



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting

THURSDAY, October 25, 2007

Climate Change: A Whole Lot More Than Just Some More Amendments



SPEAKER: Richard W. Sprott,
Executive Director, Utah
Department of Environmental
Quality

Richard (Rick) Sprott has been a member of the Air and Waste Management Association since 1993, was a member of its Board of Directors from 2003 to 2006, and has been elected President for 2009. He was appointed Executive Director of the Utah Department of

Environmental Quality in June 2007. Prior to assuming his current assignment he was Director of the Utah Division of Air Quality since December 2000. Some of his major policy and technical interests include energy and climate, mercury, water body protection, agricultural air quality, impacts of oil and gas production, neighborhood air toxic studies, regional haze, PM2.5 formation chemistry, global and regional solutions, and environmental partnerships.

Mr. Sprott came to the department in 1994 as a permit writer in the Division of Air Quality. He subsequently served as manager of the Permitting Branch and Planning Branch. While Director he focused the staff on air quality outcomes, implemented an integrated data system, greatly expanded public outreach, increased community-based health actions, and oversaw several major regulatory efforts including mercury emissions and health standards. He also initiated partnerships with other agencies and industry sectors to include federal land agencies, oil and gas producers, agriculture, and utilities.

Prior to joining the Division of Air Quality, Mr. Sprott was a career Air Force officer who served in a variety of assignments related to aerospace maintenance and acquisition. He held three command positions. Mr. Sprott received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Grinnell College in 1968 and a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University in 1994. He is also a member of Governor Huntsman's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate.

SPONSOR: [Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP](#), founded in 1979, is a firm of approximately 100 lawyers with offices in Austin, Fort Worth, and Houston. The firm represents a diverse range of public entities and private clients in sophisticated commercial transactions, litigation, and regulatory matters throughout the nation. It provides legal services in the areas of finance/banking, corporate/securities, energy, water/natural resources, environmental, administrative, labor, public finance, real estate, taxation, and general commercial law. The firm's lawyers are organized into practice groups to give its clients the benefit of the attorneys' collective experience. The Environmental Practice Group lawyers have wide-ranging and long-term experience in the environmental field, including many years of service as state environmental agency attorneys.

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, mary.etter@lcra.org or 473-3247.

The Central Texas Chapter would like to offer thanks to Todd Shaw with Austin Energy for his well-received presentation on the Seaholm Power Plant Decommissioning at our September meeting. Thanks also go to Sage Environmental Consulting, LP, for sponsoring the meeting.

Upcoming Events

11th Annual Hot Air Tropics Conference, Gulf Coast Chapter of A&WMA

October 29, 2007

Marriott, Houston Hobby Airport, Houston, TX



Hot Air Topics is the leading conference devoted to air quality issues of current interest and importance to the Houston area. Speakers at the conference, representing a wide range of perspectives, present on a diverse array of topics. We anticipate in excess of 250 attendees with more than 20 companies exhibiting. Attendees will include a broad range of environmental professionals from

local regulated industry, the legal community, technical consulting firms, regulatory agencies, environmental and public health advocates, state and local government and academia. The proceeds from the conference are used to fund scholarships at local universities and to support environmental education programs within local school districts. For more information and registration visit: HotAirTopics.org.

ICE Meeting – Municipal Setting Designations: Perspectives from Cities, the State and Environmental Practitioners

Thursday, October 18, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Doubletree Club Hotel at MLK, Austin, TX

A panel including Lori Frauli from the City of Dallas, Brian Boerner from the City of Fort Worth, Mike Frew of TCEQ, and Frank Clark, of W&M Environmental will discuss Municipal Setting Designations. Cindy Smiley, from Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP, will serve as moderator. www.ice-texas.org.

AIHA Texas Hill Country Section, Texas Health and Safety Conference – The Professionals' Role in Community Emergency Preparedness

October 26-28, 2007
Radisson Downtown Market Square, San Antonio TX.

This conference is being sponsored by four Texas Local Sections and promises to be a wonderful opportunity to brush up on "Industrial Hygiene & Safety Professionals' Role in Community Emergency Preparedness" and meet active H&S people from other local sections. Register online at <http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/swcoeh/regform.asp>.

The Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, Fall Management Conference

October 16-17, 2007
Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake, Austin, TX

The program is more compact, but the sessions are packed, increasing the take-away value. Plan to attend the following sessions: "Margin Tax Clarification," "Big Savings for Small Businesses," and "80th Legislative Session Update, with Harvey Kronberg." <http://www.tpca.org/>.

