



Newsletter

October 2016

Environmental Professionals of Iowa (EPI) is a multi-disciplinary organization that promotes education and standards of conduct and performance in the environmental field. The organization also provides a forum for environmental professionals to express a collective statement and provide a professional perspective on environmental issues.

President's Corner

Greetings all.

Well, it's been almost a year since I volunteered to once again be part of the Board for EPI and while I had some great ideas to implement, our faithful Treasurer kept control. You would think that I get enough Board meetings through work, but not so. I do enjoy being part of EPI and believe it has helped many groundwater professionals retain their certification by providing continuing education credits at a reasonable cost and effort.

The past year has been interesting. From an environmental standpoint, it seems a day doesn't go by without seeing something in the news, whether about water quality, air quality or even the fear of pollution from our growing demand for more resources. These concerns are all related to the identification or perception of a risk, some of which have yet to be determined or understood. Determining risk isn't as easy as some would think, and the perception of a risk will vary from person to person, or group to group. From a regulatory standpoint, risk is often defined in rule and in some cases, with the use of a computer model. For those working with Iowa's LUST sites, we've been waiting years for a new model to assess risk but the wait is almost over and the Iowa DNR will give a preview to all at this year's Symposium. The new model will be flawed because there are too many variables to consider, so we must be careful in how we view the outcome. In every case, the results need to be considered before being presented as fact. For example, I recently read a report which indicated a risk with a groundwater target level of 232,481,900,000,000 ug/L. Should I have questioned this value or accepted it as fact? Perhaps I'm a bit skeptical, but I questioned the value. In fact, I question many ideas presented in the news or from subject experts talking about the results of various models. Too often I think people will grasp information presented without considering the source, the intent of the writer, or the alternatives.

Hopefully, that doesn't apply to us. As environmental professionals we should all look at information presented and consider the source or intent before simply accepting it, especially when it may affect you, your community or your family. For this year, EPI has lined up a number of presenters for the Symposium. Each presenter will share a message and it will be up to you to decide if the information is worthy as fact. I'm sure there will be some information that may affect you personally or professionally, so if you have questions, please ask.

See you soon.

James Gastineau, EPI President (2016)

2016 EPI Officers

James Gastineau, President

E-Mail: gastineaur@gmail.com

Christian Quijano, Past President

E-Mail: christianquijano@hotmail.com

Open Position, President Elect

E-Mail:

Scott Stanley, Treasurer

E-Mail: Scott.R.Stanley@mwhglobal.com

Beth Kepthart, Newsletter Editor

E-Mail: kephtarbj@gmail.com

Open Position, Secretary

E-Mail:

Meredith Liechti, Program Chair

E-Mail :

meredith.liechti@testamericainc.com

Environmental Professionals of Iowa

P.O. Box 65484

West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

www.epiowa.org

Fall Symposium Time!!

The 2016 EPI Symposium will be Mon. Nov. 14- Tues. Nov. 15 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston, IA!

The Stoney Creek Inn has been selected for the Symposium and is a good location with convenient parking. It also provides EPI a selection of caterers for the food. This event is a great time to learn, obtain contact hours, and socialize with other environmental professionals in Iowa.

EPI Symposium Monday Speaker

Peter Cartwright

Groundwater Contaminants and New Treatment Technologies

EPI is pleased to announce this year the Monday evening lecture is part of the William A. McElhiney Distinguished Lecture Series in Water Well Technology. Mr. Cartwright has been named the 2016 McElhiney Distinguished lecturer for the National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation (NGWREF), which operates as a public foundation through the National Ground Water Association.



Mr. Cartwright entered the water purification and wastewater treatment industry in 1974 and has operated his own consulting engineering firm since 1980, Cartwright Consulting Company, LLC. He has a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and is a registered Professional Engineer in that state. Mr. Cartwright is a recipient of both the Award of Merit and Lifetime Member Award from the Water Quality Association, and is the Technical Consultant for the Canadian Water Quality Association.

EPI Symposium Tuesday Planning

Several notable speakers and vendors are expected to attend the Symposium again this year. Below are a few regulatory and technical highlights from Tuesday's agenda:



The Symposium agenda for Tuesday, November 15th, 2016 will include a presentation of the newly developed RBCA web-based application by Mr. Matthew Graesch of the IDNR UST/LUST Section. The 2016 agenda also includes discussions of trends and recent developments for topics presented in prior years. Additional IDNR guest speakers include Mr. Adam Schnieders of the Water Quality Bureau, Ms. Lynette Siegely of Project AWARE, and an annual update of UST/LUST activities by the Section Supervisor, Ms. Elaine Douskey.



