

Eastern Washington Chapter Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers Newsletter

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The President's Corner

From Stan Jones

As we start the New Year, many things are happening in the environmental arena. Nationally, we have a new EPA director and a new Secretary of Energy which will effect the environmental operations at Hanford and may effect the directions that Ecology goes. State wise, we have several important issues working including water allocation, an issue that will effect many of us using electricity and drinking water. Locally, some CERCLA based cleanups are beginning in Pasco and Walla Walla has a significant Air Pollution issue it is addressing. All of these activities give us environmental professionals a chance to support our employers by providing information and guidance as these issues progress to resolution.

CHMMs need to be in the forefront of environmental issues by providing strong well thought-out guidance and solutions based on good judgment, sound science, and an in-depth understanding of the regulations. We all have the capability to provide this information but it is imperative that we do our "home work" before we say anything. Careful research and review will increase the credibility of the answers provided and at the same time enhance the reputations of the CHMMs.

So a good new years' resolution would be to be more professionally proactive and work to enhance your personal reputation and the reputations of other CHMMs. One of the ways that this proactivity can be personified is through becoming more active in the local CHMM chapter by participating on one of the committees and attending the chapter meetings. If you want to help, please contact myself or one of the other chapter officers so we can provide you information. See you on February 28 at the Battelle Auditorium.

The 2001 National Convention

To be held at the Hilton Chicago

August 18-22, 2001

Chicago rates as one of the major shipping hubs in the United States. Observe from beginning to end as Chicago Fire Department Hazardous Materials Incident Team (HIT) responders answer a call to an emergency scenario. The scenario begins when an aircraft skids off the runway at O'Hare International airport carrying hazardous materials. Cook County will support this full-scale exercise to test local emergency operations plans at the national recognized training facility at O'Hare airport.

In addition, a special emergency response is being planned at the alternative training facility located in Glenview, Illinois featuring an over-the-road tractor/trailer incident involving hazardous materials but incorporating a unique response scenario.

Home to two national laboratories (Argonne and Fermi), the world's largest water purification plant (James W. Jardine Plant), unique environmental projects (Chicago Shoreline Protection Project) and numerous environmental and manufacturing concerns the "Chicagoland" area provides a wealth of opportunities for facility and technical tours. The 2001 National Conference Planning Committees are securing tours that reflect the concerns and day-to-day responsibilities of CHMMs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FIRST MEETING OF YEAR

On Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m., the EWC-ACHMM will be welcoming Dr. Shivaji Seth, Senior Technical Advisor at DOE-RL, who will be speaking about the Integrated (and Environmental) Safety Management System (ISMS). The meeting will be held at the Battelle Auditorium. See the website ([@http://users.owt.com/ewcachmm/](http://users.owt.com/ewcachmm/)) for more information.

The CHMM® Program Is Accredited by CESB

The CHMM program is accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB). The CHMM designation remains one of a select few accredited credentials in the environmental profession.

CESB's guidelines for accreditation include consideration of:

- Validity of the certification examination program
- Fairness of the procedures for determining applicant eligibility
- Adequacy of requirements for ensuring maintenance and enhancement of professional qualifications (recertification)
- Professionalism and independence of the certifying body
- Openness of the program to public scrutiny

RAB - ACHMM Exclusive Auditor Certification Partnership!

Demonstrate your professional credentials on ISO 14001 by earning Registrar Accreditation Board (RAB) EMS auditor certification. Academy member benefits include:

- a discount on the application package
- a discount on the applications fee

Individuals with a CHMM credential receive recognition for both workplace experience and annual professional development requirements. (All applicants must meet training, audit experience, and sponsorship requirements.)

For more about this, check out the RAB web site at: www.rabnet.com

PROMOTING THE ACADEMY

There are many ways to promote the Academy, its mission and its members. The benefits and rewards of doing so are obvious.

- Increased exposure of your profession to the public.

- Recognition among your professional peers.
- Improved chapter and membership participation.
- Increased revenues for Academy programs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Identify your certification in all your professional correspondence, including email.
- Help others to learn about certification.
- Encourage other CHMMs to join or organize chapters.
- Promote the profession at trade shows and conferences.
- Purchase materials for sale at the Academy Bookstore.
- Participate in Academy activities.



REGULATORY REPORT

From Marsha Beery

EPA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON RADIONUCLIDES IN DRINKING WATER

On December 7, 2000, EPA published a final rule (65 FR 76708) in the Federal Register establishing maximum contaminant levels goals, maximum contaminant levels (MCL)s, and monitoring, reporting and public notification requirements for radionuclides in community drinking water systems under the National Primary Drinking Water regulation. The final rule includes:

- Requirements for uranium, which is not currently regulated;
 - Revisions to the monitoring requirements for combined radium-226 and radium-228; and Revisions to the monitoring requirements for beta particle and photon radioactivity.
- EPA is retaining the current MCL for combined

radium-226/-228, the gross alpha particle radioactivity, and the beta particle and photon radioactivity in the final rule; however, the Agency intends to review the beta particle and photon radioactivity in the near future to further evaluate the various risk management issues. The final rule is applicable to community water systems, either privately or publicly owned, that provide water to an average of at least 25 people year-round or provide water for human consumption to at least 15 service connections. The final rule will become effective December 8, 2003.

