EASTERN WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF THE
ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS MANAGERS

Spring Issue - 2004

EWC-ACHMM NEWSLETTER

Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers
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Past President: Terry Winward

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FROM: CHUCK MULKEY

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve the chapter as President. I feel like an excellent team has been assembled for this year. Our Vice-President Michelle Yates-Mandis has put together a program that combines both informative lectures and tours. The February meeting was an informative presentation on *In Situ Vitrification* and the March meeting will be a tour of Welch's local facilities. The year will culminate in the annual Christmas Party.

The chapter is in the process of organizing another "Round Table" with the Department of Energy, Government Contractors and other organizations. Tentatively this activity will be held in May. Rampur Viswanath is heading this effort.

The "Rehab The Lab" program that was started last year is continuing into this year and is an example of how our organization helps our community. Steve McNutt and Mitzi Miller are continuing to spear-head this activity. A training class to educate the teachers on the chemical hazards and proper chemical management is in the process of being organized. Volunteers to help teach this class will be needed so please let us know if you are willing to help.

Other planned activities include awarding a $1,000 scholarship, conducting a class in preparation for the CHMM exam, and issuing awards to individuals and teams for accomplishments in the hazardous materials and related fields. Information on these items is on our website but you can also contact the chapter directly if you know of anyone interested in one of these activities.

I want to close this corner with a request that everyone let me know of any ideas they have for chapter activities and to let me know if there are any problems with the chapter. Contact me at: chmulkey@bossig.com

EWC ACHMM to Provide Teachers for the Local High School Teachers

As many of you know, EWC ACHMM members have been providing support to the local high schools by taking inventory of chemicals for disposal and performing safety audits of the high school laboratories.

The next part of this work will be to teach local high school teachers about the laws regarding chemical disposal and waste management. EWC ACHMM will be looking for volunteers in the next couple of months to help with this activity.

This work is funded by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology. If you are interested, please contact either Steve McNutt at email: smcnutt@cirichland.wa.us or Mitzi Miller at email: mitzim@eqminc.com (or contact Mitzi by phone on 946-4985).

Engineering Week Supports Kids

FROM: ANDREA PRIGNANO

Recently I had the pleasure of taking part in an Engineering Week activity. I was invited to talk with 6th graders about careers in science and engineering. I have always loved talking with kids about their future goals and the importance of a good education. I tried to emphasize that enjoying problem solving was the most important trait for scientists and engineers. What was especially nice about these Park Middle School kids is that they truly seemed excited about learning, problem solving, and their future possibilities.

As I told the kids at the onset, I am not an engineer, though some of my best friends are engineers and I work with engineers. I was lucky enough to have an actual engineer from Bechtel partner with me the first two of my four class visits. While the talk focused specifically on careers in engineering, there was some spill over to science and hazardous material management.

We talked about the importance of managing hazardous materials, minimizing environmental impacts, and protecting the environment by inventing cleaner technologies. As a response to a general discussion of the types of wastes found at Hanford and the development of a Waste Vitrification Process, several kids brought up the idea of shooting the waste into space. This led to a discussion on the importance of considering worst case scenarios in waste management and what would happen if the rocket blew up in the atmosphere. (The students were aware of the recent shuttle disaster.)

Other worst case scenarios in hazards materials management were discussed as well, such as the importance of ensuring that materials are not reactive with their containers, and the need for concern with reactions on scale up. What may seem like a few harmless bubbles on a lab bench may turn into a major pressure buildup and possible explosion in a factory scale operation.

The importance of problem solving in engineering, science, and hazardous materials management was also discussed. As an engineering problem solving activity, we considered the Apollo 13 incident. Several of the students were aware of the incident through the 'relatively' recent movie. We talked about how the astronauts had to make do with what was available; there was no running down to Wal-Mart for extra parts. The students then attempted to light a flashlight size light bulb using a AAA battery and one piece of copper wire. It took some time and a few hints, but all the classes finally figured it out. Often scientists and engineers have to make due with just what is available or invent something new with available parts.

