



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, September 21, 2006

<http://www.main.org/awmactc/index.htm>

TOPIC: Overview of the Texas Biodiesel Industry from an Environmental Regulatory Perspective

SPEAKERS: Jeff Plowman, President, Austin Biofuels and Chris Pepper, Associate Attorney, Jackson Walker

OVERVIEW:

1. Texas, long recognized as a leader in the agriculture and energy industries, is becoming a national leader in the rapidly growing biofuel industry. Domestically produced alternative liquid fuels that are manufactured from vegetable-based biomass are called biofuels. The most common examples are ethanol and biodiesel.
2. Biodiesel is a diesel substitute. Because they are renewable fuel resources, biofuels offer end-users an alternative to petroleum-based fuels and reduce dependence on foreign energy sources. Texas is home to 12 existing biofuel operations, which extend across the state from Houston, Conroe, Poteet, Giddings, Denton, Cleburne, and Roaring Springs. New plants will come on-line in Sealy, Hereford, Dumas, Galveston, and Carl's Corner.
3. On July 21, 2006, during a press conference attended by members of the National Biodiesel Board, Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Texas Legislature, and thanks to the hard work of Austin Biofuels and Triple S Petroleum, the City of Austin was announced as having the greatest number of biodiesel fueling stations in the United States.

Jeff Plowman is president/co-founder of Austin Biofuels, LLC and vice-president/treasurer of the Biodiesel Coalition of Texas (BCOT). Mr. Plowman has been involved in biodiesel related issues since 2000 and has worked in all aspects of the business from feedstock procurement to product placement. Currently, he is working to develop new Texas based feedstocks for biodiesel production. He holds a B.A. in Geography from The University of Texas at Austin. **Austin Biofuels, LLC** is a clean-energy company focused on the production and distribution of biodiesel. Austin Biofuels was founded in 2003 and was one of the first biodiesel retailers in the State of Texas. Austin Biofuels has expanded their capabilities in central Texas by working with petroleum distributors to deliver a full range of biodiesel blends. Expanded capabilities include a local biodiesel blending rack and a custom processing agreement with SafeFuels, Inc. to produce biodiesel to our own specifications. This insures that we sell only the highest quality ASTM6751 biodiesel. "Our goal is to reduce emissions in our city, as well as, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, all while keeping more of our energy dollar in our own community". Austin Biofuels, LLC is a Clean Energy Incubator member company.

Chris Pepper is an associate attorney with the Austin Office of the Texas-based law firm of Jackson Walker, LLP. Prior to joining Jackson Walker, Chris was in private practice where he represented a variety of biodiesel producers, distributors, and marketers with environmental permitting and compliance strategies for the Texas Low Emission Diesel Fuel Program. He has also served as a Staff Attorney in the Air and Water Quality Sections of the Offices of Legal Services at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas (Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Intellectual Property Law Sections) and licensed to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Chris is a graduate of Texas A&M University (Biology) and Texas Tech University (MS Environmental Toxicology, JD).

Information about the Biodiesel Coalition of Texas' Conference & Expo is available at www.biodieselevents.com.

Information about Austin Biofuels is available at www.austinbiofuels.com.

SPONSOR: "Jackson Walker L.L.P. - A Texas-based law firm with national presence and global reach."

TIMES: 5:30-6:00 p.m. – Reception and Meal

6:00-6:10 p.m. – Chapter Business

6:10-7:00 p.m. – Presentation

LOCATION: 301 Congress Avenue, Room 360, Northeast Corner
of 3rd and Congress

RSVP: If you plan on attending the meeting, please send your RSVP to: Mary Etter, 473-3247 or mary.etter@lcra.org



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UPCOMING EVENTS

ICE Meeting

Ethanol in Our Fuel Systems, Is there a Tiger in Our Tanks?

September 21, 2006, 9:30 a.m.

Doubletree Club Hotel at MLK, Austin, TX

The Industry Council on the Environment (ICE) will be holding its September 21st meeting at the Doubletree Club Hotel in Austin. The meeting will include various speakers on ethanol fuel. For additional information on the meeting and speakers, visit www.ice-texas.org.

2006 Texas Biodiesel Conference and Expo

September 27-29, 2006, Hilton Austin Airport, Austin, TX

The first annual Texas Biodiesel Conference and Expo will be held at the Hilton Austin Airport September 27-29, 2006. The conference promises to offer network and educational opportunities for those interested in learning more about the biodiesel industry. For more information about the conference and expo, visit www.biodieselevents.com.

