

Southern Section A&WMA 2015 Chair's Message

Dear Southern Section A&WMA member:

As we begin the 2015 calendar year I am excited for the opportunity to help lead and give back to the Air & Waste Management Association in my role as Chair of the Southern Section for this year. A number of dedicated and talented individuals with whom I'm excited to be involved continue to be associated with this fine organization.

As we start the year we will certainly be focusing on the key aspects and functions that the Southern Section is engaged in, namely sharing ideas among the various A&WMA chapters, helping to ensure a quality Annual conference is put forward, and running and building upon the annual scholarship program. In addition to these core functions I have established three goals that I would like to work toward for the 2015 calendar year, outlined as follows.

1. Provide support and assistance with the Tennessee chapters to help strengthen these groups. I hope to utilize my professional contacts and the professional network that we all share to reach out to environmental professionals that reside in the areas in proximity to these two chapters and solicit involvement. I certainly also would like to see the Southern Section become more engaged in promoting the international A&WMA organization to industry, consulting firms, and other sectors to encourage their participation in the international corporate affiliation program.
2. Continue to expand the growth of student chapters with the goal of having at least one student chapter in each of the affiliated state chapters that comprise the Southern Section. We have seen tremendous success with both the University of Alabama and Georgia Tech chapters and want this to happen for our Tennessee and Mississippi chapters.

3. Identify and establish individuals who will serve as Young Professional representatives for each chapter, working toward the goal of enhancing social and professional functions for this specific group and serving as a resource for the student chapters. At the moment there are a few individual chapters that have a person or persons identified in this role but I hope to see every chapter have this position filled.

As we start the 2015 year please keep A&WMA in mind and make it a point to see how you can contribute. Many opportunities exist including attending a meeting/social function, signing up for a committee, signing on as a conference/event sponsor, signing on as an exhibitor for the annual conference, and of course renewing your annual membership! Any and all level of support is appreciated and of course the saying "you get back what you put in" is so very true. Make the A&WMA your organization by becoming and staying involved.

There was a lot of success for our Southern Section and the chapters that comprise this body in 2014, including a highly successful annual conference, formation of two new student chapters, and growth in membership. It would be very pleasing to see the group and the chapters have another successful year for 2015 and I look forward to helping see that this happens!

Chris Hurst, 2015 Chair
Southern Section A&WMA

Georgia Institute of Technology A&WMA Student Chapter

by Chris Hurst, GA Chapter Chair 2014

It certainly has been a long development process by the Georgia chapter to reactivate this student chapter. However, the chapter is very pleased with the recent efforts to establish a working student chapter at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech). The whole process began back in Fall of 2013 when one of our chapter scholarship winners was approached and took on the task of starting a student chapter. Ms. Mariel Friberg, scholarship winner, immediately drew in several active and engaged students and from there things have just continued to build. There are currently 24 national student members and it continues to grow.

The Background....

During the Georgia A&WMA scholarship award presentation held in conjunction with our annual 2013 Fall Conference, the discussions were held among several Georgia Board members; our scholarship chair, Mr. Thomas Wideman; and Mariel on making the effort to start a student chapter. Efforts immediately began on recruiting other students, developing a set of bylaws, developing a budget, and planning student events.

On February 6, 2014 Mr. Thomas Wideman provided a presentation to the student chapter of AEES at GA Tech focusing on professional and career development. The presentation also enabled the GA Chapter A&WMA to reach out to additional students in an effort to fully launch a GA Tech A&WMA student chapter in the upcoming months. An additional 5 national student memberships were raffled off bringing the total number of student memberships funded in the first part of 2014 up to fifteen. The hope was to have the student chapter petition the national organization by the end of the month and student officers in place by March. Within a week of the presentation an additional 5 GA Tech students signed on with the A&WMA national organization also with their first year's dues being paid by the GA chapter. This brought the total student chapter up to 15 members.

On March 21, 2014 the GA Tech student chapter had its first meeting as active chapter of the Air

& Waste Management Association falling under the Southern Section. Beginning in March 2014, the GA Tech A&WMA student chapter hosted several social happy hour gatherings and social events for the GA Tech students and local Young Professionals.

One successful program that was implemented was an early evening professional presentation in which a local Georgia chapter member was invited to come in and provide an overview of their career since college and how their education has been brought into their professional career. Dinner was provided at these events by the Georgia Chapter. At each event, members and students (both national members and interested students) would discuss topics including professional development, A&WMA international, and A&WMA local planning. Of course, discussion also included a variety of other subjects!

On August 7, 2014 the petition of the GA Tech A&WMA student chapter was officially approved by the international A&WMA Board of Directors. Since that time the group has continued with social events and the professional speaker presentations. One of the most successful events over the late summer was an Ice Cream Social where more than 50 interested



students stopped by and all seemed very interested in learning about A&WMA and the student chapter.

And Moving Forward....Currently, the student leaders who have been instrumental in starting the group are graduating so new leaders are being identified. The student chapter plans

to continue hosting the evening professional presentation programs, periodic social events, gatherings with the Georgia chapter young professionals, and organize groups to attend the 2015 national and southern section conferences.

