

March 2006



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# Lake Michigan States Section Air & Waste Management Association Newsletter<sup>®</sup>

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## 2006 Annual Section Membership Luncheon Meeting

**May 5, 2006**

**Parthenon Restaurant**  
**Halsted Street**  
**Chicago**  
**11:30 a.m.**

This meeting is a favorite event of Lake Michigan States Section members and always an enjoyable time for attendees. Our special guest speaker will be Mr. Michael Walsh of the Chicago Climate Exchange. Mr. Walsh will provide a progress report on North America's only greenhouse reduction and trading program. This is a great event to meet and exchange ideas with other environmental professionals. The incoming 2006/2007 Board of Directors of the Lake Michigan States Section will be announced as well as the recipient of the ever popular Perry Fisher Award.

**Times:** 11:30 a.m. Registration  
12:00 noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Presentations

**Cost to attend:** \$40 members  
\$50 non-members

*This is an excellent opportunity to introduce A&WMA to fellow environmental professionals. Bring a guest with and the cost for their attendance is only \$45.*

**To register:** Contact Robin Pelsis at  
(847) 202-0418 or  
robin@lmawma.org.

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# THE CHAIR'S CORNER

*By Jeffrey Wentz, Chairman*

This will be my last column as Chairman of the Lake Michigan States Section of the Air and Waste Management Association, and it provides an opportunity to look back over the past year and review what we have accomplished with the admittedly ambitious plans we established last May. There were four primary initiatives:

1. Produce interesting and timely technical sessions,
2. Balance Section membership activities
3. Expand the committee structure to involve new members in the working of the Board;
4. Enhance student outreach, with the goal of forming one or more student chapters.

The biggest success has been in the first case – producing excellent technical sessions. Over the past two years, we have had a number of highly regarded technical sessions – including the well-received “Hot Topic” seminar on the new All Appropriate Inquiry rules, our Bi-annual Waste Conference, Toxic Torts, Waste Minimization for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Co-sponsored with USEPA our Annual Air Management Conference, a number of A&WMA webcasts and many more. One additional conference merits special mention - our successful “Breakfast Briefing: Financial Reporting 101: Key Concepts of Sarbanes-Oxley and Related Accounting Requirements for Environmental Professionals.” That conference marked the first time we teleconferenced one of our technical sessions with another A&WMA Section. The program for the coming year promises to continue with the quality and timeliness that have characterized the LM-A&WMA's technical programs.

We've had some modest success in balancing Section membership activities, including offering special government employee rates for membership and conferences, co-sponsoring technical sessions with governmental agencies, and planning breakfast or luncheon meetings that specifically target and invite regulatory agency officials. We still have a ways to go in attracting additional industrial sector involvement. We have accomplished some activities, such as co-sponsored programs with other trade and industry professional associations; but we are still in the planning stages with the idea of holding regular luncheon meetings between our members and regulators.

We also laid the groundwork for implementing a new committee structure that puts each officer at the head of a committee for their function. We regard this as a key step in bringing forward and training the next class of officers. While those committees still have a way to go, we're counting on all the officers moving ahead with those in the coming year.

The initiative that still remains to be realized is the enhanced student outreach. I believe that should be a priority again in the coming year as it is near and dear to me personally. In 1975, the East-Central Section of the A&WMA awarded me \$500 scholarship (a lot of money then). It brought me into the field that has been my life's work, and I have been an active member since. So I really would like to see the Section move forward in this area. One bright spot has been that, after a brief hiatus, the Board has again allocated funds for scholarship grants. This year, they will be going to students from the area who present papers at the Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans. The new Board will include some new faces with a strong interest in student outreach, so I have high hopes for action in the coming year.

Looking back, I think the Board could have made more progress on our initiatives, but our attention was diverted to dealing with the Section's chapters. After almost two years of debate, and a great deal of

# THE CHAIR'S CORNER

effort by a number of Board members, the Board has officially petitioned the A&WMA national office to declare the Wisconsin Chapter defunct. The Chapter had not filed an Annual Report or held a meeting or election of officers for years. We solicited the Chapter's member repeatedly, had board members make personal appeals to persons who could possibly re-form a Chapter Board, and we even held a major conference in Milwaukee to stimulate interest. All to no avail. Perhaps in the future, the Chapter can be reformed, but for now, it is gone.

Similarly, the Board has been concerned with the Central Illinois Chapter, although we have by no means given up on them. In contrast to the Wisconsin Chapter, the Central Illinois Chapter has current officers and has filed an Annual Report yearly. We're planning a major conference and Breakfast Seminar, co-sponsored with the USEPA in Springfield this summer. We'll make special invitations for industry and government officials which we hope will rekindle interest in additional Chapter activities and involvement.