International A&WMA Webinar – Ethics and the Environment: The Rules of the Game

November 14, 2007, 1:00 p.m. (CST)

Environmental professionals can face numerous ethical questions in the course of their work. Making the wrong decision can lead to embarrassment -- or worse. Have you ever faced a serious violation that could affect public health but knew the plant manager doesn't want a paper trail? Perhaps your marketing manager wanted to take the environmental managers



of your three largest customers on an extravagant fishing trip that sounded more like a bribe to you. Maybe your production manager told you not to worry about leakage because it could never be linked to your plant. Or perhaps, as an inspector, you've been asked to overlook small violations. What did you (or would you) do in situations such as these? Your responses could impact your job, your company's or agency's image and well being, or the health and safety of the community.

Hal Taback (Hal Taback Co. Environmental Consultants and current chair of the Ethics Committee), Bob Hall (Chief of the Air Pollution Technology Branch in U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development's Air Pollution Prevention and Control Division, and Past President of A&WMA), will conduct an interactive discussion on "Ethics and the Environment" and provide techniques to use when faced with ethical dilemmas. [http://www.awma.org/events-view_event.html?typeid=4&id=19](http://www.awma.org/events/view_event.html?typeid=4&id=19)

ISMI Meeting The Impact of Emerging ESH Regulations on Manufacturing

October 22, 2007, 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Hilton Austin Airport, Austin, TX

This workshop will be an excellent update and overview of emerging regulations world-wide. The workshop is being held as part of the ISMI Symposium. Breakfast, lunch and a CD of the presentations will be provided for a cost \$150.00. For complete meeting information (including Registration) see <http://www.sematech.org/cgi-bin/announce.cgi?8292>

Central Texas Chapter News

New Newsletter Editor

Nancy Meilahn has graciously assumed the responsibilities of the Communications Committee Co-Chair. As Co-Chair, she will serve as our new Newsletter Editor. Nancy is a Project Manager and Senior Environmental Engineer at URS. The Central Texas Chapter Board of Directors would like to extend its gratitude to Nancy for taking on this responsibility.



Should you have information that you wish to publish in the newsletter, please contact Nancy or one of the other Central Texas Chapter board members. Contact information is provided on page 4 of the newsletter.

Officer Nominations

The Chapter is currently forming a nominating committee to select candidates for Officers and Board Members. The positions that will be open to elections this year include Chapter Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director at Large representing regulatory concerns. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or running for office, please contact any of the chapter Officers or board members. As a reminder, officer candidates must be members of the International Association; local Chapter associates may serve in other Board positions.

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, Irvin Bilsky, at irvinbilsky@msn.com.

Job Opening Announcements

The TCEQ is looking for a Team Leader in the Environmental Cleanup Section of the Remediation Division to supervise a team of approximately ten staff. The ideal candidate would be familiar with the division programs including RCRA Corrective Action, Voluntary Cleanup, Petroleum Storage Tank and Superfund Programs. Bachelor's Degree required. This job opening will be available until November 2, 2007. Salary Range \$4,354 to \$4,876 month. Please see the complete job description at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/admin/employ/jobs.html>.

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, Irvin Bilsky, at irvinbilsky@msn.com.

International A&WMA News

A&WMA's 101th Annual Conference & Exhibition

June 24-27, 2008
Portland, OR

Preliminary information regarding this conference is now available. Abstracts are also being requested until December 3rd. For additional information, visit: <http://www.awma.org/ace2008/>.

Introductory A&WMA Membership Offer Continues through December 31, 2007

For the next three months, introductory membership is available when signing up **through the Chapter** at a discounted rate of \$100. Specific details are as follows:

- The promotion applies only to individual memberships.
- Eligibility: Never been A&WMA member or not been member during the 12 months prior.
- Introductory price of \$100 is for the first year individual membership with the choice of either EM or the Journal. Renewal will be at \$180.00 US
- If the new member wants both magazines, the additional magazine will be \$55/year.

Environmental Challenge International

The First Annual Environmental Challenge International (ECi) will be held at next year's A&WMA Annual

Conference and Exhibition in Portland, Oregon in June 2008. Collegiate teams evaluate a range of environmental effects of alternative approaches to a true-to-life environmental problem and make choices about the acceptability of individual and combined impacts. The problem will be designed to promote the formation of student teams with the broadest feasible range of environmental disciplines: engineering, planning, policy, economics and various other sciences. Local universities are encouraged to partner with your local Chapter and send a team of students to this exciting competition.

Nominations Open for 2008 Honors & Awards

Working in the environmental field can be a thankless job. Show your appreciation for a colleague, company, or organization that inspires you. [Nominations for A&WMA's 2008 Honors & Awards](#) are due November 1, 2007 (December 1 for the J. Deane Sensenbaugh Award). Recipients will be named at the 101st Annual Conference & Exhibition in Portland.