EPA OPENS 90-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OF THE OPERATING PERMIT

On December 11, 2000, EPA published a notice (65 FR 77376) in the Federal Register announcing that a 90-day comment period had begun for the public to identify deficiencies in State and local agency operating permit programs under Title V of the Clean Air Act (CAA). EPA is taking this action as a result of litigation with the Sierra Club and the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). The Sierra Club and NYPIRG is challenging EPA in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals over the Agency's recent extension, until December 1, 2001, of the interim approval period for 86 operating permit programs. These two groups have raised concerns that many State and local programs, with either interim or full approval, have program deficiencies and/or implementation problems. In order to address these concerns, EPA has opened the public comment period.

EPA has indicated in the public comment notice that the public can comment on deficiencies they see in either the substance of the approved program or in how a permitting authority is implementing its program. After reviewing the comments, EPA will issue a notice of deficiency (NOD) discussing the shortcomings in an operating permit program and include a timeframe for correcting the deficiency. By law the deficiencies must be corrected within 2 years. For deficiencies that EPA does not agree with, the Agency will publish a notice explaining its reasons for not making a finding of deficiency. EPA will be publishing NODs for deficiencies identified for programs that have not been granted full approval as of December 11, 2000, as well as alleged deficiencies that EPA does not agree with by December 1, 2001. For the programs that have been

granted full approval as of December 11, 2000, EPA will publish NODs by April 1, 2002, along with the deficiencies they do not agree with.

EPA DEFERS PHASE IV STANDARDS FOR PCB'S AS A CONSTITUENT SUBJECT TO TREATMENT IN SOIL

On December 26, 2000, EPA published a final rule (65 FR 81373) in the Federal Register temporarily deferring a portion of the Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) rule applicable to constituents subject to treatment (CST) in soils contaminated with certain characteristic hazardous wastes. In particular, EPA is temporarily deferring the requirement that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) be treated as a CST in toxicity characteristic (TC) soils containing metals. EPA is taking this action since generators have complained that the requirement is discouraging them from cleaning up PCB contaminated soils primarily because combustion technology that is often necessary to treat the waste is expensive or not available. Generators have also commented to EPA that there is limited effective non-combustion treatment available for PCBs and a lack of State authorization to implement the amended soil standards, thus causing PCBs to be retained as a CST without the option of treating them to 10 times the Universal Treatment Standards or 90 percent reduction from the initial concentration. Because of these concerns, EPA feels it's appropriate to temporarily defer the PCB requirements while it investigates how to integrate RCRA LDR PCB cleanup standards with CERCLA cleanups, RCRA corrective actions or closures, and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requirements.

EPA will continue to require generators to treat metal-contaminated soils to meet LDR standards for all hazardous constituents except PCBs. Also, RCRA addresses PCBs in soil under the California List provision (Section 3004(d)(2)(E)) which prohibits land disposal of hazardous wastes that contain halogenated organic compounds at concentrations equal to or exceeding 1000 parts per million (ppm). In absence of the Phase IV PCB standards, the 1000 ppm statutory level would be the upper bound of PCBs that could be in contaminated soils without triggering LDR treatment requirements. The temporary deferral will

only affect soils exhibiting the TC for metals and containing PCBs in concentrations between 100 ppm and a maximum of 1000 ppm. The final rule became effective December 26, 2000.

- Ecology will be holding various workshops throughout the state to discuss the Surface Water Quality Standards amendments, the new proposed Water Rights Administration rule and management of dangerous wastes.
- Surface Water Quality Standards amendments. Ecology will be discussing the new criteria for temperature, dissolved oxygen and bacteria, the water quality degradation plan, and the new use-based structure. Workshops will be held in various cities throughout the state
- Proposed Water Rights Administration Rule. Ecology is seeking public input on changes that need to be made to improve clarity, provide guidance, and make the rule consistent. Workshops will be held in various cities throughout the state.

FROM THE ACADEMY

CHMM books, hats, mugs and lapel pins and more are available from the Academy. For ordering information, call 1-800-436-0137, or order from the web site at: <http://www.achmm.org>

NATIONAL ACADEMY BOARD TO MAKE



CHAPTER VISITS

The Board of Directors is currently deciding which Chapters to visit during 2001. The EWC-ACHMM will try to coordinate a visit with our Chapter this year, with the Academy office. Each Board Member plans to visit a Chapter during local Chapter meetings this year.

So get your questions and ideas organized – together we can make a difference!