On a more upbeat note, the Western Michigan Chapter continues to do an excellent job. They're active, engaged, and a model for other chapters. They continue meet and hold technical sessions virtually every month, and have an attractive and informative website. Congratulations to the current and past Chairpersons, Mark Horne and Heidi Hollenbach for a job well done.

Finally, I owe thanks to many people - particularly to our excellent Administrative Assistant, Robin Pelsis. The whole experience has been great for me personally, and I've been consistently humbled and touched by the selflessness, dedication, and professionalism of not only my fellow Board members, but also all those in our field who have attended our functions and supported the Section. You make all we do possible. I intend to remain active on the Board as long as you will have me, and I hope you will all give the incoming Chair, Jim Powell, your full support as well.

Thanks again

*Jeff*

Jeffrey Wentz, Chairman  
Lake Michigan States Section, A&WMA  
jwentz@rouxinc.com



## WEBMASTER ASSISTANT

Want to learn a little about web site maintenance without jumping head first into cyberspace? We are looking for an assistant to our webmaster to help with maintaining the [www.lmawma.org](http://www.lmawma.org) web site. This is an excellent opportunity to get your feet wet. It only takes a few hours per month. Coaching will be provided. This is a good way to get familiar with web site design and a great way to get involved with the Lake Michigan States Section.

Interested? For more information contact Robert Szczesniak at [roberts@huffnhuff.com](mailto:roberts@huffnhuff.com).

# 2006 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Below is the current conference schedule for 2006. If you are interested in assisting with any of the events please contact the conference chair or Programs Chair, James Powell at (630) 799-0290 or [jim.powell@amec.com](mailto:jim.powell@amec.com).

In an effort to control costs, we are always interested in offers of meeting space at reduced or minimal costs. If you can provide meeting space for an event, please contact the conference chair.

Date	Title/Topic	Location	Event Chair/s
May 5, 2006	Section Annual Luncheon	The Parthenon	James Powell (630) 799-0290
June 8, 2006	Financial Reporting 201	Union League Club, Chicago	James Harrington (312) 849-8252 Chris Blume (312) 541-4200 x271
June 20-23	A&WMA's Annual Conference & Exhibition	New Orleans	<a href="http://www.awma.org/ACE2006">www.awma.org/ACE2006</a>
July ??, 2006	State Agency Luncheon Waste Minimization for the 21st Century	Springfield, IL with video conf. back to Chicago	Jeffrey Wentz (630) 572-3300 Kevin Mattison (847) 294-4019
August ??, 2006	Homeland Security or Vapor Intrusion	TBD	Lawrence Fieber (630) 724-3220 Chris Blume (312) 541-4200 x271
Sept. 19, 2006	CICI Waste Conference	Willowbrook Holiday Inn	Jeffrey Wentz (630) 572-3300
Sept. 26, 2006	Env. Mgmt. Issues	IIT Stuart	James Powell (630) 799-0290
October 19, 2006	Air Primer	Doubletree Hotel Oak Brook	James Harrington (312) 849-8252
October 20, 2006	Annual Air Conference	Doubletree Hotel Oak Brook	James Harrington (312) 849-8252 David Ozawa (630) 521-9400
November ??	Alternate Energy	TBD	Eric Boyd (312) 269-8903 James Powell (630) 799-0290
December ??	Annual Holiday Reception	IIT Stuart	George Nassos (312) 906-6543

## Breakfast with LMSS at the Annual Convention

The Lake Michigan States Section of A&WMA will be hosting a breakfast during the Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. The date, location and time is still being determined. If you are planning on attending the Annual Conference and would be interested in joining us, please contact Robin Pelsis at [Robin@lmawma.org](mailto:Robin@lmawma.org) and she will make sure you get all the pertinent information as soon as it is finalized.

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# FINANCIAL REPORTING 101

*By Chris Blume, P.E.  
GaiaTech, Inc.*

On January 19, 2006, the LM-AWMA presented a breakfast briefing entitled Financial Reporting 101, Key Concepts of Sarbanes-Oxley and Related Accounting Requirements for Environmental Professionals (consult [www.lmawma.org](http://www.lmawma.org) for copies of the presentations). This article provides a brief summary of some of the key concepts presented and discussed by the speakers and panelists.

Environmental disclosure requirements have been in effect since the 1970s. Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX), enacted in January 2002, does not change these existing requirements nor does it create any new environmental disclosure requirements. It does, however, subject publicly traded firms to a much higher level of scrutiny and places accountability for compliance squarely upon senior management.

