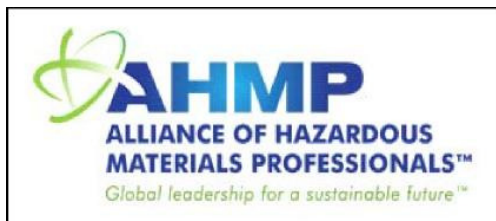


# The Hazardous Materials Manager

EASTERN WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF THE ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGERS NEWSLETTER



## President's Corner

By Wade Winters, CHMM



Have a wonderful spring and enjoy yourself!

If you want to improve your professional capabilities, you can sign-up for the haz mat overview course scheduled at Washington State University May 6, 7 and 8 (registration form available at the EWC-ACHMM website (<http://ewcachmm.org/>)).

This course will provide a great opportunity for you to improve your haz mat skills and to keep up with changes in the regulations. Or, if you want to become a certified hazardous materials manager (CHMM) -- to obtain your credential, this course will give you the basics to pass the exam.

Have you ever driven a car with terrible alignment? Even on a perfectly straight highway, the vehicle will drift into a ditch unless the driver constantly compensates for its misalignment. As part of normal driving, the springs in a car's suspension system gradually stretch out, and the vehicle's highly calibrated internal components get knocked off-kilter. For this reason, vehicles must occasionally be taken to a mechanic for realignment.

Something similar happens to us. The daily grind of life takes its toll. We get stretched thin, grow weary, and lose our work/life balance. Unless we pause regularly to realign our lives, we gradually stray off course.



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

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<http://www.ewcachmm.org>

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When a car is out of alignment, it puts increased pressure on the tires. The wheels are at the wrong angle to the ground, causing the tire tread to wear down abnormally fast. In like manner, those who have gone too long without alignment suffer diminished durability. Having lost sight of their vision, they trudge through life without enthusiasm and energy. They desperately need to spend time dreaming about their future goals in order to revitalize their spirits.

As a car cruises down the road its tires produce friction as they roll over the pavement. Misaligned tires make extra contact with the roadway, increasing the amount of friction and placing added strain on the car's engine. Since the engine has to work harder, it uses up fuel more quickly and thereby reduces the gas mileage of the vehicle. Without the guidance of vision and values, we work inefficiently. We fail to prioritize intelligently and expend extra time and resources as a result.

Improper alignment negatively affects a car's handling capabilities. A misaligned vehicle will pull to the right or left instead of heading straight down the road. Unless we take time to make sure our actions align with our values, we will eventually violate our beliefs. We will spend life chasing what looks like success without actually pausing to consider whether it actually gives us satisfaction and fulfillment.

Refresher training can not only keep your technical skills up-to-date but may also be a valuable tool in keeping your life "in tune and balanced" from a professional perspective.

## **EWC Provides Awards to Students at the Mid-Columbia Regional Science Fair on March 15th**

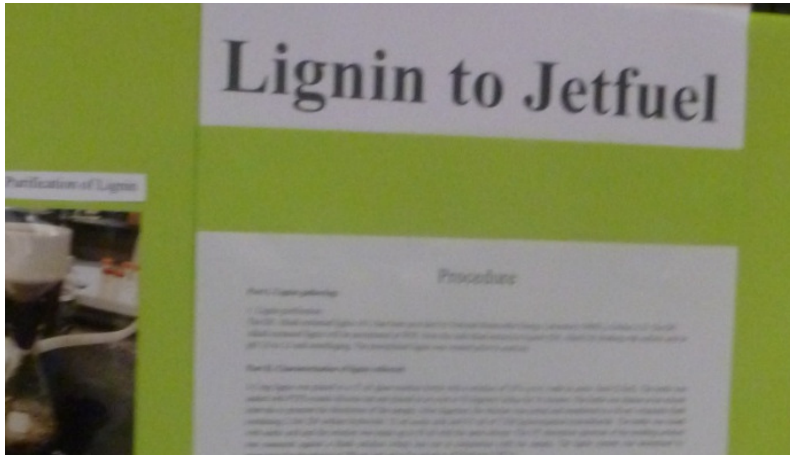
Hundreds of Eastern Washington students, in grades 6 through 12, displayed their projects at the Columbia Center Mall, in Kennewick, WA in March. Eligible students were from any public or private school in the Mid-Columbia region of Washington and Northeastern Oregon. The quality of their projects was outstanding.