Advanced Air Permitting Seminar

September 26-28, 2006, Austin, Texas

The TCEQ will be hosting an Advanced Air Permitting Seminar at the Austin Convention Center. Continuing education credits will be offered for professional engineers. The fee is \$275.00. For additional information, contact Sue Phillips at 512-239-6327 or visit <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/admin/events/09-06airpermitting.pdf>.

Integrated Control Strategies: Achieving a Greater Benefit

November 16-17, 2006

Research Triangle Park, NC

This A&WMA conference is designed to provide the latest information regarding efforts by the EPA and environmental professionals to develop integrated multi-pollutant policies as well as tools and strategies regarding

the nature of air quality management. For additional information, visit

<http://www.awma.org/events/confs/integrated%20strategies/integratedstrategies.asp>.

UST Management & Compliance Assistance Seminar

December 12, 2006

Austin Marriott North, Round Rock, TX

The TCEQ will be hosting a UST seminar at the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock, Texas. This seminar is focused on smaller owners/operators of UST systems. Information will be provided on the various equipment and methodologies necessary to monitor UST systems. Continuing education credit will be available for professional engineers as well as those holding A/B licenses. For additional information, contact Diane Stallings at 512-239-6333 or visit <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/admin/events/12-06ust.pdf>.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER NEWS

Art Bedrosian Named A&WMA Fellow

CTC A&WMA member, Art Bedrosian, was named Fellow in June of this year by the national A&WMA. A candidate for fellowship is required to have a minimum of 15 years of experience in an area served by the Association, at least 10 years of continuous membership, and be recognized for their professional accomplishments and attainments related to the Association's objectives and mission. Congratulations Art!

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2006. We would like to thank Signature Science for sponsoring our May meeting. Thank you for your support!



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CTC A&WMA 2006-2007 Meeting Dates

The CTC of the A&WMA have planned exciting, informative speakers for the 2006-2007 year and have set aside the following meeting dates:

September 21, 2006
October 19, 2006
November 16, 2006
January 18, 2006
February 15, 2006
March 22, 2006
April 19, 2006
May 17, 2006

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring a meeting, please email Janet McQuaid at jmcquaid@fulbright.com.

Job Opening Announcements

As a service to our members and member companies, the CTC of A&WMA will from time to time forward to its mailing list available job openings in the area. Contacts for the posted position are provided; please do not contact A&WMA regarding these positions. If in the future, your company has an open position in the environmental field that you wish to have forwarded to our mailing list, please send a brief job description and contact information to our Chapter chair, Joe Hossley, at Joe.Hossley@rmtinc.com.

Exciting Opportunities await A&WMA Volunteers

The Chapter has many exciting events planned for the coming year, but as always, we need your help to make them happen. If you are interested in working with us on any of the programs, please contact our Chapter Chair, Joe Hossley, at Joe.Hossley@rmtinc.com.

LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

Electronic Comment Option Available for Public Rulemaking Comments

The TCEQ is now accepting public comments regarding rulemaking to be submitted online electronically through their "eComments" portal. Posters are required to provide their name and address but will be allowed to post up to 2½ pages of comments on those rules that are in the active

comment period. To visit the new eComments page, visit <http://www5.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/ecomments/>.

Comment Now on TRRP Rule Revisions

The TCEQ is now accepting public comment on revisions to 30 TAC Chapter 350, the Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) rule. The public comment period will end October 9. To download the proposed amendments, visit <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/prop.html#05033>. If you would like to monitor the status of the rule revisions, visit <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/whatsnew.html>.

TCEQ Public Notices Searchable by Zip Code

In May of this year, the TCEQ announced that the public notices database is now searchable by zip code. To access the database, visit:

<http://www4.tceq.state.tx.us/cid/CCD/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.SearchPublicNotice>

TCEQ Commission Meetings & Work Sessions Now Available by Webcast

The commission meetings and monthly work sessions are now available for live viewing by webcast. This free service is being provided by TexasAdmin.com. It is anticipated that major stakeholder and committee meetings will also be available by webcast in the future. To see previous meetings or to access the agenda for the next meeting, visit www.texasadmin.com.

New Contact Recreation PCLs for Surface Water Now Available

The TCEQ now has available the new contact recreation PCLs for surface water. Information on the new PCLs can be found at

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/remediation/trrp/trrppcls.html>.
For information regarding when to use the new PCLs, visit <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/remediation/trrp/guidance.html>.