Privately held companies are not subject to SOX, but they, like public companies, must adhere to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), including rules and guidance, as published by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). Several different FASB standards address environmental risks. However, the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations ("FAS 143") and FASB Interpretation No. 47, Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations ("FIN 47") will likely initiate a fundamental change in the environmental financial reporting practices of both public and private companies.

Since 1975, FAS 5 and GAAP have provided the general framework for identifying, accruing and reporting loss contingencies associated with environmental matters. However, under this regime only certain losses were, in practice, required to be recognized: those which had been "triggered" by a legal claim, and which were considered to have a "probable" likelihood of an adverse outcome, and which would result in a loss amount that could be "reasonable estimated".

This allowed many companies to employ these recognition criteria so as to avoid or delay estimating and reporting losses related to environmental impacts. For example, under FAS 5 accruing a contingent liability for the cost associated with known contamination but for which no legal corrective action requirement had been triggered was often delayed until the triggering event was eminent or had actually occurred.

Another often-exploited recognition loophole under FAS 5 is the lack of soil and groundwater sampling data. Take the example of an old industrial site at which a knowledgeable environmental professional would expect subsurface impacts to have occurred due to the duration and nature of operations. Under FAS 5, a company could consider that, given the lack of site-specific data, there was too much uncertainty to conclude that a loss was probable, or that a reasonable cost for such a loss could not be estimated. This approach was routinely employed despite the fact that "surrogate" data from one or more

similar sites, which could serve as a basis for developing a cost estimate, was in the possession, or otherwise available to, the company.

Other common practices have been used to skirt recognizing the costs associated with actionable environmental impacts, such as holding a former industrial property vacant or converting it for use as a warehouse, rather than selling it and risking discovery of the impacts by the buyer during diligence. Or, including contractual requirements in a property transfer agreement that oblige the buyer not to dig in certain zones or otherwise intentionally discover subsurface contamination.

Since 2003, FAS 143 has required a company to recognize the fair value of "asset retirement obligations" (AROs) for long-lived assets such as real estate, buildings and equipment. Retirement refers to abandonment, recycling, sale or disposal, and the cost of the associated obligation (legal requirement). It applies to legal obligations associated with the acquisition, construction, development and/or the "normal" operation of a long-lived, tangible asset; and requires that the fair value of a liability for an ARO be recognized in the period in which it is incurred if a reasonable estimate of its "fair value" can be made. Unlike the FAS 5 estimating methodology "fair value" is explicitly intended to accommodate uncertainty and timing of settlement of the liability.

*Continued on page 6.*

# FINANCIAL REPORTING 101 (Con't.)

FAS 143 was developed by FASB specifically in regards to diverse accounting practices of companies that have similar obligations but account for them differently and to address the tendency for obligations that meet the definition of liability not being consistently recognized, measured or presented in financial statement. However, certain obligations, and when the associated costs are incurred, are contingent on future, conditional events, including, for example, the discovery of "recognized environmental conditions" or contamination during the sale (disposal) of real property. When an asset would be "retired" is also a somewhat ambiguous concept, with only undeveloped land being recognized as having a boundless lifetime.

FASB issued FIN 47 in 2005 to clarify how "conditional" AROs (CAROs) should be treated, which encompasses liabilities for which the timing and/or method of settlement are contingent on a future event that may not be within the control of the company. FIN 47 addresses when a company would have sufficient information to reasonably estimate the fair value of an ARO. It also establishes that when an existing law, regulation or contract requires and entity to perform an asset retirement activity, an unambiguous requirement to perform the retirement exists, even if that activity can be deferred indefinitely; and that such an obligation is, in effect, unconditional even though uncertainty exists about timing and/or method of settlement.

Under FIN 47, the fair value of an ARO can be reasonably estimated if the purchase price of the

asset embodies the fair value of the obligation; if there is an active market for transfer of the obligation, or; if there is enough information to calculate the expected present value of the liability. Using the "expected value technique" to measure the fair value of a liability is specifically cited as a means to reflect uncertainty about the amount and timing of future cash outflows associated with CAROs. Other estimating approaches, including those described in ASTM's E2137-01, Standard Guide for Estimating Monetary Costs and Liabilities for Environmental Matters, can be relied upon to address uncertainty (e.g., Monte Carlo simulations).

FAS 143 does not require a company to generate data (e.g., perform a subsurface investigation) in order to produce a reasonable cost estimate of an ARO. When sufficient information is not available, a company is not required to record the ARO on its balance sheet, but must describe the associated obligation and explain why it has not been recognized.

