



CT ACHMM NEWSLETTER

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CTACHMM P.O. Box 228 East Glastonbury, CT www.ctachmm.org

President's Message

Correspondence with DEP

CHMMs continue to be considered as professionals who are qualified to participate in a number of CTDEP permitting programs. Most recently, the DEP has included qualified CHMMs in a proposed fuel tank compliance program. In order to serve the public better, we will be asking each of our members for permission to be part of a directory that the DEP will make available to those seeking to hire qualified individuals. Please respond promptly if you wish to be part of the listing when you receive the request.

Professional Development

This quarter, we hosted two presentations at the Annual Dinner Meeting on November 8th. While it made the event a lengthy one, both speakers held our interest for the duration. Rose Coggeshall's article and photos of the event are found on pages 5 and 7 of this issue. Attendees will be eligible for Certification Maintenance Points.

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Unidentified National Conference Participant posing for the camera.

National Conference Highlights

Gene Metti

The annual ACHMM National Conference was held in Orlando September 17-20, 2006 and was attended by over 650 members from chapters across the country and around the world. Currently there are over 65 ACHMM chapters across the USA, representing nearly every state and major population region.

The Academy went international this year with the addition of the India Chapter from Bangalore in southern India. A delegation of 15 members of the India chapter, many from the University of Bangalore, attended the National Conference for the first time and was heartily welcomed as new members. More international chapters are in the planning stages as reported by the ACHMM's Chapter Development Committee.

The State of Connecticut had over a dozen attendees registered at the conference. Several Connecticut delegates got together for discussion, networking and socializing at the annual Awards presentation, various technical sessions and at a luncheon with the New England chapter. Some of the attendees were located at the numerous information booths in the exhibition hall. Attendees hailed from Uncasville, Hamden, Danbury, New Haven, Bethel, Columbia and elsewhere throughout the state.

The conference featured many excellent speakers from government, industry and the consulting sectors. The keynote address was given by Edwin Pinero, the Federal Environmental Executive who is appointed by the President. The Office of the Federal Executive promotes sustainable environmental stewardship throughout the federal government's 2500 facilities. They assist the federal facilities in training and awareness, transfer of best practice, performance measurement, and development of EHS management systems.

Continued on page 2....

....National Conference continued from page 1

The Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Lisa Jackson gave a presentation on her state's readiness efforts in preparing chemical facilities to respond to emergencies and security threats. Ms Jackson heads up an agency of over 3000 EHS professionals and is herself a CHMM making her the highest ranking CHMM in government service.

There were over 40 technical sessions during the 3 days covering topics ranging from homeland defense, brown-field development, indoor air quality, and performance tracking, to six sigma, tank inspection, remediation, and waste management.

The annual conference was a great success and continues to promote and foster the CHMM as a top quality, premier credential in the EHS profession.



Tatyana Dickinson, Stephanie Kelleher, Jean McInnis, Gene Metti, John Murray, Laura Zadrick (above).

New England Chapter folks at the luncheon (below).

Mary Ellen Doherty is next to John Murray. Gene Metti is across from John on the right.



UPDATE: REMEDIAL ACTION AT THE UCONN LANDFILL AND FORMER CHEMICAL PITS

Contributed by James Pietrzak

In September, TerraSystems completed the first phase of dynamic compaction on a portion of the landfill. The compaction is accomplished by dropping an 18 ton weight multiple times by crane onto the ground. This action compacts the soil and existing waste material to prevent unexpected settlement in the future. A second phase of dynamic compaction will be done in April 2007 after the outlying solid waste and contaminated sediments are mixed and spread over the landfill and before the liner is installed.

R. Bates and Sons, Inc. (Bates) initiated removal of the contaminated sediment in the wetlands and followed up with immediate restoration by placing organic rich topsoil, boulders and woody debris over the disturbed land. Composted manure supplied from UConn operations was used to enrich the replacement soils. The impacted sediment is being placed on the landfill for drying and mixing with other material prior to final compacting and grading.

Upon replacement of the organic soil, EDI Landscape started planting indigenous wetlands shrubs and grasses in the remediated areas.

In October, Bates shut down the dewatering pumps in the northern wetlands and is excavating and restoring the southern wetlands.

