

4TH QUARTER, DECEMBER 2020



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

UPPER MIDWEST SECTION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

In this Issue:

- 2- AWMA-UMS Member Spotlight
- 2 - AWMA Upper Midwest Upcoming Events
- 3 - AWMA Upper Midwest News & Announcements
- 4 - Upcoming A&WMA National Events/Webinars
- 4 - A&WMA-UMS Survey
- 4 - Conference on the Environment Highlights
- 5 - Arrowhead Environmental Conference Highlights
- 5 - Recent EPA Rulemakings
- 5 - MPCA Air Modeling Seminar Save the Date
- 6 - In the News
- 7 - MPCA Quarterly Air Mailer
- 7 - Updated MPCA Air Dispersion Modeling Practices & Manual
- 8 - MPCA Form Updates



A&WMA-UMS Member Spotlight

PATTI LEAF

Patti graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a BA in Biology and minors in Computer Science and Scandinavian Studies. She has worked for Xcel Energy for the last 20 years, mainly in the Air Quality field (project management, permitting, compliance, regulatory analysis and legislative review, pollution control research, externalities, ambient air quality monitoring) but has also worked in fisheries, wind power siting and SWPPP.

Patti has been an A&WMA-UMS member for many years. She has enjoyed and benefitted from being a member of A&WMA-UMS - the networking opportunities have provided her the opportunity to meet peers from other companies that work on the same type of matters, the learning opportunities offered through the many and varied seminars and conferences that are provided and the bonus reading literature that crosses her desk. Patti will be involved in the A&WMA-UMS in the near future as she was just elected to a three-year Director term within the Association!

In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, travelling, biking, concert going, entertaining, being up north and being a true Minnesotan, anything that gets her out on the water!

A&WMA-UMS Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE for a new Webinar Series focused on Demolition Project Management sponsored by the SWANA MN Chapter and the Upper Midwest Section of the Air and Waste Management Association.

This new webinar series will occur on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30 pm February 9th through March 9th. During each webinar you will hear from at least one speaker sharing insights on environmental, operational or safety related topics associated with the management of a demolition project. This presentation will be followed by a case study associated with a recent demolition project occurring in the Midwest.

The cost for each webinar will be \$30, package deals will be available on the website as you register.

A&WMA-UMS News & Announcements

ELECTION RESULTS



Please join us in welcoming our new board members to the Air and Waste Management Association's Upper Midwest Section (A&WMA-UMS)!

Based on your voting responses, we have elected the following for 2021:

- **Shelley Koehn** (3M) re-elected as Board Chair
- **Mike Westereng** (Koch Industries) re-elected as Board Vice Chair
- **Joe Carlson** (MPCA) re-elected as Board Secretary
- **Phil Fish** (Barr Engineering) re-elected as Board Treasurer
- **Patti Leaf** (Xcel Energy) elected as new Board Director (3-Year Term)
- **Adam Driscoll** (Barr Engineering) elected as new Board Director (1-Year Term)



Patti Leaf will replace **Bill Hefner** (3M) and Adam Driscoll will replace **Kirby Dahlquist** (Marathon Petroleum Company) as new Directors. Please join me in thanking Bill and Kirby for their service!



Additionally, the following individuals have agreed to continuing to serve on the A&WMA-UMS Committees:

- Membership Committee: **Miranda Mair** (HDR Engineering)
- Education Committee: **Vacant**
- Communications Committee: **Jess Keller** (Xcel Energy)
- Young Professionals Committee: **Liam Brady** (Wenck Associates)
- Conference Committee: **Roger Clarke** (Xcel Energy),
Adam Driscoll (Barr Engineering), **Vacant** (COE Planning Committee)
- Programs Planning Committee: **Mike Westereng** (Koch Industries)



Throughout the year, please feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions or suggestions about our Association or would like to get involved. Updated contact information will be posted on our website soon (<http://www.awma-ums.org/about>).



If you are interested in serving as the [Education or Conference on the Environment Conference Committee Chair](#) or joining either committee, please reach out to the A&WMA-UMS Chair, Shelley Koehn, at shelley.koehn@awma-ums.org.



A&WMA National Webinars

There are currently no upcoming webinars. Please watch for emails outlining any events or periodically check the website: [A&WMA-UMS National](#)

A&WMA-UMS Survey

In order to better serve you for the year ahead, we are asking for your input on a few topics surrounding section communications and events. This survey will take you less than FIVE minutes and has 12 short questions.

Access the Google Forms Survey here:

<https://forms.gle/JqRX361RJGnJf1R8A>

As a thank you for your participation, we are giving away a \$25 Amazon gift card! The winner will be selected at random following closure of the survey period. Only AWMA-UMS members, excluding AWMA-UMS board members or committee chairs, who provide their contact information as directed on the submittal confirmation page of the survey are eligible to win. One entry per member only. The winner will be notified by survey committee members.

Thank you in advance for your input!

Conference on the Environment Highlights

The 35th annual Conference on the Environment (COE) was held virtually for the first time in its history on Thursday, November 5, 2020. The conference brought together environmental professionals representing industry, consultants, government and academia, in the areas of air quality, water quality and waste management. The COE is co-hosted by the Upper Midwest Section of Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA-UMS) and the Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA) and has become one of the premier conferences in the Upper Midwest dealing with today's pertinent environmental issues. The presentations were recorded, and live Q&As followed each session. One benefit of it being virtual is that you can still register and access all of the presentations and the Q&As [HERE](#).



Arrowhead Environmental Highlights

In August of 2020 AWMA partnered with SWANA to hold the second annual Arrowhead Conference. This year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this day long event was transformed into three 2-hour webinar sessions. The focus of this event is to provide relevant content on a broad array of environmental and regulatory topics affecting water, air, waste and land use. To distinguish this event from others, we encouraged presentations that are of interest to regulators, environmental professionals and industries located in greater Minnesota. During this years webinar we attracted on average of about 30 attendees for each of the three sessions.