In the wake of the Enron and WorldCom scandals both public and private companies are being required to adopt financial reporting methods that will promote transparency in their reporting practices and restore trust on the part of investors. Accounting practices in the area of environmental financial reporting will continue to evolve and solidify, and if the principles of accountability of SOX could become recognized as "good practices" applicable to the private sector as well. And, as intended by FAS 143, the accounting industry will likely drive, through the auditing process, a convergence in the practices of identifying, characterizing and reporting environmental liabilities for companies in the same or similar industries.

Confused? Want to learn more about the hot and evolving topic? Please join us on June 8, 2006 for Financial Reporting 201: Current Developments in Environmental Financial Reporting, a follow-up breakfast briefing sponsored by the LM-AWMA. Contact Robin Pelsis ([robin@lmawma.org](mailto:robin@lmawma.org)) or visit our website at [www.lmawma.org](http://www.lmawma.org) for details.

## Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards

Since 1987, the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC) has presented the Illinois Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards to companies and organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through the practice of pollution prevention (P2). Continuous Improvement Awards also are awarded to companies that have shown an ongoing commitment to pollution prevention.

Applications are now being accepted. The deadline to apply for an award is **May 22, 2006**. For more information (i.e., view a sample application, view a list of past winners, etc) and to download an application visit us at our web site at [www.wmrc.uiuc.edu/gp2a](http://www.wmrc.uiuc.edu/gp2a).

# SPCC PLAN NEWS AND GUIDANCE

*By William Graham  
Compliance Partners*

## **Final Extension of SPCC Deadline – October 31, 2007 (71 FR 8462)**

On February 17, 2006, USEPA issued a final extension of the SPCC deadline to October 17, 2007. Under the new §112.3(a), a facility that was in operation on or before August 16, 2002 must make any necessary amendments to its SPCC Plan, and implement that Plan, on or before October 31, 2007. Under the new §112.3(b), a facility that came into operation after August 16, 2002 must also prepare and implement an SPCC Plan on or before October 31, 2007. Finally, under the new §112.3(c), a mobile facility must prepare or amend and implement an SPCC Plan on or before October 31, 2007.

## **SPCC Reduced Regulatory Burdens Proposed – December 12, 2005**

USEPA proposed amendments (70 FR 73523) the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan requirements to reduce the regulatory burdens:

- a. Provides an option allowing owners/operators of facilities that store less than 10,000 gallons of oil and had no reportable discharges for ten years to self-certify their SPCC Plans, in lieu of review and certification by a Professional Engineer. Such facilities would retain flexibility for security requirements and container integrity testing, but could not deviate from other requirements or make impracticability determinations for secondary containment.

- b. Provides an alternative to secondary containment without requiring a determination of impracticability for each piece of oil-filled operational equipment.
- c. Defines and provides an exemption for motive power containers.
- d. Exempts airport mobile refuelers from the specifically sized secondary containment requirements for bulk storage containers.

USEPA also proposed an extension of the compliance dates for farms and to remove and reserve certain SPCC requirements for animal fats and vegetable oils.

**On December 2, 2005, EPA released the SPCC Guidance for Regional Inspectors. The guidance document is intended to assist regional inspectors in reviewing a facility's implementation of the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule at 40 CFR part 112. With its publication, EPA seeks to establish a consistent understanding among regional EPA inspectors on how particular provisions of the rule may be applied. It is available on-line at <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/guidance.htm>**

The 520 page guidance is organized in seven sections including those addressing environmental equivalence, secondary containment and impracticability determinations, and inspections evaluations and testing with several useful appendices including sample SPCC and Contingency Plans and inspector checklists.

## **Used Oil violations charged by Illinois AG**

On March 7, 2006 Illinois Attorney General (AG) filed a lawsuit alleging environmental violations at a Milford, IL automotive and scrap metal salvage operation. Among other violations, inspectors found: 1) oil drained from vehicles stored in a large tank not labeled as "used oil"; 2) oil leaking from the unlabeled tank; 3) areas of soil stained by spilled oil that had not been cleaned up, removed or analyzed; and other used oil management violations. The operator is also charged with creating a water pollution hazard by allowing spilled automotive fluids to remain on site for an indefinite period, increasing the risk of contaminated soil in the vicinity of a nearby creek. The AG seeks a civil penalty of \$50,000 for each violation and an additional \$10,000 for each day the violations continue. [http://www.ag.state.il.us/pressroom/2006\\_03/20060307.html](http://www.ag.state.il.us/pressroom/2006_03/20060307.html)

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# A BUSINESS MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

*By George Nassos*

To preserve our environment, everyone - including individuals, corporations, governments, and non-government organizations - must recognize their obligations to contributions to this end. For example, there are a number of strategies corporations can adopt to help sustain both the environment, and enhance their business. One such strategy is converting from a manufacturing business model to a service model, sometimes called "dematerialization" or more recently, "servicizing".