The EWC judges were Scot Adams and Tom Ashley. They selected the winners based on established criteria corresponding to the mission of the EWC. That mission includes projects focused on areas such as environmental, waste management, safety, industrial hygiene, education, analytical services, and/or engineering. This year's Science Fair winner's received a certificate and a check for \$100. The winners are below:

- 7th grade/Junior High  
Jonathan Chong, West Valley Junior High, "What metal has the most effective anti-microbial property?"
- 10th grade/Senior High  
Argho Datta, Richland High School, "Isalkali Lignin Feasibility for Hydrodeoxygenation (HDO) in Production of Jet Fuel?"

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*Scot Adams after presenting the two student Awards at the Mid-Columbia Science Fair*

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## Training Opportunity- Management of Hazardous Materials

EWC-ACHMM will hold a training course to build or refresh expertise in regulations and information related to the lifecycle of hazardous materials.

**WHO:** For regulators, managers, planners, manufactures, procurement, professionals- health physics, industrial hygiene, safety, environmental protection, waste management, emergency response, Home Land Security, firemen, police, and property managers.

**WHAT:** The course is designed 1) to introduce current regulations and other information to personnel responsible for hazardous materials and 2) to help prepare personnel to take the certification exams. The course will cover an overview of disciplines related to handling hazardous materials and wastes. The breadth of presentations from about 20 experts (including regulators) will cover the following:

- Chemistry, physical properties, and analytical techniques
- Biological risks from use and releases - human and environmental
- Radioactive emissions
- Transportation
- Environmental protection- planning, management, treatment, disposal, and remediation
- Regulatory compliance- air, soil, water, treatment, containment, governmental requirements
- Organizational standards for control of exposures and management
- Certifications and applications

**WHERE:** Washington State University, Consolidated Information Center, Richland Washington

**WHEN:** May 6, 7, & 8, 2014; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**WHY:** Individuals and organizations need to manage the risks related to use or exposures to hazardous materials and must understand the requirements and properties related to hazardous materials. The course will be an overview of updated regulations and background material that will enhance compliance and protection of workers, the public, and the environment. Some individuals and organizations recognize this training for enhancement of employment and performance.

For over 25 years, the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM), a not-for-profit organization, has been protecting the environment and the public's health, safety, and security through the administration of credentials recognizing professionals who have demonstrated a high level of knowledge, expertise, and excellence in the management of hazardous materials. This course will present IHMM testing knowledge for the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) credential and the Certified Hazardous Materials Practitioner (CHMP). Both the certifications comply with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024, the International Standard for Personnel Certification Programs. The (CHMM®) credential is also accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB).

**HOW MUCH:** \$650 (A reference text and workbook are included)

**HOW:** For Additional Information, Contact either:

Andrea Hopkins- Work 509-373-5395 or Cell 509-539-5520 or Andrea\_M\_Hopkins@rl.gov

Roni Swan- Work 509-372-9627 or Cell 509-302-1402 or Rhonda\_J\_Roni\_Swan@rl.gov

## Regulatory Updates

### **Mining companies to pay 'largest penalty in history' for Clean Water Act permit violations**

*March 10, 2014*

One of the nation's largest coal companies and 66 subsidiaries have agreed to spend an estimated \$200 million to install and operate wastewater treatment systems and to implement comprehensive, system-wide upgrades to reduce discharges of pollution from coal mines in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, the Department of Justice and EPA recently announced. Overall, the settlement covers approximately 79 active mines and 25 processing plants in the five states.

