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Presidents Message – New NMSHMM Year

In This Issue:

UNM Sustainability
AHMP News
Latest Superfund Site
Upcoming Events

AHMP News

Registration is open for the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals (AHMP) National Conference. This year's conference will be in Anchorage, Alaska from September 9th through 13th. If you have not been to Alaska, this is your chance. And the snow should be melted by September – providing a great opportunity to see all the sights.

Abstracts for presentations are currently being accepted. Award nominations are also being received at this time. Information on the AHMP National Conference can be found on the web at www.achmm.org.

I am pleased and honored to be the 2012/2013 President of NMSHMM. I look forward to promoting our organization and serving our members over the next 12 months. I am always available to our membership, so please feel free to contact by email or telephone with suggestions, or concerns. It is my charter to promote our organization by growth and beneficial change. I plan to reach out to the membership and learn from our group on how to meet more effectively, conduct events that are interesting and encourage participation from our entire membership. This is a large task and I am hopeful that I will begin to tackle it in 2012.

I would like to look back at 2011 and thank Sandra Martin for her service and commitment to our organization. Sandra has contributed greatly to our organization and was an excellent President. Because of her commitment and service, I have a large task ahead! Sandra is active within NMSHMM and on a National Level. She will be an excellent Past President, and I look forward to working with her over the next twelve months. Not only will Sandra serve as

Past President, she will also take on the very large role of assisting with our educational outreach. Please join me in thanking Sandra for her service and continued service for many years to come.

I would like to thank Paul Karas for his dedicated service as Education Director. It was Paul's telephone call several years ago that prompted me to be active in NMSHMM. Thank you so very much for all your service and dedication to our group! Also a thank you to Debbie Finrock. Debbie as served on the Board and been active in NMSHMM for many years. Debbie has made such a contribution to our organization. We look forward to seeing Debbie at our meetings and events!

As you can see, we have several positions on the Board that need to be filled. We are actively looking for a President – Elect and a Member at Large. Mark Coffman served one term as member at large (Thank you Mark), and we are actively seeking a replacement for Mark. If you are interested in helping to promote and grow our organization,

please consider a position on our Board. If you have interest, please contact me directly. I look forward to hearing from our membership and inducting new members to the Board! Please consider a position as President-Elect or Member at Large.

For those of you that attended the Annual Dinner, you will remember that I indicated that this year is a "A Year of Change". I am hopeful that we will continue to grow as an organization and will serve our membership well for many years to come. With that said, we need to change and evolve to retain our existing membership and attract new members. Over the next several months, I will be sending out brief surveys to the membership to gauge interest or get input on current and future practices. One item up for immediate discussion is the monthly member lunch. In the next week or two I will be sending out a short survey. Please let me know if you attend the lunches or if an alternate venue would be more appealing.

I look forward to serving the membership this year! Thank you electing me President, I am truly honored to represent such a diverse group of professionals.

NMSHMM Donates to UNM Sustainability Fund

At the NMSHMM Annual dinner on July 30, NMSHMM Past President Sandra Martin gave a \$10,000 check to establish a Fund at the University of New Mexico Sustainability Program. This is the end of a 2-year effort by NMSHMM to identify a worthwhile recipient organization at a New Mexico university.

This expendable Fund is being established to support the Sustainability

Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Mexico. The Program Director is encouraged to spend the funds for environmental programs over at least three semesters and provide a brief written report each semester on how the Fund was spent. Program students who participate in activities assisted by the Fund will be requested to

speak at one NMSHMM lunch meeting each semester. Support of the Sustainability Studies Program at the University of New Mexico will aid development of the next generation of environmental professionals and encourage interaction between the Program's students and NMSHMM professionals.



Bruce Milne, UNM Sustainability Studies Program Director, receives \$10,000 check from Sandra Martin, Vickie Maranville, Eric Johnson, and Debbie Finrock

Jackpile Mine – Latest USEPA Proposed NM Superfund Site



In March of this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to list the Jackpile-Paguete Mine near Laguna Pueblo as a Superfund Site. The Pueblo of Laguna initially requested adding the mine site to the Superfund list.

Primary site contaminants include

uranium (U-234, U-235, and U-238), arsenic, barium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, vanadium, selenium and zinc. Elevated isotopic uranium levels have been detected in the Rio Paguate and Paguate Reservoir. There is a potential for downstream impacts to the Rio San Jose.



Map and Photo of Jackpile Paguate Mine from Google Images.

Anaconda Minerals Company ran the mine from 1953 through 1982. During this time, approximately 400 million tons of rock were moved within the mine and approximately 25 million tons of uranium ore were exported. The mine property occupies 7,868 acres, of which, approximately 2,656 acres were disturbed by three open pit excavations, 32 waste dumps, and 33 proto-ore stockpiles.

The Pueblo of Laguna, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Anaconda developed a site cleanup agreement in 1986.

Senator Tom Udall issued the following statement: "I convened a Senate Subcommittee hearing last fall to urge the federal government to move quickly to halt ongoing water and soil contamination at the Jackpile site and other abandoned uranium mines on Tribal lands and elsewhere in our state."

After the USPEA comment period ends, the USEPA will make a decision to add the JackpotPaguate Uranium Mine to the Superfund list. *Source: Albuquerque Journal 3/24/12, USEPA web site, and Senator Tom Udall web site.*

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.nmshmm.org

Upcoming NMSHMM Events

Date	Event	Location
April 16	Board Meeting	AMEC, 8519 Jefferson NE, 5:00 pm. Dinner served to all attendees.
April 18	Luncheon Meeting	Macaroni Grill, 2100 Louisiana Blvd. NE, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. “Explosive Hazard Classification Testing” , Chris Barth, Hazardous Materials Packaging Engineer at Sandia National Laboratories.
May 15	Board Meeting	AMEC, 8519 Jefferson NE, 5:00 pm. Dinner served to all attendees
May 16	Luncheon Meeting	Macaroni Grill, 2100 Louisiana Blvd. NE, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.
June 18	Board Meeting	AMEC, 8519 Jefferson NE, 5:00 pm. Dinner served to all attendees.
June 20	Monthly Event	Details to be announced

The New Mexico Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association holds its regular luncheon meeting the first Tuesday of every month at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 10415 Central Avenue NE (@ Eubank), Albuquerque, NM 87123, Mike du Mond, e-mail: du_Mond@juno.com

April's NMSHMM Luncheon Topic: Explosives Testing at Sandia National Laboratories

In order to transport explosive articles safely by ground and by air, the Department of Transportation requires tests to ensure explosives do not create a mass explosion, shoot off fragments, or create a blast wave if involved in an accident. One test includes placing the explosive articles packaged in a drum within a four-foot square bonfire for at least 30 minutes. Another test requires detonating one device within the drum. Chris Barth, Sandia Packaging Design Engineer, will show brief videos and photos of these tests and discuss how and why they are done.

About NMSHMM..

NMSHMM's mission is to provide environmental professionals in the Southwest with a forum for professional development, education

and networking opportunities; and to offer our community environmental, health, and safety expertise.