



## Quarterly Newsletter

May 2020 Issue

### A&WMA Upper Midwest Section News & Events

- Join A&WMA-UMS for a webinar on May 14 from 12:00-1:00 CDT discussing the **UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 event!**

This event took place in Madrid, Spain in December 2019, and A&WMA was able to send two representatives from the international section to attend this event. Tune in to hear Michele Gehring, A&WMA Immediate Past-President and Jeff Muffat, A&WMA International Treasurer and Upper Midwest Section Member, discuss their experience at this conference. Topics will include background on the event, key takeaways, and how this conference relates to A&WMA's mission and goals.

Registration details are located at this [link](#).

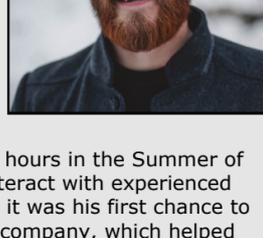
- COVID-19 Environmental Webinar recording and slides now available!**

On April 3, 2020, A&WMA-UMS hosted a free 1-hr webinar titled *Environmental Compliance during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Agency Guidance and Industry Considerations*. Joel Trinkle (Barr Engineering Company) and Bill Hefner (Environmental Law Group) walked through recently issued federal and state (MN and nearby states) agency guidance on enforcement relief during COVID-19 and a corresponding discussion on compliance activities subject to the relief, potential implementation tactics, and legal considerations.

The webinar recording can be viewed at this [link](#). The presentation slides can be downloaded from this [link](#).

### A&WMA UMS Member Spotlight!

#### Connor Mikre



Connor graduated in 2017 from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Sustainable Systems Management. He currently works for the consulting firm, HDR. He has experience in dispersion modeling for mobile and stationary sources, air emission inventory reporting, state and federal stationary source permitting, and regulatory compliance reporting for industrial and manufacturing operations.

Connor began attending A&WMA-UMS meetings and happy hours in the Summer of 2018 and found them to be very helpful opportunities to interact with experienced people in the field of air quality. Being very new to the job, it was his first chance to talk to other people in the field that weren't working at his company, which helped him put into context the work he was doing and also show him a variety of potential career paths available. Connor had a great time at these events and they helped introduce him to a lot of people that got him interested in getting more involved in the organization. In Spring of 2019, he became a member and was very lucky to be selected for a scholarship to attend the Air & Waste Management Association Annual Conference and Exhibition that year, which he states was an incredibly exciting opportunity to learn and meet people working outside of the Upper Midwest chapter and often in roles at a larger scale. When he returned from this event, he continued looking for ways to get involved in the organization and is now a member of the education committee, where he will be helping plan the Student Environmental Challenge for the Conference on the Environment, among other things.

In his spare time, he likes to do photography, read (history, sci-fi, fantasy), play board games, listen to music and hike!

### Upcoming A&WMA National Events/Webinars

- Practical Dispersion Modeling: Everything You Need to Know**

Tuesday May 12, 12:00 pm—2:00 pm CDT

Click this [link](#) for more information and to register



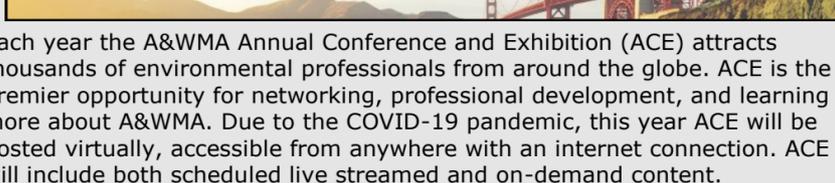
- 113th Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE): Virtual Conference**

Start Date: 6/29/2020 7:00 am CDT

End Date: 7/2/2020 4:00 pm CDT

Click this [link](#) for more information and to register

### Apply by May 22nd for the 2020 YP-TO-ACE Scholarship



Each year the A&WMA Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) attracts thousands of environmental professionals from around the globe. ACE is the premier opportunity for networking, professional development, and learning more about A&WMA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year ACE will be hosted virtually, accessible from anywhere with an internet connection. ACE will include both scheduled live streamed and on-demand content.

The A&WMA-UMS Young Professionals Group is pleased to offer a sponsorship to a deserving young professional (35 years old or under) to help them attend this year's virtual ACE being hosted June 30 through July 2, 2020. More details, including the application and submittal instructions, are available [here](#). Please complete and submit applications by Friday, May 22, 2020.

### IN THE NEWS

#### EPA and MPCA Regulatory Flexibility Due to COVID-19

On March 26, 2020, EPA issued a temporary policy in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, which provides some regulatory flexibility around routine monitoring and reporting requirements. This policy memorandum may be found on EPA's COVID-19 Enforcement and Compliance Resources webpage, which may be accessed at this [link](#).