EPA estimates that the upgrades and advanced treatment required by the settlement will reduce discharges of total dissolved solids by over 36 million pounds each year, and will cut metals and other pollutants by approximately nine million pounds per year. The companies will also pay a civil penalty of \$27.5 million for thousands of permit violations, which is the largest penalty in history under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

In addition to paying the penalty, the companies must build and operate treatment systems to eliminate violations of selenium and salinity limits, and also implement comprehensive, system-wide improvements to ensure future compliance with the CWA. These improvements, which apply to all of the coal company's operations in Appalachia, include developing and implementing an environmental management system and periodic internal and third-party environmental compliance audits.

The companies must also maintain a database to track violations and compliance efforts at each outfall, significantly improve the timeliness of responding to violations, and consult with third party experts to solve problem discharges. In the event of future violations, the companies will be required to pay stipulated penalties, which may be increased and, in some cases, doubled for continuing violations.

The government complaint alleged that, between 2006 and 2013, the coal company and its subsidiaries routinely violated limits in 336 of its state-issued CWA permits, resulting in the discharge of excess amounts of pollutants into hundreds of rivers and streams in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The violations also included discharge of pollutants without a permit.

In total, EPA documented at least 6,289 violations of permit limits for pollutants that include iron, pH, total suspended solids, aluminum, manganese, selenium, and salinity. These violations occurred at 794 different discharge points, or outfalls. Monitoring records also showed that multiple pollutants were discharged in amounts of more than twice the permitted limit on many occasions. Most violations stemmed from the company's failure to properly operate existing treatment systems, install adequate treatment systems, and implement appropriate water handling and management plans.

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The settlement also resolves violations of a prior 2008 settlement with a former owner of the mining company, and applies to the facilities and sites it owned. Under the 2008 settlement, the former owner paid a \$20 million penalty to the federal government for similar CWA violations, in addition to over a million dollars in stipulated penalties over the course of the next two years. Since taking over the company, the mining firm has been working cooperatively with the government in developing the terms of the new settlement.

CWA permits allow for the discharge of certain pollutants in limited amounts to rivers, streams, and other water bodies. Permit holders are required to monitor discharges regularly and report results to the respective state agencies.

The States of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky are co-plaintiffs in the settlement. The U.S. will receive half of the civil penalty and the other half will be divided between the co-plaintiffs based on the number of violations in each state, as follows: West Virginia (\$8,937,500), Pennsylvania (\$4,125,000), and Kentucky (\$687,500).

The consent decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court.

For more information on Clean Water Act Enforcement, go to [www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/cwa/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/cwa/index.html).

## **Four New Ozone-Depleting Gases Found in Atmosphere**

*Wall Street Journal; Hotz, Robert Lee*

The presence of four previously undetected man-made gases has been detected in the atmosphere, where they are imperiling Earth's ozone layer, according to a multinational research team's findings reported in *Nature Geoscience*. The three industrial chlorofluorocarbons and one related hydrochlorofluorocarbon gas are either prohibited or are being phased out in accordance with a global pact designed to protect the ozone layer. The researchers speculate that the gases might be a byproduct of feedstock chemicals used to generate insecticides or solvents for cleaning electronic components. The gases were detected via the scientists' comparison of the atmosphere today with old air trapped in annual layers of Greenland snow, and they estimated that some 74,000 metric tons of the gases had been emitted into the air since the 1960s. The researchers say the levels of one gas, CFC-113A, appear to be rising. The substance can be a byproduct from production of chemicals called pyrethroids that are frequently used in household insecticides. Levels of the other two detected gases, CFC-112 and CFC-112A, seemed to increase from 1960 until the mid-1990s, when they began to slowly decline, stabilizing in 2005 to 2010 and then falling again. "It does set off an alarm bell because we thought production of all the CFCs [chlorofluorocarbons] had been shut down," notes NASA Goddard Space Flight Center researcher Paul A. Newman.