



A&WMA

THE AIR AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
NORTHERN OHIO CHAPTER

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Laboratory Quality Corner

By John J. Rindy
Manager of QA/QC
U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc.

I've received my sample results. Now, what is important?

Great question! Report formats vary from laboratory to laboratory. Some laboratories traditionally offer a standard report package that includes not only your sample results but also a fair amount of quality assurance data. Others may be accustomed to a basic report showing the test performed, results and reporting units. If the result is for regulatory purposes, be mindful of the reporting units, i.e. micrograms vs. milligrams or ppb vs. ppm. Is the sample reported on a dry basis? Are these the units you needed (e.g. Mg/Kg - dry)?

Take some time to review the quality data, and if your laboratory does not provide it, ask them to do so on a few projects. Take a look, are they running matrix spikes (MS) and duplicates on your samples (MSD)? How are the recoveries? An acceptable range should be provided. Is the laboratory running and reporting laboratory control samples (LCS) and duplicate analyses of the lab control samples (LCSD). On many analyses, such as 8260's (Volatiles), RCRA metals and many others, your laboratory does not just run your sample. In fact, when you pay for a single analysis, like PCB's in soil, your laboratory must run as many as 6 to 10 analyses, or more, in addition to the actual sample, with no less accuracy or precision than the actual sample. What a bargain!

Other data points to review include calibration samples: your laboratory does not report below their lowest calibration standard. How many calibration points is the laboratory using? Labs run initial calibration and verification (ICV) at the beginning of analytical runs, continuing calibrations

(CCV) every few samples and final calibration verification or end calibration (FCV). Lab blanks (or reagent blanks): Look at the results. Are they blank - that is, below detectable limits? Does the laboratory run duplicate sample analyses or have you asked them to? This is an excellent precision check. Is the laboratory offering a narrative? Read it, these narratives contain an expert's observation about your samples.

Knowing that customers read their QA/QC data reports strengthens a client-lab relationship and, quite frankly, keeps us on our toes. Your lab wants to do the best job possible and provide added value. Take the opportunity to review little extras that your lab may send. Or, ask for more information on every few jobs. In the end, we all do a better job for our customers.

In the next issue: Detection limits. Can you, as a field professional do anything to improve the way you collect samples that may improve detection limit? And, why do detection limits vary among laboratories?

John Rindy is a manager of QA/QC for U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc., in Pittsburgh, PA. He is a graduate of Youngstown State University and is an Environmental Studies student at Youngstown State and the University of Akron. He has worked in the environmental and occupational health field since 1985. John is a member of the NOC-Air and Waste Management Association, the NEO American Industrial Hygiene Association and the American Society of Quality. He lives in Poland, Ohio with his wife and two children.

New Web Address
www.nocawma.org

SPRING CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON POLLUTION PREVENTION MANAGEMENT

April 26, 2002

Cuyahoga Community College
Eastern Campus

You shouldn't need to be told that Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization pays. Waste costs money to buy and to get rid of. Compliance with regulation costs money. So why haven't you implemented a P2/WM program. Maybe you don't know how to get started. Maybe you have not convinced management, or yourself, that the upfront money or time is worth it, or is not as expensive as you think. Maybe you simply don't know how to start. On Friday, April 26, the NOC-AWMA will address your issues.

We have gathered industrial, regulatory and trade group representative to outline P2/WM program aspects. At lunch, we have convinced industrial people to share their success stories. Pick a table to suit you own needs and interests. Can you personally afford, as part of your education, not to come? Can your company afford to not let you save its money? The conference will be held at the eastern campus of the Cuyahoga Community College at its fantastic conference facilities. With the new Harvard Rd exit of I271, its now easy to get there. Look for our brochure in the mail or call Bob Perry at 330-761-4485, rrperry@firstenergycorp.com.

Message from the Chairman by Dave Marczely

Ruminating While On the Way Out

As I write this I have two more months to revolutionize the field of environmental management before my two years as your chapter chairman comes to an end. Actually, with our field under transition, simply maintaining the chapter on an even keel is arguably an accomplishment. I may have to stay around as chapter kibitzer, until we're through the transition.

If you have not been reading my columns in the last few newsletters, you may be wondering what this transition is all about. I have previously described the field as mature. Gone are our younger days, speaking personally, of unbridled enthusiastic support of the environment. We were the group who really believed that we were the true environmentalists. We strove to make the environment better by leveling the playing field. If all companies complied with the same rules, no one would have a competitive advantage-passing the true cost of a cleaner environment on to the public as direct costs, poorer health or impaired environment. Greenies, on the other hand, come in all shapes. Sadly, some simply want to keep the pristine environment exclusively for themselves. However, there are well-meaning environmentalist in the green movement. In fact, as the environmental field matures, they may be more important than ever.

Our field is not just mature, it is under attack from many sides. Regulatory enforcement is under attack both for being too strict and too lacks. US EPA and Ohio EPA go after big fish, but most little fish have little to fear, particularly if they stay out of the system. Both regulatory agencies have seen budget cuts recently and neither has the resources or the apparent will at the top to make sure everyone plays by the same rules. The industrial storm water rules are ten years old. How many oily junkyards behind small industrial sites have you seen with rivulets of oil flowing to storm sewers during storm events? Meanwhile, permitted industrial dischargers are being asked to ratchet down their own discharge limits to meet new water quality standards in the same watersheds.

No one seems to care that US EPA and Ohio EPA are taking disproportionate cuts

in the budget. The regulated community should, but publicly doesn't. Regulators, if not given the time to work out permits that are in the best interest of the environment, as well as the industrial economy, may arbitrarily choose the quick solution, that is rely blindly on guidance documents. Guidance documents may be wrong because they have not undergone the public and legislative scrutiny required for rules. More commonly, they are misapplied because more appropriate guidance has not been developed. They exist because rulemaking cost money and political will. The result, unfortunately, is diminished regulatory control.

The regulated community should also be concerned with the lack of adequate inspections and enforcement. Inspections should be something they welcome, not fear. Most result in only minor fines, if there are fines at all. The problem is that only those in the system get inspected, and will continue to get inspected. Those who manage to stay out of the system rarely are inspected, unless there is a complaint. The chances of getting caught are almost nil, the penalties generally are small and the competitive advantage over their compliant competitor is huge. The ideal is not no enforcement but fair enforcement.

This is not an indictment of permit writers and field agents. In my work, I have met many fine regulators, who try hard to regulate fairly, but are pressed for time. My biggest fear is that the good will get frustrated and leave, and in fact some have done so. Nor is it necessarily an indictment of agency administrators, except to the extent that they have failed to make their case to the regulated community, the public and to the politicians that a properly funded environmental agency is in the best interest of the environment and the economy.

Our field is also under attack from upper industrial management. Why spend money on compliance, if government (read elected officials) doesn't care. How many environmental managers are also the safety and health managers? How many are the production manager or the facility manager, who have bottom line conflicts with environmental compliance? Aside

from the fact that knowing violations of environmental laws are criminal offenses, that the company officers are personally liable, and that failure to know the law is no defense, the strategy is often misguided. Poor environmental management is inconsistent with good worker habits, quality control and safety. When employee attitudes are bad in any of these areas, they are generally bad in all of them. A poorly managed plant has to budget for unexpected costs such as injury costs, lost time, returned products, loss of good will, cleanups, accidents, as well as fines.

Lastly, we are unintentionally attacking our profession as well, because we are not responding. Our field is changing. We probably can't change that fact, but we can make sure the transition is an improvement or at least is not regression. We can do this by reinventing ourselves. If compliance has become more routine in our jobs, then maybe we need to focus more on the bottom line while helping the environment. A pollution prevention program can save the company money and make the environment better, in fact better than compliance would, since we eliminate the potential harm to the environment. Maybe we manage our programs better by implementing a management system, if not ISO 14000, then at least a system that incorporates some of those good principles. A well functioning management system saves the company money without scarifying the environment, simply by being more efficient. More personally, we protect our own profession - and perhaps our own jobs. We need to sell this to upper management, but we need to sell it to ourselves first. A well-known book last year was *Who Stole My Cheese?* The cheese is our profession. It has moved. Go find it, don't wait for it to return. It probably won't.

David Marczely, Ph.D., J.D. is the Compliance Officer at the Environmental Design Group in Akron, Ohio. Dave may be reached at (330) 375-1390 or at dmarczely@2edg.com.

AIR AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN OHIO CHAPTER

2002 - 2003 Election

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Herbert Mausser is Manager of the Environmental Health & Safety Training Program (EHST) at Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern Campus. Herb was formerly with Samsel Services Company and Director of the Environmental Management Program at Kent State University.

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Vice Chairperson

Joseph D. Candio, CHMM, is a Senior Environmental Health & Safety Engineer at CAMP. Joe's work experiences have been in all environmental regulatory medias, plus industrial hygiene and safety. He has been a member of A&WMA since 1985.

_____ (write in candidate)

Secretary

Cindy Ours is a Geo Environmental Engineer with H.C. Nutting. Her prior work experiences have been with H.B. Engineering and Applied Construction Technology. Cindy developed and maintains the chapter's web site.

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Treasurer

Robert R. Perry is an Environmental Scientist with FirstEnergy in Akron. He has been an electric utility environmental specialist for 23 years and is responsible for numerous environmental issues dealing with the Clean Air Act.

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John Rindy is the Quality Assurance Manager with U.S. Micro-Solutions. John's prior work experiences have been with American Analytical Laboratories and Corning Industrial.

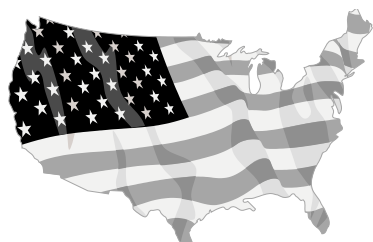
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Joint Technical Conference Brings Out Good Showing from Industry

By David Marczely
NOC-AWMA chairman

The Fall Technical conference on New Directions for the Environmental Sector had 98 attendees, with heavy representation by industry. The second annual conference, jointly sponsored by the NOC-AWMA, the Cleveland Engineering Society and the Northeast Ohio Chapter of Hazardous Material Managers, was held at the Unified Technologies Center at CCC in Cleveland on October 19. The conference focus was the changing role for EPA. . Even though the conference was a spotlight for US EPA and Ohio EPA, it was unfortunate that the turnout from Ohio EPA and local air boards was thin.

Jean Caufield of GM gave an excellent chronology of US EPA Region V's willingness to work with GM to streamline the RCRA corrective Action program by developing mutually agreeable templates for Consent Orders and Remedial Response Plan. Ernie Kulik and Jim Suhan of Eaton and Jim Hostacky of Ford focused on environmental management and their experience with ISO 14001 implementation. Bill Skowronski, NOD-OEPA chief, presented Ohio EPA's priorities and the impact of budget cuts. Steve Rothblatt, US EPA Region V Branch Chief for Air Programs, presented the federal priorities and new programs in the works. A panel discussion followed a nice lunch, with the featured speakers, plus Bob Wilhelm of Haley and Aldrich and Paul Seavy of O'Brien and Gere, responding to questions from the floor.



FROM THE EDITOR

The Northern Ohio Chapter Newsletter is published semiannually for members of A&WMA. Laura Lyden, newsletter editor, may be contacted at (330) 792-9999, lalyden@lydenco.com or TrueNorth Energy, 3711 LeHarps Rd., Youngstown, OH 44515. Membership dues include subscriptions to the newsletter. For membership information contact Cindy Ours at (440) 230-1500, or cinder@en.com or H.B. Engineering, 9841 York Alpha Dr., Unit D, North Royalton, OH 44133. The chapter may be contacted at www.nocawma.org.



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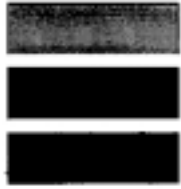
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2) Local only membership helps defray our cost and guarantees that you will receive all announcements. Simply complete and mail the attached form and include a check for \$20 (for two years), payable to NOC-AWMA.

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