In November, Bates completed excavating contaminated sediment, restoring grades, and placing organic soils in the wetland areas A, C-North, C-South, and C-West. Wetland soils were replaced with the organic soil mix as the work progressed. Other materials, such as boulders and basking logs, were placed in the wetlands in accordance with conceptual drawings provided by the Project Wetland Scientist, Chris Mason of Mason & Associates, Inc. (Mason). The contaminated wetland soils were transferred to the landfill for capping.

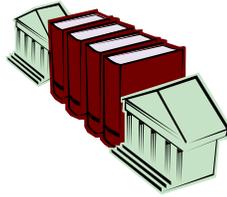
Mason met with the landscape contractor, Al Leavitt of EDI, to review the initial plantings in wetland restoration area C-North. Skunk cabbage, tussock sedge, alder, winterberry and red maples were planted and the plant material appeared to be in good condition. Mason provided guidance on the planting scheme, with trees and shrubs to be planted on the "islands" within the restoration area, and herbaceous material planted at the lower elevations (with no plantings in the pool areas).

EDI proceeded with suppressing the invasive plant species *Phragmites australis* north of C-North and C-West restoration areas. EDI installed some woody plantings in Wetland A, including red maple, alder, and blueberry. The UConn Plant Science department prepared a planting scheme for a portion of wetland to be restored just north of the northern stormwater basin.

Continued on page 4....

Regulatory Update

Matt Twerdy



OSHA Issues Final Rule on Respiratory Standards

OSHA published in the August 24 Federal Register revisions to its respiratory protection standard. The changes incorporate new Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) into agency rules. The additional provisions, those OSHA says are necessary for a comprehensive workplace respiratory-protection program, address selection and use of respirators, training, medical evaluation, and fit testing. The rules are effective November 22, 2006.

According to OSHA, APFs are numbers that indicate the level of protection that a respirator or class of respirators is expected to provide employees when used as part of an effective program. An APF table was included in the final standard to guide employers in the selection of air-purifying, powered air-purifying, supplied-air (or airline respirator), and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) respirators.

The agency requires employers to follow the new requirement and use APFs to choose the appropriate respirator based on the exposure limit of a contaminant and the level of that contaminant in the workplace. Employers select respirators by comparing the exposure level and the maximum concentration of the contaminant in which a particular type of respirator can be used. Known as the Maximum Use Concentration or MUC, this is generally determined by multiplying the respirator's APF by the contaminant's exposure limit. If the level of contaminant is expected to exceed the MUC, the employer must choose a respirator with a higher APF.

Noted OSHA Chief Edwin G. Foulke, Jr. said, "This standard helps employers and employees select the right respirator for the job. And with the right respirator employees will have adequate protection to be safe and healthy at work."

Keep Your ULSD Fuel Receipts

As of October 15, federal requirements have kicked in that require retail outlets to limit the sulfur content in highway diesel fuel to 15 parts per million (ppm). The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has tacked on additional state requirements concerning this so-called ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD). DEP requires the use of ULSD for emergency engines and distributed generators powered by a diesel internal engine. The department is interpreting compliance with the regulation to require that after October 15, owners and operators purchase ULSD and add it to tanks that supply emergency engines or distributed generators. Because DEP anticipates that diesel

fuel tanks dedicated to the support of emergency engines will not be drawn down at normal rates, DEP inspectors will determine compliance for those tanks based on purchase records showing that ULSD has been used to top off the tank as needed. So, keep your ULSD receipts in case DEP comes knocking. According to EPA, through the use of ULSD, annual sulfur emissions reductions will be equivalent to removing the pollution from more than 90 percent of today's trucks and buses, when the current heavy-duty vehicle fleet has been completely replaced in 2030. (BLR Newsletter - Nov. 2006)

Penalty Regulations up for Changes

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is repealing its regulations for assessing administrative civil penalties. Not an occasion for rejoicing, though Department officials do plan to replace them with what they call "a more effective method for assessing civil penalties for a range of environmental violations."

The regulations apply to violations of requirements pertaining to tidal wetlands, structures, dredging or fill, inland water resources, dam safety, stream channel encroachments, water diversions, and pesticide management.

Administrative civil assessments under the proposed regulations remove the financial gain associated with noncompliance. They are also intended to expedite DEP's enforcement process.