Recent EPA Rulemakings



EPA Finalizes the Once-in-Always-in (OIAI) MACT Rulemaking

On October 1, 2020 (pre-publication, publication scheduled for 11/19), EPA finalized the rulemaking that allows "major source" of hazardous air pollutants (HAP - >10 tpy individual or >25 total HAP) to accept synthetic minor limits to reclassify as an "area source" of HAP emissions. This is a reversal of the EPA's 1995 "once in always in" policy that prevented facilities from reclassifying as an area source even if their PTE emissions were less than the associated thresholds. This rulemaking codifies the policy from EPA's January 25, 2018 memo. The rulemaking documents are located here - [LINK](#)

EPA Finalizes the Project Emissions Accounting (PEA) Rulemaking

On October 22, 2020 (pre-publication), EPA finalized the rulemaking that allows for projects to account for increases and decreases associated with the project (e.g., replacing a boiler with a larger boiler) in step 1 of an NSR analysis (commonly referred to as project emissions accounting). Previously, facilities could only account for decreases during the more complicated step 2 of an NSR analysis (i.e., "netting" all contemporaneous increases and decreases during the most recent 5-year period). This rulemaking codifies the policy from EPA's March 13, 2018 memo. The rulemaking documents are located here - [LINK](#)

MPCA Air Modeling Seminar Save the Date

Save the date: The MPCA will host its annual Air Modeling Seminar in January 2021. Additional details on the 2021 seminar are under development. If you would like to present an air quality modeling topic at the seminar, please contact Nick Witcraft at Nicholas.witcraft@state.mn.us.

In the News

Air Quality Affected by Wildfires across the Western United States

2020 was a record year for wildfires, as fires broke out across many parts of the Western United States including in California, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado. As wildfires raged, the adverse impacts of wildfire smoke on air quality were felt locally as well as many miles downwind in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.



A National Public Radio analysis found that approximately one in seven Americans living on the West Coast experienced at least one day of unhealthy air during this wildfire season. A study is currently underway at the University of California Davis to evaluate the long-term health impacts associated with fine particulate matter emissions from wildfire smoke. Read more here: [MPR Article #1](#) & [MPR Article 2](#)



La Niña Winter Ahead

Minnesota may have a snowier than normal winter, as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts above-average precipitation between December and February due to La Niña weather patterns. Typically, La Niña also results in the Asia-North Pacific jet stream shifting northward, resulting in cooler temperatures for the Northern Great Plains states. Read more [HERE](#).

Pandemic Shifts are a Mixed Bag for Material Recovery Facility Operators

In an article found on the Resource Recycling website it was reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the operation of materials recovery facilities (MRF). Specifically this article suggests that with more Americans spending more time at home they are generating more wastes and recyclables. Resource Recycling has spoke with four MRF operators regarding current conditions and each have reported that they are seeing higher volumes of PET plastics, old corrugated cardboard and aluminum.

For more information please click on this link to get the full story by [Resource Recycling](#).

MPCA Quarterly Air Mail Newsletter

MPCA publishes a quarterly Air Mail newsletter, which may be accessed here: [Newsletter Link](#) (the current newsletter which includes the topics below should be published on the web soon!)

- REGULATORY UPDATES
- Online public meeting to discuss proposed Water Gremlin permit amendment December 10
- 2021 air emission fees - early estimate
- Reminder: New wood stoves must follow 2020 standards
- Housekeeping amendments to air quality rules
- Regulatory flexibility
- MPCA air modeling manual and seminar
- GENERAL UPDATES
- Updates from Minnesota's Climate Change Subcabinet
- Take a survey and share your climate priorities
- Focus on metal fabrication at MnTAP
- MnDOT offers new clean transportation funding
- MPCA receives overwhelming interest in electric school buses
- Grants available for emission reductions from refrigerants
- New MPCA grants support convenient EV charging with clean energy
- MPCA needs your help reviewing our data tools
- IN THE NEWS
- National air pollution study finds persistent disparities
- Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- How clean is your electricity?



Updated MPCA Air Dispersion Modeling Practices Manual

In November, MPCA updated their [Air Dispersion Modeling Practices](#), and the most notable change is that Section 3.6.2 states that "MPCA now expects paved roads to be included in the list of volume sources to be modeled." This represents a policy change in that previously, MPCA allowed facilities to exclude paved road emissions when a facility had a permitted fugitive dust control plan and modeled PM10/PM2.5 concentrations were not "approaching the standard." Expect to hear more in future correspondence from MPCA.

MPCA Form Updates

The following common MPCA air permit application forms have been updated from January 1, 2020 through today ([Link to MPCA Forms](#)):



- SCP-01: Submittal Cover Page (6/5/2020)
- GI-05B: Emission Unit Information (5/8/2020)
- GI-07: Facility Emissions Summary (5/8/2020)
- GI-09C: Requirements—New Source Review (5/8/2020)
- ME-01: Continuous Monitoring System Information (5/8/2020)
- CH-03: Major Permit Amendment Determination (5/8/2020)
- CH-04e: Required Elements for a PSD Application (5/8/2020)
- CH-08: Administrative Amendment Determination (5/8/2020)
- CH-14: Complete Notification and Amendment Application Checklist (2/18/2020)
- PAL-01: Plantwide Applicability Limit (PAL) Cover Page (5/8/2020)
- PAL-02: Determination of PAL Limit for Major NSR Sources (5/8/2020)
- NSPS-A: Subpart A Checklist (5/8/2020)



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