Most manufacturing businesses today operate on using natural resources and energy to manufacture a product that provides a useful function to the consumer. Aside from some warranties, the manufacturer usually has no other obligations for that product. The consumer uses it throughout its useful life and then disposes of it. Even given some recycling, the product eventually finds its way into the trash, its intrinsic value wasted.

By contrast, companies adopting the servicizing model sell the function of the product rather than the product itself – maintaining ownership of the product throughout its useful life. This model gives the manufacturer the incentive to avoid planned obsolescence and manufacture a more durable product. This would result in fewer products manufactured, less resources employed, and less waste created.

A simple example of this business model is in the manufacturing and

use of incandescent light bulbs. Manufacturers like Phillips and GE sell light bulbs to an end user, such as a school. But the school doesn't really want light bulbs; it wants the function of light bulbs, illumination. So why not sell illumination? This could be accomplished by providing illumination in terms of watts per hour or lumens per hour or some other measure, with the ultimate cost to the school being the same or less.

In the original business model, the sale of light bulbs is a revenue item, and it shows up as sales on the company's profit and loss statement. In business terminology, it is considered a profit center for the company. By selling illumination, this service becomes the profit center and the light bulb itself becomes a cost of providing that service. This, in turn, provides the company an incentive to reduce that cost. But how?

Currently, when a light bulb burns out, it is because the tiny filament in the bulb is broken. The bulb's owner throws it out and replaces it with a new one, even though the only thing wrong is with the tiny filament inside. What if a company manufactured a light bulb that the glass bulb itself could be safely removed and the broken filament replaced? Now the only resource necessary to produce a new light bulb is the tiny filament, and the only waste created is the broken filament. The resources needed to produce this new light bulb is probably less than 5% of a whole light bulb and the waste produced is also less than 5% of the original model. While this new

reusable bulb would cost a little more to produce, the ultimate use of resources and creation of waste would be considerably less. Taking these costs into account, the total cost would be less than those of the current system.

There are other real examples of companies that implemented this new business model. The Ford Motor Company has an assembly plant in England that paints their cars using product supplied by DuPont. DuPont's objective is to sell Ford as much paint as possible, as selling paint is how it makes money, i.e. its profit center. A few years ago, Ford management approached DuPont and asked them to sell Ford a painted car instead of the paint. In agreeing to do so, DuPont assumed the responsibility for painting the cars. In providing this service, the paint became a cost item. DuPont then developed a new formulation that met Ford's specifications but used less paint and improved the efficiency of the spray guns. This created less over-spray and thus less waste. The end result was an improved system that used less paint and lowered costs; and the two companies shared the savings. Not only did this create less waste and a new profit center for DuPont, it also resulted in the development of new and more efficient paints and application technologies that could be applied in other situations to reduce wastes and costs.

*Continued on page 9.*

## SUSTAINABLE ENV. (con't.)

Similarly, Interface, one of the largest manufacturers and suppliers of commercial carpeting, recently introduced not a new brand of carpet, but a whole new model for providing carpeting to its customers. Instead of selling carpeting, it sold a floor covering service. Its customers pay for the comfort and esthetics of a floor covering on a monthly or yearly basis. Interface manufactures the carpeting in the form of two foot by two foot tiles, and after it is installed, the company maintains it. This way, the carpeting itself belongs to Interface, not the customer. Since the carpeting wears out in the major traffic areas and not along walls or under tables, only the worn carpet tiles need to be replaced. Interface returns the old carpeting tiles to the manufacturing facility, separates them into their original components, and recycles them to produce new carpeting. With this business model, less carpeting is produced and much less is disposed of. Thus, this business model requires less natural resources and energy.

Companies should adopt this and other sustainable business strategies wherever possible. These models are the only way they can sustain both the environment, and ultimately, their companies' future viability.

*George Nassos is a professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Business and Director of the Institute for Sustainable Enterprise.*

## USED OIL GENERATORS REGULATED BY SPCC RULES

Generators managing Used Oil need to comply with Spill, Prevention Control and Countermeasures regulations, including provision for secondary containment for bulk storage containers (55 gallons or larger) [40 CFR 112.7(c) and 112.8(c)]. Review and preparation of the SPCC is a good opportunity to inventory facility used oil sources, evaluate used oil management practices, and assure conformance with requirements for used oil generators, summarized below.

### **Summary of Used Oil Storage Requirements [35 IAC 739.122]**

A used oil generator is subject to all applicable federal Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (40 CFR 112).

Used oil must be stored in tanks or containers which are: 1) in good condition (no severe rusting,

apparent structural defects or deterioration); 2) not leaking (no visible leaks); and 3) labeled or marked clearly with the words "Used Oil".