The penalty for each distinct violation will be determined the same way. The penalty will be the sum of the economic benefit from noncompliance, a gravity-based penalty component, and any gravity-based penalty adjustment. Gravity-based penalties will be derived from the violation's potential to harm and the number of days the violation continues. Adjustments will be made based on good-faith efforts to comply, history of noncompliance, and ability to pay. Good-faith efforts could reduce the penalty as much as 25 percent. However, if a facility has a history or pattern of violations, the penalty could be adjusted upward by 25 percent. (BLR Website)

YOU TOO CAN GET PUBLISHED IN THIS NEWSLETTER....

- WRITE ABOUT A TRIP OR SPECIAL EVENT YOU ATTENDED
- INTERVIEW A COLLEAGUE
- CRITIQUE A PRODUCT OR NEW

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR 2007

FEBRUARY ISSUE: JANUARY 20

PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS TO
ELSA PAYNE AT tpayne@snet.net

Aerial view of the remediation at the former UCONN landfill site.



2007 Call for Papers

ACHMM has already started accepting Call for Papers abstracts for its 21st National Conference, being held from August 12-15 in Arlington, Virginia - just outside the nation's capital. The deadline for presenting abstracts is Monday, January 15, 2007.

The 2007 ACHMM National Conference will be a unique opportunity to present new ideas and to explore recent developments, emerging issues, regulatory updates, and trends in environmental, health and safety and hazardous materials management. ACHMM encourages papers from federal, state and local agencies; engineers; scientists; project managers; military staff; college and university students; and EHS managers in all areas related to hazardous materials. Papers that address new, significant and current issues in hazardous materials management are especially encouraged.

It is not necessary to be a member of ACHMM to attend or present a paper at the conference. Presentation of a paper waives the presenter's conference registration fee for that day. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by Thursday, March 1, 2007.

The Call for Papers tracks include:

- EHS Management and Management Principles
- Safety and Industrial Health
- Waste Minimization, Pollution Prevention and Green Facilities
- Developments in Emergency Preparedness, Response and Homeland Security
- Environmental Actions
- Regulatory Requirements, Updates and Legal Trends
- New and Emerging Technologies, International Issues and Developing Countries.

.....Remediation Action Plan from page 2

Additional erosion and sedimentation controls were installed at the north end of the wetland restoration area A, including coir logs at the top of slope near the bike path, stone/gravel at the culvert inlet and outlet, an erosion control blanket (netting and straw) along the northern wetland/upland slope, and hydroseeding of the northwestern slope area. Based on a detail that Mason prepared, Bates installed riprap in the wetland creation area, to prevent surface erosion at the outlet of the plunge pool that receives stormwater drainage from Hillside Road. Based on field observations, erosion and sedimentation controls in Wetland A withstood heavy rains (~ 3 inches on 10/28/06) well, with only minor silt staining of vegetation beyond the approved limit of disturbance.

The Dewatering basin in the northern section of Wetland C-North continues to function well, with most of the incoming water infiltrating the subsurface.

For more information:

<http://landfillproject.uconn.edu/files/construction.html>

All abstracts must be submitted electronically. More information is available by visiting the ACHMM Conference Web Site. The abstract should be a maximum of 250 words and a 50-word author/presenter biography.

For more information, contact:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMEMORATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-
KNOW ACT

DECEMBER 7, 2006

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

HEARING ROOM C

300 CAPITOL AVE.

HARTFORD, CT

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.CT.GOV/CFPC

ACHMM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AUGUST 12-15, 2007

ARLINGTON, VA

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.ACHMMM.ORG

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Connecticut Chapter currently has 55 members. Those who paid their chapter dues for 2006 will be receiving a membership certificate for framing and display.

2007 dues notices are now arriving by mail from National. Please remember to check off that you are a CT chapter member and include your \$30 chapter fee when paying your ACHMM dues for the year.

New chapter members for 2007 will have certificates sent when we are notified by National that your dues have been received.

Also, please keep us in mind when relocating or changing professional positions. A current e-mail address is how we keep track of our members.

If anyone knows how to get in touch with Jennifer Downey, please let me know or have her drop me a line at john.murray@bhs.org.

Thanks, John Murray CTACHMM Membership Chair

.....*President's Message from page 1*

Chapter Officer Nominations and Election

We have been asking for nominations for Vice President and Secretary since this past September. We finally have two qualified candidates for the general membership to endorse. When you receive your ballot, please return it promptly so that the new Board of Directors is in place by the beginning of 2007.