The GA Tech A&WMA student chapter has created a new Facebook group called GA Tech Air & Waste Management Association Student

Chapter. There will be more pictures posted there after each event.

Thank you again for all of your support in getting our student chapter going! Please contact Shira Glabman (sglabman@gatech.edu) or Mr. Thomas Wideman (tcwidema@southernco.com) if you have any questions, comments, or want to show support!

Coal Ash Update

by *Steven Burns*

On December 19, 2014, EPA issued the prepublication version of final regulations governing the management and disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCRs) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This rule sets, for the first time, federal solid waste standards to govern coal ash, gypsum, and other combustion byproducts at coal-fired power plants.

Most notably, EPA chose to impose standards under RCRA Subtitle D, which governs solid waste, instead of Subtitle C. In other words, EPA found that CCRs are not a “hazardous waste” for regulatory purposes, which is consistent with EPA’s past determinations on this issue. That means implementation and enforcement are left primarily to the states, if the states choose to amend their Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) to cover CCRs. Under RCRA, EPA does not directly enforce Subtitle D standards unless EPA finds an “imminent and substantial endangerment to health or the environment.”

The rule also includes provisions for groundwater monitoring, design and operational standards for CCR disposal facilities, location restrictions, and structural integrity inspection requirements. Electric utilities will be required to collect compliance-related information and post it to their own web sites. The rule allows for beneficial reuse of CCRs, subject to criteria to ensure the use is legitimate and to limit certain larger-scale structural fills.

In a change from the proposed rule, where certain certifications by an engineer are required, EPA removed the requirement that they be “independent.” The final rule indicates EPA is relying on the licensure of the engineer for quality control rather than corporate independence.

Some important milestones to look for include the following:

Publication in the Federal Register. That may occur at any time. Once the rule appears in the Federal Register, that drives the effective date and other compliance deadlines.

State agency activity. The states must take certain proactive steps if they wish to take primary responsibility to regulate CCRs. Look for each state environmental agency to signal its intentions and, possibly, initiate SWMP revisions and a rulemaking in the coming weeks and months.

Effective date. 180 days after publication in the Federal Register. If the rule is published in January, then the effective date will be in July.

18-month demonstrations. Within 18 months of the effective date, existing CCR units have to prepare documentation in a number of areas, including design

criteria, structural integrity, and hydrology and hydraulics. Specific requirements vary depending on whether the unit is dry (landfill) or wet (impoundment).

Groundwater monitoring. After time to install monitoring systems and to determine background constituents, the rule requires groundwater monitoring 30 months after the effective date.

Location restrictions. Demonstrations with respect to location criteria are due 42 months after the effective date.

With a rule as long and complex as this one (745 pages, prepublication), there are sure to be many questions of interpretation and implementation. Look for information sessions to be hosted by EPA in the coming weeks.

Steven Burns represents electric utilities on CCR issues. He is the immediate past chair of the Alabama Chapter of A&WMA and a partner in the Environmental Section of Balch & Bingham LLP. He can be reached at (205) 226-8736 or sburns@balch.com.

Notes from the Editor

Justice Manning

Having read this far into the newsletter and with the information below you will see that our Section Chair has already made an excellent start at meeting one of his goals, possibly the one most beneficial to our members in E TN. A meeting has been scheduled with A&WMA members and friends for **3 p.m. EST** on February 20, 2015 at the National Transportation Research Center; more info at <http://www.ntrc.gov/visiting.shtml>. The address is:

2360 Cherahala Boulevard
Knoxville TN 37932
865-946-1204

You are invited to attend if you are in the Oak Ridge/E TN area. However, Chris must hear from anyone who plans to attend **prior to Monday February 16th**, since we are required to submit guests' names to the facility for admission. You may contact **Chris** at cjhurstatl@gmail.com or telephone **404-992-6475**. Let's give Chris as much support in achieving his other goals as is possible. It can only benefit each of us, as well as any new members who join us.

The other item of possible interest to each member is to know who represents you in

planning the various activities that occur each year in the local units. Therefore, I am including the elected Board of directors on the following page. I have not included addresses because of privacy issues. If you need information for your chapter or the Section you may find the appropriate contact in this roster. Or, to see other officers in your chapter you may go to the Southern Section web site, <http://www.ss-awma.org/local.php>, to obtain their contact information.

The last item to which I want to draw your attention is the Annual Meeting and **Technical Conference** of the Southern Section. This year the GA Chapter is the host and the conference is planned for **Callaway Gardens on August 19-21, 2015**. Please note that the **dates have changed** from the original *Save the Date* notice sent out before Christmas. The corporate sponsorship levels and opportunities are now posted at the chapter website <http://www.gaawma.org/>

If you are interested in other training or the International A&WMA Meeting for 2015, which will be in Raleigh, NC, very near us, you may find it at <http://www.awma.org/>.

Southern Section Board Members 2015

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