Similarly, MPCA has published its own regulatory flexibility webpage in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. This webpage directs regulated entities to submit any regulatory flexibility requests by email to MPCA. MPCA's COVID-19 and regulatory flexibility webpage may be accessed at this [link](#).

#### MPCA Air Rulemaking: Incorporation by Reference

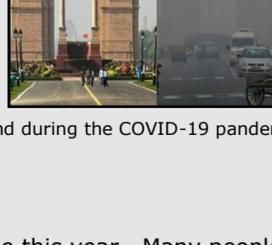
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has adopted amendments to rules governing air quality, Minnesota Rules chapters 7005, 7007, 7011, 7017, and 7019. The new rules incorporate by reference 31 existing federal air emission standards into state rules, provide an exemption from permitting for new residential hydronic heaters and forced-air furnaces, and eliminate a duplicate reporting requirement for compliance certifications. Rule-related documents are provided below.

The new rules were effective March 23, 2020. For more information and to access the rule-related documents, click this [link](#).

#### Air Quality Improvements during the COVID-19 Lockdown

Across the globe, air pollutant concentrations of nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter have fallen dramatically as businesses have been forced to close their doors. CNBC reports that fine particulate matter concentrations are 60% lower than 2019 levels in New Delhi, India, 54% lower than 2019 levels in Seoul, South Korea, and 44% lower than 2019 levels in Wuhan, China. The CNBC article may be accessed at this [link](#).

Minnesota has also seen reductions in fine particulate matter concentrations during the COVID-19 lockdown, as described in a March article from MPR. The MPR article may be accessed at this [link](#).



Pictures above outline air pollution prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2020 Earth Day Highlights

Earth Day 2020 was spent mainly at home this year. Many people participated in activities from their homes such as gardening, picking up trash in the neighborhood, conserving water and electricity, recycling, composting and just getting outside and enjoying the outdoors! Kids participated in the fun by coloring pictures and making fun Earth projects and hanging them in their windows. Earth Day 2020 was definitely not typical, but will be one to remember!



Becker, MN first graders make Earth Day projects at home!

### MPCA Quarterly Air Mail Newsletter

MPCA publishes a quarterly Air Mail newsletter, which may be accessed here:

[MPCA Air Mail Newsletter Link](#)

- Regulatory Updates
- Reminder: Air permit online submission service updates
- The MPCA is unable to refund application fees
- Temporary delay for Clean Cars Minnesota rulemaking
- General Updates
- Get ready for Air Quality Awareness Week 2020!
- Changes in air quality due to COVID-19 slowdown
- 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the original Clean Air Act
- Coming soon! MPCA grants for ethylene oxide emission reductions
- Volkswagen settlement grant funding for 2020-2023
- Minnesota GreenCorps application coming soon!
- Updates on Clean Air Minnesota projects
- American Lung Association's 2020 State of the Air report now available
- Help available to identify and eliminate TCE
- Updated: Minnesota electric vehicle dashboard
- Study on COVID-19 and long-term exposure to air pollution
- EPA and NHTSA finalize greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles
- EPA finalizes decision that it should not have regulated mercury from coal power plants
- Integrating Science Assessment for ozone NAAQS now available
- EPA publishes supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking for the 2018 "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science" rule proposal

### MPCA Form Updates

The following common MPCA air permit application forms have been updated from October 2019 through today ([Link to MPCA Forms](#)):

- Amendment Application Review: Completeness Checklist (10/14/2019)
- Part 70 Reissuance Application Completeness Checklist (10/14/2019)
- CR-02: Hood Evaluation and Certification (10/28/2019)
- CK-01: Reissuance Permit Application Requirements (10/14/2019)
- GI-02: Process Flow Diagram (10/14/2019)
- GI-05A: Pollution Control Equipment Information (10/14/2019)
- GI-09H: Requirements – Compliance Assurance Monitoring (CAM) (10/14/2019)
- GI-09I: Requirement – State Rules (10/14/2019)
- CD-01: Compliance Plan (10/14/2019)
- CD-05 Compliance Plan for Control Equipment (10/14/2019)
- ME-01: Continuous Monitoring System Information (10/14/2019)
- CH-04a: Determination of Increases at Major Sources (10/14/2019)
- CH-04c: Determination of Greenhouse Gas Status under New Source Review (10/14/2019)
- CH-13: Applicability of State Rules (10/14/2019)
- CH-14: Complete Notification and Amendment Application Checklist (10/14/2019)
- CH-15: SIP Changes and Permits (10/14/2019)
- GI-02-R: Updated Process Flow Diagram for Title V Reissuance (10/14/2019)
- GI-05A-R: Facility Description-Control equipment (CE) Supporting Information for Title V Reissuance (10/14/2019)
- Part 70 Permit Reissuance application forms master list (2/18/2020)