As you may know, my term as President will come to an end at the end of 2006. Gene Metti is the successor for President. I will continue to participate as a Director-at-Large, providing advice and assistance as assigned. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Board Members that I worked with these past two years for their efforts and excellent judgement. While I worked more closely with Board members, there were a number of other members who took initiative, came to meetings and provided feedback to the Board. This is a valuable part of our way of doing business, because the Board needs to know what is important to all its members so that it can serve them better.

I urge you all to continue to support your next President, Gene Metti and our Chapter in whatever way you can.

Elsa Payne

CTACHMM Annual Dinner Meeting November 8, 2006

Rose Coggeshall

Our annual dinner meeting at the Yankee Silversmith was one of the most successful events in recent years. We had the pleasure of two presentations: Dr. Robert Powitz, who gave an informative presentation on tools and skills required to be an expert witness; and Bo Mitchell, who enlightened the audience with status on local, state and federal emergency preparedness.

This year, we had the honor of Drill Sergeant Brian Makel [sic] from the United States Marine Corps in attendance. The Sergeant, having recently returned from Iraq, gave the audience a presentation on the symbolism represented by the Marine Corps uniform. The members were very generous this year with the toy drive. The Sergeant collected quite a bundle for the Toys for Tots campaign.

And the "best" was saved for last - the raffle!"

See photos of the event on page 6.

HANDBAGS

In the last issue we warned you about hair dryers. This time another household object proves to be a potential hazard to human health which I never gave much thought to before now. See if the following impacts your preconceptions about handbags (and I would add briefcases as well).

Have you ever noticed gals who sit their handbags on public toilet floors – then go directly to their dining tables and set it on the table? Happens a lot!

It's not always the "restaurant food" that causes stomach distress. Sometimes "what you don't know will hurt you"!

Read on....

Mum got so upset when guests came in the door and plopped their handbags down on the counter where she was cooking where she was cooking or setting up food. She always said that handbags are really dirty, because of where they have been.

Smart Mum!!!

It's something just about every woman carries with them. While we may know what's inside our handbags, do you have any idea what's on the outside?

Shauna Lake put handbags to the test – for bacteria – with surprising results. You may think twice about where you put your handbag.

Women carry handbags everywhere, from the office, to public toilets, to the floor of the car. Most women won't be caught without their handbags, but did you stop to think about where your handbag goes during the day?

"I drive a school bus, so my handbag has been on the floor of the bus a lot," says one woman. "On the floor of my car, and in toilets."

"I put my handbag in grocery shopping carts, on the floor of the toilet while changing a nappy," says another woman "and of course in my home which should be clean."

We decided to find out if handbags harbour a lot of bacteria. We learned how to test them at Nelson Laboratories in Salt Lake, and then we set out to test the average woman's handbag.

Most women told us they didn't stop to think about what was on the bottom of their handbag. Most said at home they usually set their handbags on top of kitchen tables and counters where food is prepared.

Most of the ladies we talked to told us they wouldn't be surprised if their handbags were at least a little bit dirty. It turns out handbags are so surprisingly dirty, even the microbiologist who tested them was shocked.

Microbiologist, Amy Karen of Nelson Labs, says nearly all of the handbags tested were not only high in bacteria, but high in harmful kinds of bacteria. Pseudomonas can cause eye infections, staphylococcus aureus can cause serious skin infections, and salmonella and e-coli found on the handbags could make people very sick.

In one sampling, four of the five handbags, tested positive for salmonella, and that's not the worst of it. "There is fecal contamination on the handbags," says Amy. Leather or vinyl handbags tended to be cleaner than cloth handbags, and lifestyle seemed to play a role.

People with kids tended to have dirtier handbags than those without, with one exception. The handbag of one single woman who frequented nightclubs had one of the worst contaminations of all. "Some type of feces, or possibly vomit," says Amy.

So the moral of this story – your handbag won't kill you, but it does have the potential to make you very sick if you keep it on places where you eat.

Use hooks to hang your handbag at home and in toilets, and don't put it on your desk, a restaurant table, or on your kitchen countertop.

Experts say you should think of your handbag the same way you would a pair of shoes. "If you think about putting a pair of shoes onto your countertops, that's the same thing you're doing when you put your handbag on the countertops" – your handbag has gone where individuals before you have sneezed, coughed, spat, urinated, emptied bowels, etc.! Do you really want to bring that home with you?

The microbiologists at Nelson also said cleaning a handbag will help. Wash cloth handbags and use leather cleaner to clean the bottom of leather handbags.