Full-time graduate students who are pursuing courses of study and research leading to careers in air quality, waste management, environmental management/policy/law, and sustainability are eligible to apply for the 2008/2009 A&WMA Scholarship Endowment Trust Fund. The [online scholarship application](#) is now available. The 2008/2009 application will contain similar section requirements. September 28, 2007 is the anticipated launch day. Scholarship applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (EST) January 11, 2008. Awards will be announced in March 2008.

Local and State News

City's Household Hazardous Waste Collection now open for collection on first Saturday of each month

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007, the City of Austin Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility will be open on the first Saturday of the month from 7 a.m. to noon, along with the weekday schedule of Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon to 6 p.m. Located at 2514 Business Center Drive, the facility is open to residents of Austin and Travis County and accepts up to 30 gallons household hazardous waste. These products are then disposed of safely or recycled.

Unwanted household chemicals should be in their original



containers or properly marked. Place containers in sturdy boxes, sorted by hazard type (flammable, poison, corrosive, etc.), and placed in the trunk of your car or pickup

truck bed. Do not transport materials in passenger area of vehicle. Be sure all containers are closed and not leaking. For more information on disposing of household hazardous waste call (512) 974-4343 or visit austinrecycles.com.

State Edwards Aquifer Program and Federal Endangered Species Program Offer Streamlined Review Process

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) have added new voluntary measures and best management practices for development projects in parts of Bexar, Travis, and Williamson Counties. The suggestions are aimed at maintaining water quality and protecting the rare bugs that live in caves above the aquifer -- while complying with TCEQ's Edwards Aquifer rules and the Endangered Species Act. These optional measures are designed to enhance the protection of the species covered under this document by providing for a higher level of water quality protection and can be used by those who wish to avoid harming listed karst dwelling invertebrate species from water quality impacts.

Currently, development projects must receive a water quality authorization from the TCEQ, and avoid impacts to endangered species in the area of their proposed development. Under the voluntary process, developers that opt to comply with the TCEQ measures will receive a water quality authorization through the TCEQ. The Service considers that those who follow the measures are avoiding water quality impacts to endangered species. Some situations may still warrant direct consultation with the Service, such

as those projects requiring a federal permit, those that could impact listed species that are not water quality related, those that could impact other listed species not covered by the measures, and projects outside the area covered by TCEQ's Edwards Aquifer Rules in Bexar, Travis, and Williamson Counties.

www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/field_ops/eapp/program.html

National News

22 Members of Congress Urge EPA to Heed Scientists' Advice on Ozone

A group of 22 House Republicans and Democrats wrote Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson Oct. 1 urging him to follow the advice of EPA's scientific advisers and tighten the air quality standard for ozone from the current 0.08 parts per million to between 0.060 and 0.070 parts per million. "The EPA's panel of scientific advisors, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), unanimously found that the smog standard 'needs to be substantially reduced to protect public health, particularly in sensitive subpopulations,' and that 'there is no scientific justification' for retaining the current standard," the 22 congressmen said in the Oct. 1 letter said. EPA on June 20 proposed reducing the ozone standard to 0.075 ppm averaged over eight hours (72 Fed. Reg. 37,818).

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 or at <http://www.awma.org/>. Membership in the Chapter is \$25 (\$10 for full-time students).

2007 Chapter Officers

Title	Name	Company	Phone	E-Mail Address
Chair	Irvin Bilsky	Bilsky Consulting	799-6048	irvinbilsky@msn.com
Vice-Chair	Chris Pepper	Jackson Walker	236-2236	cpepper@jw.com
Secretary	Mary Etter	LCRA	473-3247	mary.etter@lcra.org
Treasurer	Louisa Preston	Zephyr Environmental Corporation	879-6646	lpreston@zephyrenv.com
At Large Director (Industry)	Laura LaValle	Beveridge & Diamond, PC	391-8020	llavalle@bdlaw.com
At Large Director (Regulatory)	Sherry Smith	TCEQ	239-0571	SheSmith@tceq.state.tx.us
Membership Chair	Russ Baier	RDB Consulting	986-4195	rbaier@austin.rr.com
Program Chair	Gwen Eklund	TRC	684-3106	gekund@trcsolutions.com
Education Chair	Jennynne Bilsky	AISD	799-5655(cell)	jbilsky@msn.com
Communications Co-Chair (Webmaster)	Richard Smith	TCEQ	239-5788	rsmith4@austin.rr.com
Communications Co-Chair (Newsletter Editor)	Nancy Meilahn/ Terra Dickerson	URS Corporation	454-4797	nancy_meilahn@urscorp.com terra_dickerson@urscorp.com
Ex-Officio Advisor	Arthur Bedrosian	Sage Environmental Consulting	327-0288	art@sageenvironmental.com
SW Ex-Officio Advisor	Cindy Smiley	Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP	495-6441	cindy.smiley@khh.com

(all phone numbers in area code 512)