Upon detection of a release of used oil to the environment: 1) Stop the release; 2) Contain the released used oil; 3) Properly clean up and manage the released used oil and other materials; and 4) If necessary, repair or replace any leaking used oil storage containers or tanks prior to returning them to service.

For more on used oil management, visit the Illinois EPA web page at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/small-business/used-oil/>

**Contributed by:**  
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## Prepare for Environmental Education Week with Classroom Materials



**April 16-22, 2006**

National Environmental Education Week and Earth Day (April 22) are fast approaching, and A&WMA's classroom education materials can help you prepare. Visit the Environmental Education Resource Center at <http://www.awma.org/education/?mtc=033> for the Environmental Education Resource Guide (EERG), free downloadable lesson plans, and much more.

For more information on National Environmental Education Week, visit the EE Week Web site at <http://www.eeweek.org/>

# Environmental Professionals

**Is your office relocating? Another restructuring?  
Been bought-out? Or just ready for a change?**

## **AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.**

is a leading consulting firm, providing environmental services, geotechnical engineering, infrastructure, materials testing and engineering, and water resource services. AMEC employs over 2,000 employees in 90 offices in North America and Europe. We have recently opened a new office in the Chicagoland Area, as well as one in Brighton, MI, and are seeking all levels of professionals in the following disciplines:

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## IS NEW ORLEANS ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE?

*Findings show that the city is environmentally safe.*

Only a week after three interior city levees were breached, which resulted in the flooding of many areas of New Orleans, a team of researchers from the Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute at Louisiana State University sampled floodwater from several city neighborhoods. Their report, released online in October 2005 through the American Chemical Society's journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, found that New Orleans floodwaters were no more polluted than the city's storm drains after a typical heavy rain.

Their findings were reinforced in a December 6, 2005, statement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), titled *Environmental Assessment Summary for Areas of Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes Flooded as a Result of Hurricane Katrina*. The statement, still posted on EPA's Web site as of mid-February, details research by EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) on post-Katrina floodwater and air quality samples. In the report's floodwater assessments, EPA collected nearly 400 floodwater samples and analyzed each for nearly 200 chemicals. EPA found that average concentrations of chemicals were below levels of concern for short-term (i.e., 90 days) exposure, and with the removal of floodwaters as of October 11, they no longer served as a source of exposure to residents returning to impacted areas.

As for air quality, extensive EPA and LDEQ air samples in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina showed that concentrations of toxic air pollutants were below the EPA one-year screening levels and below the Louisiana ambient air standards for toxic air pollutants. In addition, New Orleans continues to be an attainment area for criteria pollutants, and the city has not exceeded National Ambient Air Quality Standards as a consequence of Katrina.

According to Dr. Kevin Stevens, director of the New Orleans Department of Health, who briefed association executives visiting New Orleans on January 18, 2006, the department has "tested, retested, and continues to test land sea and air," and test results show the city is safe for visitors and residents.

## A&WMA'S 99TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

### Healthy Environments: Rebirth & Renewal

June 20-23, 2006  
New Orleans  
Convention Center

#### Take Part in the Rebirth of New Orleans!

New Orleans is coming back! The city is getting ready to welcome A&WMA's 99th Annual Conference & Exhibition. Already, a majority of the region's hotels are fully operational, and a significant percentage of the best restaurants in the metropolitan area are open. The Audubon Zoo, widely regarded as one of the nation's best, has reopened. Rivertown Museums and Attractions have reopened. And all major flood-related debris has been removed from the French Quarter, Central Business District, and the Arts and Entertainment District.

In addition to its tradition of providing high quality session offerings, A&WMA has the unique opportunity to also feature sessions closely tied to the environmental recovery from Hurricane Katrina and similar large-scale natural disasters.

The topic will benefit from the access to environmental experts from the Gulf Coast Region, where Katrina caused severe environmental damage and the cleanup of debris and potentially contaminated soil and sediment has been a significant challenge. The contamination of buildings, equipment, appliances, vehicles, and other materials has generated significant volumes of waste requiring quick and proper disposal. The conference will include a special session devoted to these unique waste management issues, including analysis, transportation, disposal, and cleanup. Papers also will address environmental readiness to aid in response to future natural disasters.

See <http://www.awma.org/ACE2006> for additional information or to register.