Several of the students indicated that they liked problem solving, but hadn't yet considered a career in science or engineering. Most had not considered all the problems associated with managing the hazardous materials needed and the hazardous waste produced in keeping our society at its current technological state and in working towards improvements in the future. I feel that we, as Hazardous Materials Managers, need to take all the opportunities we can to help kids understand what we do and what their possibilities in the future might be.

Letter Received From EWC ACHMM's 2003 Scholarship Winner

The 2003 EWC ACHMM awarded a scholarship of $500 at the annual holiday dinner held at the Shilo Inn in December 2003. The following is a letter the scholarship board received from Lena Hakim, the awardee.

Dear Scholarship Board of the EWC ACHMM:

With the utmost gratitude and humility I thank you for choosing me as the recipient of this year's Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers Scholarship through the Washington State University's Tri-Cities Campus. I am Lena Hakim, a full-time graduate student in the Environmental Science and Regional Planning Program. I am a "non-traditional" student in that I am older and returning to school after ten years of continual employment. With a strong desire to serve in the environmental sciences and a goal to become a full-time hazardous materials manager, I have left my career to pursue the credentials of higher education. It has been a difficult adjustment to return to large student loans, no benefits, and to tiny apartment living. For this reason, and many more, the aid you have provided me is greatly appreciated, and will be used wisely and with the absolute focus and commitment to complete my degree with excellence and honor, and to serve in the environmental field with integrity and the highest of ethics and quality. Once again, thank you for your kind support.

Yours truly,
Lena Hakim

Regulatory Report

From Washington, D.C.:

EPA PUBLISHES FINAL RULE CLARIFYING THE SCOPE OF MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL/STATE OPERATING PERMIT PROGRAMS

On January 22, 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a final rule in the Federal Register (FR) (69 FR 3202) ratifying certain current monitoring language of state and federal operating permit program rules under Title V of the Clean Air Act (CAA). In particular, EPA is:

- Ratifying the regulatory text in Sections 70.6(c)(1) and 71.6(c)(1) as it is currently worded in Title V.
- Declining to adopt the proposed revisions of these texts as proposed in a September 17, 2002 Federal Register (67 FR 58561); and announcing that it has determined the correct interpretation of Sections 70.6(c)(1) and 71.6(c)(1) is that they do not provide a basis for requiring or authorizing review and enhancement of existing monitoring in Title V permits independent of any review and enhancement as may be required under the periodic monitoring rules, the continuous air monitoring rule where it applies, and other applicable requirements under the CAA.

This action is the first in a four-step strategy for improving existing monitoring where necessary through rulemaking in order to reduce resource-intensive, case-by-case monitoring reviews. EPA intends to take three related actions in the near future including: encouraging states to improve possibly inadequate monitoring in certain State Implementation Plan (SIP) rules; identifying and improving possibly inadequate monitoring in certain federal rules or monitoring in SIP rules not addressed in connection with the PM 2.5 implementation guidance or rulemaking over a longer time frame; and publishing a separate proposed rule to address what monitoring constitutes periodic monitoring under sections 70.6(c)(3)(i)(B) and 71.6(a)(3)(i)(B).

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLISHES FINAL RULE AMENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

On January 26, 2004, the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published a final rule (69 FR 3632) in the Federal Register amending requirements to the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Regulations on transportation of radioactive materials based on changes to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) publication entitled, "IAEA Safety Standards Series: Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material," 1996 Edition, No. TS-R-1. The final rule requirements include:

