed year-end inventories and submitted data. This expanded request caused an urgent response to first verify the regulatory requirements, gain a consensus and path forward from the environmental managers and lawyers for all of the contractors, decide whether it was even possible to comply with the new interpretation of requirements for the CY 2007 report (due March 1, 2008), and negotiate compliance with DOE, Ecology, and EPA. The path forward was, "Yes, we will comply, whatever it takes."

The 45 people on the EPCRA and Lead Acid Batteries at Hanford Team, nominated for the FY 2008 Excellence in Hazardous Materials Management Award, are just the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of people performed unscheduled, unbudgeted hours of effort, often on overtime, to track down the data. Over 400,000 lbs of non-exempt lead acid batteries were identified in inventory for the Hanford Site for CY 2007, previously ignored because they were thought to be exempt. The report was filed on time, a task that many thought would be impossible.

A team effort involving ATLII, BNI, CH2M, FH, PNNL, WCH, DOE-HQ, ORP, PNSO, RL, EPA, and Ecology resolved a huge potential compliance issue for the Hanford Site. Since the purpose of the EPCRA Tier Two Inventory Report is to provide emergency responders with advance warning of what chemicals and physical hazards are present at facilities, each year's inventory report supersedes the previous year's report. Negotiations with the regulators concluded that attaining compliance for the CY 2007 report would satisfy the intent of the requirements; whether past reporting had omissions or not would not be an issue.

This issue was resolved not only for the Hanford Site, but through the rest of the DOE Complex. Other industries in Washington, such as Boeing and Energy Northwest, were unaware of this new interpretation for EPCRA reporting of lead acid batteries for Tier Two chemical inventories. Those companies also responded to the challenge, attaining compliance for the CY 2007 report for the revised interpretation.

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## CHMM Exam Preparation Guide Now Available

The site license for the CHMM exam preparation guide has now been purchased and is available to anyone that works on the Hanford site. Contact Rick Oldham at 372-2426 if you would like to borrow this CD on a 24-hour loan. The CD can be downloaded to a home pc also as long as it is also used for work purposes.

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# Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials is Pleased to Announce the Winners of the 2008 Awards

The Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers is pleased to announce the winners of its 2008 Hazardous Materials Management Awards:

**Hazardous Materials Manager of Year:** This award, sponsored by Washington River Protection Solutions, was awarded to *Russ Johnson* for his work in identifying a regulatory compliance issue and leading a large team in its resolution.

**Excellence in Hazardous Materials Management:** This award, sponsored by Washington River Protection Solutions, was awarded to the *PNNL ChemAgain* program. This program matches surplus chemicals with users and prevents having to send these chemicals to a disposal site.

**Hazardous Material Identification and Control Research:** This award, sponsored by CH2MHILL Plateau Remediation Company, was awarded to the *PFP Filter Room Evaluation Project* for their research and implementation of alternative testing methods for air ventilation systems.

**Meritorious Achievement:** This award, sponsored by CH2MHILL Plateau Remediation Company, was awarded to *Rampur Viswanath* for his dedication to the Chapter and his aid in helping the Chapter evolve.

**Outstanding Service Award:** *Andrea Prignano* was selected to receive this award in recognition to all her efforts on behalf of the Chapter.

**Presidents Awards:** *Roni Swan* was selected to receive this award for her aid to the Chapter President and her help on behalf of the Chapter.

In addition, the chapter is pleased to announce that *Clarissa Bulosan*, a junior in the Environmental Geological Sciences program at Central Washington University, will receive the 2008 college scholarship.

The awards are presented at the Chapter's annual awards banquet on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter wishes to thank Washington River Protection Solutions and CH2MHILL Plateau Remediation Company for their sponsorship of the awards and EnergySolutions for sponsoring the annual college scholarship.

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## 2009 Officers and Chairs

### Officers:

**President:** Robbie Tidwell

**Vice President:** Mike Schmoltdt

**Treasurer:** Mark Kerns

**Secretary:** Pat Wicks and Tom Ashley

**Immediate Past President:** Mark Riess

### Chairs:

**Professional Development:** Bruce Vesper

**Membership:** Andrea Prignano

**Public & Community Relations:** Terry Winward

**Awards:** Scot Adams

**Scholarship & Education:** Jim Jewett

**Government Liaison:** Harold Tilden

**Newsletter:** Roni Swan and Rose Nipper

**Webmaster:** Sebastian Tindall

**Past President's Advisory Council:** Chuck Mulkey, Rampur Viswanath, Andrea Prignano

## New Member Profile

Please welcome Mandy Heasler as a new EWC-ACHMM member! Mandy has worked for PNNL Environmental Management Services Department since 2004, holding a position as an “ES&H Professional and Engineer.” In this position, she provides support for multiple organizations within several facilities in the management of hazardous, radioactive, and biological materials and wastes. Prior to working for PNNL, she was employed by Fluor Hanford, Inc. and later by Energy Northwest as a scientist supporting effluents and groundwater sampling and monitoring programs, along with supporting waste management, transportation, pollution prevention, and environmental assessment programs. Mandy is experienced in various environmental sampling activities, and is knowledgeable about SW-846 testing methods. She enjoys botany, reading, movies, cooking, Jet Ski riding, hiking and studying geo formations. She also enjoys ballroom dancing.



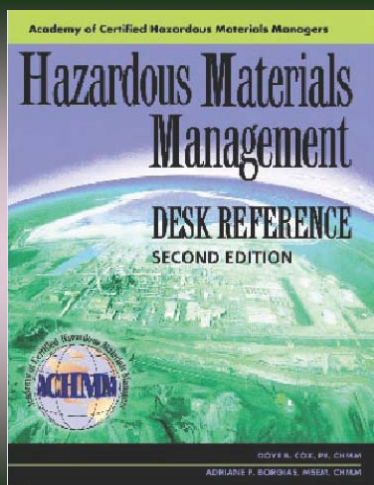
## 2008 Scholarship Awarded

The EWC-ACHMM scholarship was awarded this year to Clarissa Bulosan. Ms. Bulosan’s application was selected from many applications received from colleges in Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, and Idaho.

Ms. Bulosan is a Junior in the Environmental Geological Sciences program at Central Washington University. She also was able to participate in a one-year course of study at the University of Wyoming in Laramie under the National Student Exchange program. She is an honor roll student with a wide range of interests, including athletics, church, community, and journalistic activities. She has an interest in applying the skills and knowledge from her college education to address environmental challenges in her home county of Kauai, Hawaii.

The applications showed a variety of interests among students regarding hazardous materials management, including applications in civil, mechanical, and nuclear engineering. Several students reported that their interests in hazardous material management began with personal experiences, such as witnessing events causing a significant environmental, safety, and/or human health impact.

The \$1,000 EWC-ACHMM scholarship is awarded annually. This year the award was sponsored by EnergySolutions, Inc.



The book, *Managing Hazardous Materials*, is now available. To order, contact the National Office at phone 1-800-437-0137 or by email at [academy@achmm.org](mailto:academy@achmm.org).

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