## New Members

**John Bell**  
SAFRISK, LC

**John Berger**  
Environmental C&C

**Robert Bermke**  
Georgia-Pacific Corp.

**Mark Bohlin**  
Cook County Environmental

**William Bunn**  
Int'l Truck and Engine Corporation

**Jennifer Buzucky**  
Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C.

**Megan Carter**

**Rachel Chleborowicz**  
RCM Environmental, Inc.

**Stacey Coburn**  
US EPA

**Daniel D'Auben**

**Norm Dollhopf**  
Tann Corporation

**Alice Driscoll**  
UOP LLC

**Bruce Dumdei**  
URS Corporation

**David Fashimpaur**  
BP

**Dale Feltz**  
Airgas - North Central

**James Fleischmann**  
Pollution Technology, LLC

**Megan Garvey**  
Meckler Bulger & Tilson

**Roger Gault**  
Engine Manufacturers Association

**Christopher Greco**  
ENVIRON

**Bruce Greer**  
SPL Inc.

**Jim Heilenbach**

**Thomas Hesterberg**  
Int'l Truck and Engine Corporation

**Heidi Hollenbach**  
Michigan - DEQ

**Wen Huang**  
US EPA

**Andreas Jazdanian**  
Toda America Inc.

**Shital Jiwane**  
Stuart Graduate School of Business

**David Kasun**  
Kuttner LLC

**John Kipta**  
Indiana State University

**Timothy Klein**

**Jae Lee**  
US EPA

**Kyeong Ook Lee**  
Argonne National Laboratory

**James Lingle**  
Electric Power Research Institute

**Jay Lipscomb**  
AirTech Environmental Services, Inc.

**Rebecca Maddox**  
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

**George Martin**  
Onyx Environmental Services

**Curtis Michols**  
Abbott Laboratories

**Kathy Oman**  
Pepsi Co - QTG

**Otis Omenazu**  
City of Chicago

**Eileen Openbrier**  
Abbott Laboratories

**Todd Palmer**  
DeWitt Ross & Stevens, SC

**Judith Perlinger**  
Michigan Technology University

**Mary Prisby**  
Grace Davison / ASSE

**Ronald Reynolds**  
Environmental Resources Mgmt

**Andrea Riegler**  
ERM

**Mark Rupnow**  
US Steel

**Lynn Spurr**  
Fishbeck Thompson Carr & Huber

**Ivan Tomovski**  
Archer Daniels Midland Company

**Nina Trautmann**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Raymond Wood**  
BP

**Jeff Zak**  
Scientific Control Laboratories

# MEMBER NEWS

## AMEC Opens First Earth & Environmental Office in Illinois

AMEC is very pleased to announce E&E's expansion into Illinois. The office, located in Lisle, 20 miles west of Chicago, is managed by **Jim Powell**, QEP, an environmental engineer with 30 years of technical and project management experience in the energy, environmental and consulting services industries.

Key staff members joining Jim in the new office include Kristin Meek, P.E. and Environmental Engineer with 9 years of environmental and civil engineering experience, Laura Menken, LPG, a hydrogeologist with over 5 years of environmental consulting experience, and three years of research-related experience, Julie Spapperi an environmental consultant with over 15 years of a variety of interdisciplinary environmental studies in the Energy and Transportation sectors, and Mona Garrett an environmental specialist with 20 years experience primarily focused on service to the US Army Reserve and Army Core of Engineers.

Both AMEC's Northeast and Central Regions are supporting the Illinois expansion effort, which is overseen by Jim Cline. The Chicago-area office is expected to grow to 10 to 15 people during 2006. The office will provide a variety of environmental consulting services including due diligence support, permitting, remediation/feasibility investigation,

air quality assessments, remedial design, stormwater management, SWPPP plan preparation, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements among other services.

The address of the new office is 4343 Commerce Court, Suite 602, Lisle, Illinois 60532. It's phone number is (630) 799-0290.



## Restoring a Legacy - America's Everglades

The world's largest constructed wetlands, measuring 26.5 square miles, is a premier example of science applied. **Burns & McDonnell** is proud to be a part of the Everglades restoration project, returning the Everglades ecosystem to its natural state.

The American Council of Engineering Companies recognized Burns & McDonnell and the south Florida Water Management District with its highest honor, the Grand Conceptor Award. The award highlights the design and implementation of Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 3/4, a significant part of the Everglades restoration project.

STA 3/4 contains more than 50 miles of levees and canals, 48 fully automated control structures and two pumping stations capable of moving more than 5 billion gallons of water per day. The primary function of this project is to lower nutrient levels in the water entering the Everglades - a key component in restoring the ecosystem.

Receiving the Grand Conceptor Award is a testament to the Burns & McDonnell mission of making our clients successful. The district's vision, coupled with Burns & McDonnell expertise, is restoring the legacy and beauty of America's Everglades.

For more information regarding the Everglades restoration project, visit [www.burnsmcd.com/everglades](http://www.burnsmcd.com/everglades).



## Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber Awarded 2006 ACEC "FIRM OF THE YEAR"

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) recently presented the 2006 "FIRM OF THE YEAR" award, its highest firm honor, to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber (FTC&H), headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is the only award program instituted to recognize ACEC/M member firms for their leadership in professional and community service. Recognition is based on actions taken by a member firm to progressively develop its management practices and for assuming leadership roles in community outreach activities and ACEC/M programs that strengthen the profession for all ACEC/M members.

"FTC&H was chosen as the Firm of the Year for providing leadership to ACEC members and for

*Continued on page 14.*



## “FIRM OF THE YEAR” (con’t.)

its continuous active participation in advancing awareness of the mission of the consulting design profession” stated ACEC/M Executive Director, Ronald W. Brenke, P.E. Highlights of FTC&H’s many state and local honors include being awarded the 2005 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in the West Michigan and Metro-Detroit areas and is one of the Top 500 design firms in the United States as ranked in the Engineering News-Record. FTC&H employees participate in various events that benefit the engineering profession and community. FTC&H is a full-service civil engineering, environmental, architectural/engineering, and construction management firm with over 300 employees-that serves the infrastructure and related needs of government and corporations throughout Michigan.



### Send Us Your News!

LM-A&WMA wants to share your news. Send your announcements of new employees, new location, awarding of a job, etc. to [robin@lmawma.org](mailto:robin@lmawma.org). Your announcement will be included in the next issue of this newsletter. Newsletters are published on a quarterly basis.

# MEMBER NEWS

## Gabriel and Turnkey Complete Merger Two Premier Environmental Firms Combine to Create One of Midwest’s Largest Full-Service Environmental Firms

Gabriel Environmental Services and Turnkey Environmental Consultants are pleased to announce their merger. Together, they create one of the largest environmental firms headquartered in the Midwest, with over 50 years of combined experience.

“Turnkey is a great fit for Gabriel,” says John Polich, P.E., President of Gabriel. “It’s clear that merging the companies will benefit both Turnkey’s and Gabriel’s clients.”

Operating as a key division of Gabriel, Turnkey will continue to focus on industrial hygiene, indoor air quality, asbestos, and other industrial services. It will add enhanced Phase I Environmental Site Assessment services, Phase II soil borings, and UST project management, as well as increased wastewater services to its offerings.

Gabriel’s industrial clients will be able to use Turnkey’s expertise to make their facilities safer, cleaner, and healthier, knowing they will be getting the same high quality services Gabriel has offered for more than 30 years.

Additionally, Gabriel will add Turnkey’s asbestos experience and knowledge to assist its clients involved in real estate transactions. Asbestos inspections are required by the City of Chicago, Cook County, and the State of Illinois when demolishing or remodeling a building.

“I’m excited to be joining forces with Gabriel,” says William McKinnery, P.E., C.I.H., President of Turnkey. “Our services are very complementary and will work well together.”



## Robert H. Kimble Joins FTC&H

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., (FTC&H) Engineers • Scientists • Architects • Constructors is pleased to announce **Robert H. Kimble** has joined the firm.

Based out of the Farmington Hills office, Bob joins FTC&H as a Senior Environmental Engineer in the Environmental Services Department. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan and has worked as a regulator and consultant for over 24 years. Bob has experience in air quality permitting, compliance, and emission inventory issues, working with a wide variety of industries. He has also served as the Wayne County Air Quality Management liaison with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality during the implementation of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments.

## MEMBER NEWS

### RMT, Inc. Congratulates Brian Harms on Becoming a Certified Industrial Hygienist

**Brian Harms, P.E.**, of RMT's Brookfield, Wisconsin office recently became a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH). The CIH is issued by ABIH (American Board of Industrial Hygiene). This certification recognizes people who have reached a certain level of expertise in their field, primarily working in the indoor air quality field of industrial hygiene. To qualify for admission to the ABIH examinations, an applicant must comply with all regulations of the Board that are in effect at the time the application is filed. An applicant must meet a professional industrial hygiene experience requirement supported by references, meet educational requirements and industrial hygiene (IH) coursework, and pass the ABIH examination.

Brian is a professional engineer in RMT's Industrial Services Group, and has more than 9 years of environmental engineering experience. He holds a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS



*Members of the Lake Michigan States Section Board of Directors with the A&WMA Traveling Trophy. (L-R) George Nassos, Chris Blume, James Harrington, Jeffrey Wentz, Robert Szczesniak and Jim Powell.*



*Attendees who enjoyed the 2005 Annual Holiday Reception.*

# 2005 ANNUAL AIR CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