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NATIONAL NEWS

EPA Considering Employee Buyouts and Closing Labs to Address Budget Constraints

In an effort to address budget constraints for 2008 and in the future, the EPA is considering budget reductions that include closing laboratories and research centers, offering employee buyouts, as well as consolidating office space and administrative functions according to a memo from Lyons Gray, the EPA's chief financial officer to agency managers preparing their 2008 budgets. The EPA was required to provide its 2008 budget to the Office of Management and Budget on September 11th and it is not known which, if any, of the proposed budget cuts were included. For additional information on this story, visit <http://www.awma.org/pubs/envirowire/article.asp?id=1195>

Supreme Court to Decide if CO₂ is a Pollutant

The U.S. Supreme Court will be making a decision this fall as to whether or not CO₂ threatens public health and welfare and should be regulated by the EPA under the Clean Air Act. Ten states have already declared that CO₂ is a pollutant and have developed rules and laws regarding its emissions. Up to this point, the EPA has successfully defended its position in court that voluntary emission reductions are helping to reduce emissions while saving millions of dollars. For additional information, visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/06/26/AR2006062600399.html>.

Use of New Hazardous Waste Manifest Form Required

As of September 5th, the EPA is requiring that all waste handlers use the new standardized manifest form. The new form is designed for easier collection of hazardous waste reporting data. For information on the form and a list of approved printers, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/gener/manifest/>.

Florida County to Vaporize Trash

St. Lucie County, Florida plans to vaporize its garbage at temperatures hotter than the sun. The \$425 million dollar facility, being built and paid for by an Atlanta, Georgia company called Geoplasma, will use plasma arcs to turn trash into a rock-like material. All byproducts produced

by the process can be utilized. The rock-like material can be hardened into slag and used to build roads. The synthetic combustible gas produced as a byproduct can be used to run turbines that create electricity and sold back to the grid. For additional information, visit http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2006-09-10-vaporized-garbage_x.htm.

Revisions to NSR Proposed

The EPA is proposing three changes to the New Source Review (NSR) permitting process. The changes are designed to simplify the procedures facility owners and operators must follow to determine if modifications to their facility would trigger NSR requirements. There are three components to the proposal called debottlenecking, aggregation, and project netting. Debottlenecking and aggregation have been implemented in the past through EPA guidance on a case by case basis. After publication in the Federal Register, the EPA will accept comments on the proposed changes for 60 days. For additional information visit : <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/4d84d5d9a719de8c85257018005467c2/674450d6221951d1852571e300522424!opendocument>.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

I only had one drink...

A 42 year old man was denied unemployment benefits after a judge ruled that he was fired for cause. His employer, Amaizing Energy ethanol plant, experienced a massive spill resulting in a fuel pond of 190-proof alcohol. The former employee, a recovering alcoholic, drank from the spill and passed out with a 0.72 blood alcohol reading (almost double the amount considered lethal to humans). The man told the judge that his employer was partly responsible for the incident because the spill offered him an opportunity to drink. For more information, visit <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060709/NEWS10/607090341/-1/archive&template=printart>.



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Membership in the Chapter

To join the Chapter, please complete and return the membership form available from the [Chapter web site](http://www.main.org/awmactc/) (www.main.org/awmactc/) or contact our Chapter Secretary, Mary Etter, at 512-473-3247 or mary.etter@lcra.org. If you wish to join both the Central Texas Chapter and A&WMA International, contact A&WMA headquarters in Pittsburgh at 1-800-270-3444. Membership in the Chapter is \$25 (\$10 for full-time students).

2006 Chapter Officers

Chair: Joe Hossley, RMT, Inc., 329-3130, 327-6163 (fax), Joe.Hossley@rmtinc.com

Vice-Chair: Irvin Bilsky, Bilsky Consulting, 799-6048, irvinbilsky@msn.com

Secretary: Mary Etter, LCRA, 473-3247, mary.etter@lcra.org

Treasurer: Chris Pepper, Jackson Walker, 236-2236, 391-2196 (fax), cpepper@jw.com

At Large Director: Laura LaValle, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.; 391-8020, 391-8099 (fax), llavalle@bdlaw.com

At Large Director: Sherry Smith, TCEQ, 239-0571, SheSmith@tceq.state.tx.us

Membership Chair: Russ Baier, RDB Consulting, 986-4195, rbaier@austin.rr.com

Program Chair: Janet McQuaid, Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., 536-2429, 536-4598 (fax), jmcquaid@fulbright.com

Education Chair: Open

Communications Co-Chair (Webmaster): Richard Smith, TCEQ, 239-5788, rsmith4@austin.rr.com

Communications Co-Chair (Newsletter Editor): Richard Scadden/Tanya Townsend, INTERA Inc., 425-2000, 425-2099 (fax), rscadden@intera.com and ttownsend@intera.com

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(all phone numbers in area code 512 except where noted)