- Exception for certain naturally occurring radioactive materials from federal HAZMAT regulations as long as their specific activities do not exceed 10 times the activity concentration exemption values.
- Removal of plutonium 238 from the definition of fissile material.
- Adoption of the nuclide-specific exemption activity concentrations and nuclide-specific consignment activities listed in IAEA standards to ensure continued consistency between domestic and international regulations for the basic definition of radioactive material.
- Incorporation of the IAEA updates for packages containing more that 0.1 kilogram of uranium hexafluoride.
- Adoption of the IAEA's new proper shipping names and United Nations identification numbers, with certain exceptions.
- A requirement that the new fissile label be placed on each fissile material package.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published final rule amendments (69 FR 3698) in the FR at the same time in conjunction with DOT's publication since the two agencies jointly regulate the transportation of radioactive material in the U.S. in accordance with a July 2, 1979 Memorandum of Understanding. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WDOT) final rule becomes effective October 1, 2004. The NRC final rule becomes October 1, 2004 and portions of Sections 71.19 and 71.20 expire on October 1, 2008

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ISSUES REPORT ON IMPROVING THE CHARACTERIZATION PROGRAM FOR TRANSURANIC WASTE BOUND FOR THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT

On January 16, 2004, the National Research Council issued a report entitled, "Improving the Characterization Program for Contact-Handled Transuranic (TRU) Waste Bound for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant". The report contains recommendations DOE should consider before making any significant changes to the federal TRU waste characterization program. These recommendations include:

- Conduct a public study assessing the risks of TRU waste handling, transportation, disposal, and characterization activities.
- Use its increasing experience base and advances in technology to improve the current TRU waste characterization program.
- Propose a more flexible waste characterization program that takes into account the properties of different waste streams.
- Request authorization to use other methods of determining what constitutes "acceptable knowledge" in its waste characterization activities.
- Keep states through which WIPP-bound TRU waste travels informed of changes in the characterization program to ensure the transportation agreements with those states are not threatened.
- Publish clear analyses of proposed changes to its characterization program to document that they would not harm human health or the environment.

The report is available through the National Academies Press, at (800) 624-6242 or can be ordered on the Internet at http://www.nap.edu for a cost of $39.00 (plus shipping).

(From the: Hanford Environmental Report_____M. A. Beery)

A CALL FOR HELP!

The EWC/ACHMM organization will once again have a booth at the Hanford Health and Safety EXPO (April 28th & 29th). In the near future, we'll be putting out a call for people to help man the booth. In the meantime, we are in the planning and creative stages. We have some money to play with for handouts and staging. If you are good with graphics and/or presentation, we could really use your help. If there is anything you think we should emphasize about our organization, please let me know (e.g., past and future presentations and tours, the high school Rehab the Lab program). Even if you can't get more involved than expressing your opinion in an e-mail, that's helpful too.

Also, we are gathering questions and answers we can ask kids (and adults, too) about hazardous materials/ waste management. If you have ideas for Q&A's, you can just e-mail them to me.

Please seriously consider getting involved in this activity. If you would like to be involved in the planning, please give me a call or e-mail (phone is: 376-1057 and email is: Andrea_L_Prignano@rl.gov) as soon as you decide. Also, think about donating an hour or two manning the booth --- more on that later.

2004 General Meeting Schedule

February 3, 2004	Presentation	In situ Vitrification by AMEC Earth and Env.
March 12, 2003	Tour	Welch's Juice Company
April 7, 2004	Presentation	CHREST Museum Yesterday's Tomorrow joint w/ACS
May 5, 2004	Tour	Port of Pasco
June 2, 2004	Presentation	Waste Isolation Pilot Project...before and after
		ACS Picnic in second/third week
July 7, 2004	Tour	Boise Cascade Reclamation of Waste
August 4, 2004	Presentation	To Be Determined
		No local meeting - National Meeting in Las Vegas
Sept. 8, 2004	Tour	Family Picnic/Winery Tour
October 6, 2004	Presentation	Joint ACS Meeting for National Chemistry Week
November 3, 2004	Tour	Waste Water Treatment Facility
December 2, 2004	Christmas/Awards	Christmas Dinner/Awards Presentation