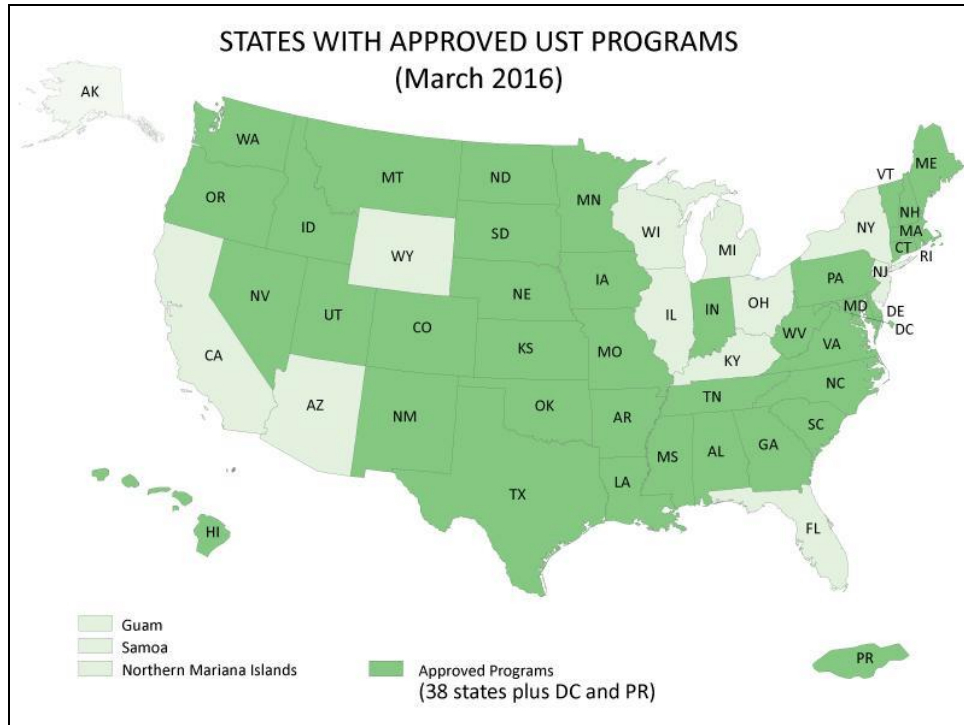
Featured at the 2016 symposium will be Ms. Karla Buechler, Corporate Technical Director of Test America Laboratories based in Sacramento, California. Ms. Buechler has more than 30 years of experience in the environmental testing industry. She will be discussing the laboratory analysis of Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS).

IN THE NEWS

EPA: Implementation Time Frames for 2015 UST Requirements

As you may have heard the EPA released UST requirements for states with approved programs. The State of Iowa is one of those states (map below). Implementation of the program will occur October 13, 2018. For any questions please contact the IDNR, Paul Nelson (515) 725-8324, Paul.Nelson@idnr.iowa.gov. A compliance assistance brochure has been published indicating the time frames to comply intended for owners and operators of UST sites at the below link.

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/implementbrochure091515.pdf>



(Source: <https://www.epa.gov/ust/state-underground-storage-tank-ust-programs>)

Iowa State University Obtains Federal Water Research Grant

Iowa State University has received an \$800,000 EPA grant to research economic measurements linked to water quality improvements. The university is one of just six U.S. universities to receive EPA research grant funding for a project to better quantify the economic values of improved water quality, which will help decision makers consider the benefits of investments in water quality improvement efforts. The EPA research grant will fund efforts by ISU to quantify the value of water quality improvements in Midwestern ecosystems. The ISU grant is part of a \$4.8 million package of grants being issued to six universities across the country.

Chemical and microbial contaminants continue to reduce the quality of our water – and often at a rate that outpaces water quality improvements from regulatory actions. The research grants will help communities and experts conduct benefit-cost analyses for actions that protect our waterways. This research will also provide a critical link between water quality science and the monetary value of the services that healthy waterways provide, including recreational uses.

Learn more about these grants at: www.epa.gov/research-grants/water-research-grants

(Source: Press Release - US EPA Region 7, Lenexa, KS)

Grants Still Available to Help Small Communities with Abandoned Properties

Funding is still available to Iowa communities with populations of 5,000 or smaller to inspect and properly remove asbestos from abandoned commercial buildings.

The funds, from the DNR's Derelict Building Grant Program, allow eligible communities to investigate the amount of asbestos present in a building. The funding also allows them to determine the physical characteristics and stability of these structures by completing structural engineering assessments, and to abate identified asbestos issues.

"If a building collapses and the presence of asbestos is unknown, it can increase the economic burden on the community," said the DNR's Scott Flagg. "In addition, a building's appearance may not reveal the actual condition of the structure. Building assessments can assist communities determine how best to address an abandoned building."

The Derelict Building Grant Program provides small communities and rural counties financial assistance for abandoned commercial and public structures, which can improve the appearance of their streets, revitalize local economies and alleviate the environmental concerns these buildings can pose. Projects selected may apply for funding in 2017 for additional program-related tasks.

For more information and to obtain an application for the Derelict Building Grant Program, contact Scott Flagg at 515-725-8318 or Scott.Flagg@dnr.iowa.gov. Applications will be accepted until funds are expended.

Refer to the following link for additional information:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Waste-Planning-Recycling/Derelict-Building-Program>

(Source: Iowa DNR News Release, 09/22/2016)

Storage Tanks Database Web Application

The storage tanks database web application is a joint venture between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Public Safety State Fire Marshal Office (SFM). It presents all the storage tanks in Iowa containing regulated substances, primarily petroleum products, within one database system. These consist of Underground Storage Tanks (UST), Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST), and Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST). This site is for public viewing and does not require a login.

The database provides information about the UST site location, the site owners, tanks, Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA), site classification and remediation. The user may view the current status of underground storage tank and leaking underground storage tank sites using this new database tool.

Refer to the following link to access the database web application:

<http://programs.iowadnr.gov/tanks/>



The success of EPI depends on the volunteer efforts and is a great way to welcome new members and make connections as an Iowa Groundwater Professional. Currently the Board's goal is to fill two positions. Please inquire with any of the Past or Present Board members for interest.

Calendar of Events



November 3 & 4, 2016

UST Professional Refresher Course
Holiday Inn, Mercy Campus-Area, 1050 6th Ave,
Des Moines, IA 50314

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/ust/ustrefresheragenda.pdf>

November 14 & 15, 2016

2016 EPI Symposium, Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA