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2017 GATEKEEPER REGULATORY ROUNDUP



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article pg 8*

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2017

GATEKEEPER REGULATORY

EPAZ HOSTS THE 13TH ANNUAL GATEKEEPER REGULATORY ROUNDUP

Environmental Professionals of Arizona (EPAZ) hosted the 13th Annual Gatekeeper Regulatory Roundup on March 16th & 17th at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tempe. Attendees heard presentations from dozens of environmental regulators and industry experts on a wide range of topics.

The conference began on Day One with an Air Quality Discussion Panel moderated by Mannie Carpenter, of Stantec Consulting Services; and included panelists Phil McNeely, Maricopa County AQD; Richard Grimaldi, Pima County AQD; Michael Sundblom, Pinal County AQCD; and Ryan Eberle, Gila River Indian Community AQD. This was followed by a series of breakout sessions throughout the day, ending with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Division Updates, with Bret Parke, Deputy Director; Tim Franquist, Air Quality Control



Division Director; Trevor Baggione, Water Quality Division Director; Laura Malone, Waste Programs Division Director; and Amanda Stone, Chief - Policy & Legislative Affairs. The Keynote Speaker on Day One was Mike Ford, topic, "True Crime Stories in Environmental Law".

Day Two began with an Emergency Management Update from Ryan Campbell, ADEQ, followed by breakout sessions, and a Mining Industry Focus Panel moderated by Mike Ford, Snell & Wilmer, with speakers Kathy Arnold, Rosemont Copper; Tim Raiston, Capstone Mining;

At Left, another view on March 16th of the ADEQ Division Updates Session

Note: Composite Panoramic Image, Not entirely to scale.



ADEQ Division Updates Session, March 16th, 2017
Note: Composite Panoramic Image, Not entirely to scale.

ROUNDUP



and Dan Johnson, Florence Copper. The Keynote Speaker on Day Two was Dave Crozier, APS Palo Verde Emergency Preparedness,

topic, "Emergency Operations & the Valley's New Emergency Ops & Training Center". In addition to the panel discussions



and presentations, the GRR provided attendees an opportunity to visit the numerous vendor booths and speak with

the various sponsoring exhibitors, as well as network among environmental management peers.



At the time of this writing, the Journal does not have an official registration count, but an 'unofficial' headcount taken by Journal staff mid-day on Wednesday indicated approximately 250+ persons present -- making this one of the best environmental management events in Arizona! For more information on the Gatekeeper Regulatory Roundup contact EPAZ at www.epaz.org.



SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Nicholas R. Hild, PhD.

TRILLION DOLLAR INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

In the last Journal issue, I briefly touched on how the nation's infrastructure is long overdue for a plan to rebuild and update highways, bridges, tunnels, underground piping systems, public buildings and water/wastewater systems all across America. Unfortunately, in the previous decade, whenever infrastructure programs were discussed by a dysfunctional congress, the subject fell on deaf ears; there were always other programs that had higher priorities. This was true, even after serious infrastructure disasters occurred, such as the one in Minnesota, almost ten years ago. On August 1, 2007, the I-5 Mississippi River steel arch bridge known as Bridge 8340, catastrophically failed during rush hour and 13 people were crushed as a result. Within weeks, an anguished call for action by numerous senators and representatives to sponsor funding bills aimed at evaluating and prioritizing our nation's infrastructure were proposed, only to die a quiet death in the hallowed halls of a partisan Congress.

The crying and gnashing of teeth brought only push-back from congressional leaders who used the proposed legislation to create "conditions" that such egregious programs as Obamacare needed to be abolished first, and that immigration reform required action before any infrastructure planning for rebuilding highways or bridges and buildings could even be seriously discussed on the floor of either House. And, besides, the nay-sayers said, "...where will we get the money to even begin addressing the infrastructure when it is estimated that it will take billions of dollars that, at this time, we just don't have!" (Congressional Record, 2007, et al).

But, a decade later, we have new hope: a new President who indicated in his inauguration speech that, "addressing the nation's crumbling infrastructure" will be a major priority on his watch. He followed that up with a two line declaration in his February 28th Joint Address to Congress stating unequivocally that he would ask Congress to "approve a one trillion dollar investment financed with public and private capital..." followed by an emphatic, "Buy America; Hire America!" Details on where that money will come from were not included, but it is clear that the time to address this pressing issue is at hand!

To begin with, we must recognize that no realistic plan to rebuild the infrastructure can be attempted until workers can be hired and properly trained to acquire the skills and capabilities to carry out those highly technical jobs. To accomplish that, multiple training

centers must be developed in several different places across the country so the best place to find numerous facilities where that can take place is to look at the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990. In the U.S., over the past 25 years, literally hundreds of military installations (bases, forts, camps, labs), have been shuttered or 'realigned' as our economy has forced consolidation of military facilities in order to focus our war training efforts on the middle east.

The closure and 'realignment' of the former, Williams Air Force Base in Mesa, Arizona is a good example of how a shuttered military facility was turned over to the surrounding cities who were tasked with the responsibility of repurposing the facilities. With concerted efforts by numerous cities, county, and State entities, a plan was formulated that revitalized and repurposed the facilities into what is now a thriving education complex with a commercial airport that has the longest runways in the southwestern U.S. serving both commercial and military traffic.

Meanwhile, other shuttered military facilities in such states as Texas, California, Utah, New York, Florida, and many other states around the country, have not fared so well and are pretty much void of activity. And, many of the cities and towns that surround those facilities have a huge unemployment problem begging for industry and construction to come back. In a large number of shuttered installations, properly planning for revitalization could emulate the success of the Williams AFB revitalized facilities, if only a bipartisan effort were to be embraced in Congress.

We are also blessed with a virtual goldmine in qualified and capable men and women coming out of the military every day who need jobs. In addition, we have thousands of homeless men and women, veterans and non-vets alike, who want jobs. And some have past job experiences and skills that would qualify them for at least being in a training program (if one could be developed and funded) to become skilled and productive infrastructure specialists. In addition, there are virtually hundreds of unemployed men and women who have given up looking for jobs, who would likely be first in line to apply for jobs rebuilding the nation's infrastructure.

So, even though it has been very risky taking the President's statements about his priorities to the bank, I am willing to take that risk and in the next issue of the Journal, will offer a few ideas on how we can provide jobs for veterans and unemployed workers all over the U.S. It is a plan that, in the President's style, is "going to be so great..." you will wonder why it hasn't already been done! (his words, not mine). It is a plan that would seem to offend no particular party while providing a solution for (not only) upgrading our public infrastructure across the U.S. but also provide training at now-empty, former military facilities. These are places where trainees can be housed and trained, in part, by rebuilding the former buildings and infrastructure (electrical, mechanical, water/wastewater systems) within the very facilities where they are housed as part of their training. And, from that trillion dollars, those infrastructure trainees can start getting paid while they train and expect to be fully employed rebuilding our nation's infrastructure when they complete the training.

So, to keep from passing the infrastructure problems we have to the next generation, let us take up the President's trillion dollar commitment that he will "rebuild the nation's infrastructure..." and ensure that his intent to... "Buy America, Hire America" will ensure that the trillion dollars will not be a debt to be borne by our children's, children's, children.

Nicholas R. Hild, PhD., is an Emeritus Professor and Sustainability Scientist in the College of Technology and Innovation and the founder of the Environmental Technology Management program at Arizona State University. Dr. Hild has extensive industrial environmental engineering and management experience as well as continuing to be a consulting environmental engineer for the past 40+ years. Reach him at www.worldsleadingexpert.com or email at drnick@asu.edu.

FROM THE EDITOR



Spring is the season for many of Arizona's EHS related seminars! In this issue, we have photos and a brief article about the recent EPAZ Gatekeeper Regulatory Roundup (pg 4) and the Alliance and Pinal County Air Quality Seminar (pg 14). See also the advertisement about the upcoming SAEMS 2017 RCRA Seminar (pg 3), and the upcoming Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Air Quality seminar (pg 9). SESH is also holding

an upcoming seminar in April (see Vicky Aviles' SESH article pg 8), and on May 12th the ASSE is holding its Annual Safety Summit (see Marc Tomeoni's article in the Association Pages of the Dec/Jan issue of the Journal). If you register to attend any of these events, please remember to mention that you heard about the seminar in the Journal of Environmental Management Arizona!

As always, thank you to our readers, our advertisers, and our authors/contributors!

Sincerely,

Jim Thrush, M.S. Environmental Management

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JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ARIZONA

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COVER PHOTO: GATEKEEPER REGULATORY ROUNDUP PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ON MARCH 16, 2017. **PHOTOGRAPHER:** JOURNAL STAFF.

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ASSOCIATIONS PAGES

The Journal of Environmental Management Arizona invites environmental, health and/or safety organizations in Arizona to contribute news articles about their associations. Contact the editor at 480-422-4430 x42.



WWW.SAEMS.ORG

March saw a great Adopt-A-Highway down on I-10. As usual, some real treasures were found. Following the hard work, the volunteers were treated to a delicious lunch. Thank you one and all for giving up your time for this community service.

A special evening event was held in January and featured Patrick Merrin from Hudbay Minerals. Mr. Merrin gave a unique perspective of the Rosemont Copper Project that one never sees in the newspaper. It's remarkable the extent to which Hudbay and predecessors have gone to minimize the environmental impact of the mine. Remember: If it can't be grown, it must be mined. After more than ten years and one hundred million dollars, Hudbay Minerals sees the end in sight. That is good news for Tucson and southern Arizona.

The annual SAEMS RCRA seminar is slated for May 11, 2017.

We expect another very well attended, informative, and successful event. For details regarding this and other events, please visit us at www.saems.org.



Mike McGovern
President



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AZALLIANCE.ORG

The Alliance and Pinal County Air Quality Control Department co-hosted the 4th Annual Pinal County Air Quality Permit Compliance Assistance Seminar on February 1st at the Historic Florence Courthouse (photo below) in Pinal County. This was one of our most successful seminars in Pinal County, with 61 registered attendees, representing 39 facilities and organizations participating in the full-day seminar.

(See article on page 14). A similar Air Quality Permit Compliance Assistance seminar for Maricopa County

will be co-hosted with the Maricopa County Air Quality Dept. later this fall. The date and seminar details will be announced in the next issue of the Journal.

Alliance members met for our regular monthly meeting on Feb. 16th at APS in Phoenix. The meeting included a planning discussion for 2017 activities. In addition to co-hosting both the Pinal County and the Maricopa County AQ seminars this year, members are considering various other topics (such as Sustainability or FTIR stack testing) for a seminar to be hosted later this year. If you are interested in participating in a seminar, or have other topic suggestions or questions, call our office at 480-422-7392.



Craig McCurry
Chair



WWW.EPAZ.ORG

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 13th Annual Gatekeeper Regulatory Roundup held on March 16th & 17 at the Doubletree in Tempe, Arizona! (See the article in this issue, on page 4, for details and photographs of the GRR.)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 13, 2017 Our monthly meeting will feature Richard Brose, Four Corners Environmental. He will present on "Evolution of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Consulting". Meeting sponsor: ERI.

May 11, 2017 Our monthly meeting will feature Jeffery Schone, CEM, LEEP AP, PMP, Environmental Engineer, Luke AFB. He will present on "360° WW Sustainability - Luke AFB Bioremediation Study and Results". Meeting sponsor: ERI.

June 8, 2017 Monthly Meeting - Topic/Speaker TBA. Meeting sponsor: ERI.

EPAZ hosts monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the SRP PERA Club. For the most up to date information, event details and reservations please visit our website at www.epaz.org.

Lisa Culbert
Association
Manager



WWW.SESHA.ORG

Sign up now! The SESH 39th Annual International High Technology ESH Symposium & Exhibition returns to Scottsdale on April 17-21, 2017. The conference will be held at the recently renovated Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale Resort (formerly the Chaparral Suites).

The program includes three exciting Keynotes, professional development courses, and three days of technical presentations on current and emerging ESH issues facing the technology sector; the symposium program is available on the SESH website at <http://sesha.org>.

You may also follow us on Twitter @ SESHtweets, like us on Facebook, and connect with our LinkedIn group for updates and current information on the symposium and association.

We hope you make plans to join us for this event!

Vicky L. Aviles
AZ Chapter
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50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIO SALADO PROJECT

In its founding years Arizona Forward focused on revitalization of the salt river as it runs through the entire Valley. The Tempe Town Lake, and indeed, the regional development of the Rio Salado exemplifies elements of a healthy community. Pedestrian-friendly cities drive the notion that walkable places are thriving places. 76 percent of millennials consider walkability when they decide where to live, according to a ULI survey. It's no surprise that a little over half of Americans want to live in a community with public transportation, close-proximity to stores, restaurants and offices.

James Elmore was ahead of his time! His visionary perspective and can-do attitude led to the transformation of a dry, scared riverbed into this amazing desert oasis that is now an economic engine for the City of Tempe and an enviable place for residents to live, work and play. Jim Elmore and his students envisioned Rio Salado as a regional project, and Arizona Forward fully supported the concept.

Maricopa county voters rejected the idea at the ballot box but I suspect it was more a rejection of the proposed funding mechanism than it was about the project itself. Tax increment financing is no more popular today than it was back then. But that didn't deter Jim. When he wanted to get something done, he found a way.

The Rio Salado project was conceived as a way to solve flood control problems in the salt river bed in ways that encouraged development of the more than 20,000 acres of prime urban land, thus made secure along the river's 40-mile course from granite reef to the Gila River. It was initiated in the College of Architecture at ASU and carried on in three stages between 1966 and 1969 by fifth year students who saw that by maintaining water in the flood channel, life could be restored to the river. The many obvious benefits of water-borne activities and river side development could then be realized.

Valley Forward Association assumed responsibility for the project in response to the recommendations of some 80 public officials and business and civic leaders to whom Rio Salado was presented in November, 1969. In 1970, letters were sent to over 300 Arizona and out of state consultants to be considered for the planning and development of the project. 26 firms responded, 6 made presentations and DMJM was selected. The Maricopa Association of Governments became the agency that contracted with DMJM. MAG designated Valley Forward to bring together public/private agencies to provide input into the financing and development of the project.



ASSOCIATION PAGES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PG

Tempe Town Lake at Night

Sept 2011. Courtesy of Alan Stark, Creative Commons, Wikimedia.org



James Elmore

Continued from previous pg

Eventually Maricopa County became the fiscal agent to receive and disburse funds appropriated for Rio Salado.

Valley Forward served as a cheerleader for Rio Salado for several decades, working with state and local leaders to bring it to fruition. Jim Elmore was chair of our Rio Salado steering committee for years. When officials from the governor's office, Maricopa County and the cities of Tempe and Phoenix saw him coming, they knew it was to advocate on behalf



Diane Brossart
President

the Rio Salado project. He was relentless. But he got it done – maybe not the way it was envisioned originally but the Tempe Town Lake and Phoenix Rio Salado restoration project are true testaments to not only Jim's vision but his passion, tenacity and will.

The Tempe Town Lake blends parks and open space with office, residential and commercial amenities to create a vibrant, walkable urban center. The five-mile stretch of river restoration along the Phoenix segment is now home to the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center. Both landmark community destinations draw residents and visitors alike, and are significant contributions to our region's sustainability and livability.

It's amazing what can happen when you foster collaborative solutions to complex, sometimes controversial growth issues. Jim left a legacy for all of us to enjoy. I know he'd be proud of Valley Forward's transition to Arizona Forward. Our organization is after all, part of his legacy.

We will continue to support the regional development of Rio Salado. There's still work to be done.

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NEWS BRIEFS

ADEQ VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM RECOGNIZES NEW ACHIEVERS--PARTICIPATION GROWS TO 40

❖ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced recently the addition of nine new participants in the Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP), bringing the number of organizations demonstrating its value to 40. For ADEQ's VESP, this is just the beginning – we want to recognize every deserving voluntary effort each Arizona business, municipality, school and non-profit is contributing to enhancing and protecting our communities' health and environment.

ADEQ's VESP encourages environmentally responsible economic growth and incentivizes Arizona businesses and other organizations demonstrating effective environmental practices to find more ways they can benefit from these actions, which also protect public health and the environment.

Simple and innovative voluntary actions stimulate VESP participants' opportunities for less burdensome regulations and achieve positive outcomes for our communities, which deserve recognition. In addition to showcasing VESP participants' achievements, program benefits can include:

- Coordination of multiple on-site inspections
- Reduced reporting requirements
- Advance notification of inspections and enforcement rulings

"Arizona's 50th Legislature passed the bipartisan-supported bill establishing the

Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program, encouraging ourselves to be ever-forward looking...the essence of which is the very embodiment of VESP," said former Arizona state legislator, Hon. Amanda A. Reeve. "Many Arizona businesses, entities and organizations are invested in the health and responsible economic growth of our community; thus voluntarily endeavor to implement conservation and sustainable measures that go above and beyond environmental law requirements. ADEQ's VESP recognizes these achievements and encourages continual implementation of innovative environmental stewardship practices. Through the community's leadership, ADEQ will continue to grow VESP far beyond the already impressive participation of 40 entities."

US EPA RELEASES ANNUAL TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY REPORT FOR PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

❖ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released its annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis, which shows releases of toxic chemicals into the air fell 56% from 2005-2015.

Of the over 443 million pounds that were disposed of or otherwise released to the environment in the Pacific Southwest Region, approximately 94 percent went to land, 3 percent to air, less than 1 percent to water, and 2 percent was transferred to other facilities.

"In 2015, nearly 1,700 facilities submitted data to EPA's Toxic Release Inventory in the Pacific Southwest region," said Alexis Strauss, EPA's Acting Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "It's crucial for communities to have access to this valuable data and year-to-year trends."

In the TRI, a "release" generally refers to a chemical that is emitted to the air, water, or placed in some type of land disposal unit. Most of these releases are subject to a variety of regulatory requirements designed to limit human and environmental harm.

Pacific Southwest highlights:

California: A total of 1,242 California facilities reported 334.7 million pounds of production-related chemicals, a decrease of 233.8 million pounds when compared to 2014 data. Clean Harbors in Buttonwillow and Chemical Waste Management in Kettleman City were the top two facilities for total on-site and off-site releases. California's total releases (on-site and off-site) were 31.2 million pounds. For detailed California information and the list of the top facilities, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x9PkW>.

Arizona: A total of 264 Arizona facilities reported 145.7 million pounds of production-related chemicals in 2015. Asarco LLC Ray Complex/Hayden Smelter and Freeport-McMoran's Miami mine were the top two facilities for total on-site and off-site releases. Arizona's total releases (on-site and off-site) were 85.5 million pounds. For detailed Arizona information and the list of the top facilities, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x9PkR>

Nevada: A total of 141 Nevada facilities reported 504.8 million pounds of production-related chemicals. Newmont Mining

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Larry Olson, PhD.

IT'S ALL ABOUT CHEMISTRY

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

I'm sitting here contemplating President Trump's budget proposal calling for a 31% cut in the Environmental Protection Agency (cuts of \$2.6 billion out of an \$8.2 billion budget) resulting in elimination of 50 programs and 3200 jobs (1/5 of workforce) and I can't help but remember where we were as a country when I graduated from college in 1970. That was the year of the first Earth Day and the founding of the EPA. We had only a skeletal environmental regulatory structure in place and as a consequence there were many parts of the country with very unhealthy air, rivers too contaminated in which to swim or fish, midnight dumps of hazardous waste, and new chemicals coming to market with very little oversight or understanding of their health and environmental impacts. No one wants to go back to that, but too many have forgotten how many battles were fought, and how hard it was, to clean up the mess we had made.

The 1970 Clean Air Act Amendments began to regulate mobile source emissions for the first time. The auto industry was adamantly opposed to any new regulations, but they forced new technology to be developed including catalytic converters in 1975, computerized emission controls, and better fuels with the result that today's cars emit up to 99% less tail pipe pollutants than 1960s era cars.

How important was this? In 1970, the population in Maricopa County was 967,000, which was considerably higher than the 330,000 people living here when I was

born in Good Samaritan Hospital (now Banner University Medical Center) or the 100,000 people in the county when my mother was born at Good Sam in 1927. Today over 4.1 million people live in Maricopa County and as someone who grew up here through the 1960s, I can tell you that if we were all driving 1966 Pontiac GTOs no one would be able to breath.

The first National Ambient Air Quality Standard for carbon monoxide was promulgated in 1971 and specified a 1 hour ave of 35 ppm and an 8 hour ave of 9 ppm which were not to be exceeded more than once per year. In 1975, the annual second highest 8 hour ave CO level in Phoenix reached as high as 23 ppm. There were still 84 days in which the 9 ppm CO standard was exceeded in 1984, but they declined to 4 days in 1990 and Phoenix has had no exceedances since 1996. Nationally, there has been an 84% decrease in CO from 1980 to 2013 and there are no longer any CO non-attainment areas in the country. Similarly, NO₂ has decreased by 60% during this same time period and all parts of the country are now in attainment for NO₂. SO₂ has decreased by 81%, but there are still numerous non-attainment areas including Hayden and Miami in Arizona. Lead wasn't removed from gasoline because of concerns about human health but because it poisoned the new catalytic converters. But a serendipitous effect was that average blood levels of lead in the U.S. decreased by 75% once the phase-out had been completed in 1995. The fight isn't won yet. Ozone and particulate matter have been much tougher for Maricopa County to conquer. Levels have been generally decreasing but we are not in attainment yet. But next time someone complains about burdensome government regulations, remember what our air quality used to be.

There are many other areas of similar progress in making our environment more livable including Arizona's historic Groundwater Management Act in 1980, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in 1984 for managing hazardous waste, and the Montreal Protocol on Stratospheric Ozone Depletion in 1987. All were controversial and all cost money, but few people now would go back to where we were before they passed. One can certainly argue that some (maybe many) environmental regulations need to be improved and can be implemented more effectively. These problems, by their nature, require a comprehensive approach involving many different interest groups. The process is not easy and requires time and money. But we should not forget how far we've come and the lessons we have learned.

Larry Olson, PhD., Associate Professor, Arizona State University Environmental Technology Management Program. Dr. Olson holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania, and is an environmental chemist with interests in remediation technologies and international environmental management. He can be reached at 480-727-1499, or by email at Larry.Olson@asu.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

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Corporation's Twin Creeks Mine in Folconda and Robinson Nevada Mining Company were the top two facilities for total on-site and off-site releases. Nevada's total releases (both on-site and off-site) were 323.5 million pounds. For detailed Nevada information and the list of the top facilities, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x9Pky>.

Hawaii: A total of 32 Hawaii facilities reported seven million pounds of production-related chemicals. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Hawaiian Electric Company in Kahe Point were the top two facilities for on-site and off-site releases. Hawaii's total releases (both on-site and off-site) were 2.5 million pounds. For detailed Hawaii information and the list of the top facilities, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x9Pkv>.

Territory Highlights:

America Samoa: In 2015, American Samoa total releases were 59,000 pounds from one facility, Star Kist Samoa Co. For detailed American Samoa information, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x9PkG>.

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands: A total of eight facilities reported 4,900 pounds of toxic chemical releases during 2015, a decrease of more than 10,000 pounds compared to 2014 data. Mariana Acquisition Corp's Saipan Terminal, a petroleum bulk terminal, and Mobil Oil Mariana Island's Saipan Terminal were the top two facilities for on-site and off-site releases. For detailed CNMI information and the top facilities, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x9PkG>.

Guam: A total of ten facilities reported 467,000 pounds of toxic chemical releases during

2015. Naval Base Guam's Apra Harbor wastewater plant and Guam Power Authority, an electric generation utility, were the top two facilities for on-site and off-site releases. For detailed Guam information and the list of the top facilities, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x9PkH>.

EPA, states, and tribes receive TRI data annually from facilities in industry sectors such as manufacturing, metal mining, electric utilities, and commercial hazardous waste management. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), facilities must report their toxic chemical releases for the prior calendar year to EPA by July 1 of each year. The Pollution Prevention Act also requires facilities to submit information on pollution prevention and other waste management activities of TRI chemicals. Nearly 22,000 facilities submitted TRI data for calendar year 2015.

The TRI National Analysis website includes new interactive features such as an automated "flipbook" [<https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis/30-year-anniversary-tri-program-slideshow>] depicting how the TRI Program has evolved over the past 30 years, and a new embedded dashboard that allows users to build customized visualizations of TRI data by a chemical or a sector. These features are intended to promote more user engagement and exploration of TRI data.

To access the 2015 TRI National Analysis, including local data and analyses, visit www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis. Information on facility efforts to reduce toxic chemical releases is available at www.epa.gov/tri/p2.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, EPA, AND THE NAVAJO NATION ANNOUNCE SETTLEMENT FOR CLEANUP OF 94 ABANDONED URANIUM MINES

❖ The United States and the Navajo Nation recently announced they have entered into a settlement agreement with two affiliated subsidiaries of Freeport-McMoRan, Inc., for the cleanup of 94 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. Under the settlement, valued at over \$600 million, Cyprus Amax Minerals Company and Western Nuclear, Inc., will perform the work and the United States will contribute approximately half of the costs. The settlement terms are outlined in a proposed consent decree filed today in federal court in Phoenix, Arizona. With this settlement, funds are now committed to begin the cleanup process at over 200 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.

The work to be conducted is subject to oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency.

"This remarkable settlement will result in significant environmental restoration on Navajo lands and will help build a healthier future for the Navajo people," said Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Continued on next page

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NEWS BRIEFS

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"We appreciate the extraordinary commitment by Freeport's affiliated subsidiaries to clean up 94 mines, and to achieve this settlement without litigation. The Justice Department is always ready to work cooperatively with the Navajo Nation and responsible private parties to address the legacy of uranium mining on Navajo lands."

"This historic settlement will clean up almost twenty percent of the abandoned mines on the Navajo Nation," said Acting Regional Administrator, Alexis Strauss for the EPA Pacific Southwest. "Cleaning up the uranium contamination continues to be a top environmental priority for our Regional office."

The Navajo Nation encompasses more than 27,000 square miles within Utah, New Mexico and Arizona in the Four Corners area. The unique geology of the region makes the Navajo Nation rich in uranium, a radioactive ore in high demand after the development of atomic power and weapons at the close of World War II. Many private entities, including Cyprus Amax (a successor-in-interest to Vanadium Corporation of America and Climax Uranium Company) and Western Nuclear, mined approximately thirty million tons of uranium ore on or near the Navajo Nation between 1944 and 1986. The federal government, through the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), was the sole purchaser of uranium until 1966, when commercial sales of uranium began. The AEC continued to purchase ore until 1970. The last uranium mine on the Navajo Nation shut down in 1986.

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2017 PINAL COUNTY AIR QUALITY CONTROL DEPARTMENT & ARIZONA ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCE AIR QUALITY PERMIT COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE SEMINAR

The fourth annual One-Day Pinal County AQ Permit Compliance Assistance Seminar, hosted jointly with Pinal County Air Quality Department and the Alliance, was held

in Florence, Arizona, on February 1st, 2017. Attendance set a record for these Pinal County Air Quality seminars, with 61 registered attendees -- exceeding last year's record of 56 attendees. Attendees represented 39 facilities or organizations. The Air Quality Compliance Assistance seminars continue the Alliance series of mentoring and educational environmental compliance seminars. This seminar, and others like it, support several of the primary goals of the Alliance, including protecting Arizona's environment through mentoring and educating Arizona small businesses and providing regulatory compliance assistance. In addition, this and our other Alliance seminars support the Alliance goal of fostering working relationships and communication between environmental regulators and industry.

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480.727.1869

PRESENTATION TOPICS AND SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

- Permitting Process (Anu Jain, PCAQCD)
- Design of a Permit (Kale Walch, PCAQCD)
- Compliance Inspections (Bob Farrell, PCAQCD)
- Permitting and Compliance - A Recovering Regulator's Take (Eric Massey, APS)
- Enforcement Procedures (Josh Dezeeuw, PCAQCD and Kevin Costello, PCAQCD)
- Environmental Enforcement Under President Trump (Mitch Klein, Snell & Wilmer)
- New Source Review Revisions (Kale Walch, PCAQCD)
- Environmental Excellence Through Collaboration and Integration (Steve Hartson, Hexcel)
- Compliance at the Coolidge Generating Station (Kim Myers, Coolidge Power)
- Director's Update (Mike Sundblom, AQ Director, PCAQCD)
- Moderator, Introductions & Closing Remarks (Dr. Nick Hild, ASU)

For information about the Alliance and upcoming Alliance seminars, visit www.azalliance.org or call 480-422-7392.

NEWS BRIEFS

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Many Navajo people worked in and near the mines, often living and raising families in close proximity to the mines and mills where ore was processed. Since 2008, federal agencies—including EPA, the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of the Interior, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Indian Health Service—have collaborated to address uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation. The federal government has invested more than \$130 million to address the legacy of abandoned uranium mines on Navajo lands. EPA has also compiled a list of 46 “priority mines” for cleanup and performed stabilization or cleanup work at 9 of those mines. Further, EPA’s cleanup efforts have generated over 100 jobs for Navajo citizens and work for several Navajo owned businesses. The settlement announced today includes 10 priority mines and is expected to create many jobs for Navajo workers.

This settlement agreement resolves the claims of the United States on behalf of EPA against Cyprus Amax and Western Nuclear; of the Navajo Nation against the United States, and against Cyprus Amax and Western Nuclear; and of Cyprus Amax and Western Nuclear against the United States. Cyprus Amax and Western Nuclear agree to perform removal site evaluations, engineering evaluations and cost analyses, and cleanups at the 94 mines. In return for that commitment, the United States, on behalf of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy, agrees to place \$335 million into a trust account to help fund the cleanup.

In April 2014, the Justice Department and EPA announced in a separate matter that approximately \$985 million

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of a multi-billion dollar settlement of litigation against subsidiaries of Anadarko Petroleum Corp. will be paid to EPA to fund the clean-up of approximately 50 abandoned uranium mines in and around the Navajo Nation, where radioactive waste remains from Kerr-McGee mining operations. EPA commenced field work with the proceeds from this settlement last year. In addition, the United States previously entered into two settlement agreements with the Navajo Nation to fund cleanups at 16 priority mines and investigations at an additional 30 mines for which no viable responsible private party has been identified.


The proposed consent decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court. Information about submitting a public comment is available at: www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees.

■ **2017 April 13** —  Environmental Response, Inc.

Luncheon Featuring: Speaker: Richard Brose; Four Corners Environmental. Topic: “Evolution of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Consulting.”
Sponsor: Environmental Response, Inc.
Location: SRP Pera Club, 1 E. Continental Drive, Tempe, AZ

■ **2017 May 11** —  Environmental Response, Inc.

Luncheon Featuring: Speaker: Jeffery Schone, CEM, LEED AP, PMP, Environmental Engineer; Luke AFB. Topic: “360° WW Sustainability - Luke AFB Bioremediation Study and Results.” Sponsor: Environmental Response, Inc.
Location: SRP Pera Club, 1 E. Continental Drive, Tempe, AZ

■ **2017 June 8** —  Environmental Response, Inc.

Luncheon Featuring: Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA
Sponsor: Environmental Response, Inc.
Location: SRP Pera Club, 1 E. Continental Drive, Tempe, AZ

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