



NEIHC- December 5, 2008



***28th Annual North-East
Regional Tri-Sectional (NY-NJ-PA)
Industrial Hygiene Conference
and Exposition***



Friday, December 5, 2008
Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ

Presented by
The Metropolitan New York AIHA Section
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Conference Agenda



7:30 AM: Registration/Networking

Vendors/Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)

8:15 AM: Opening Remarks/Acknowledgements

Mark Drozdov, President, AIHA Metro NY

8:30 AM: “The Washington Buzz”

Aaron Trippler, Director of Government Affairs, AIHA National

9:00 AM: “Outstanding IHS Professionals in Industry & Academia”

Thomas Abdallah, PE, LEED® AP, Chief Environmental Engineer, NYCT /MTA -CPM

Howard Apsan, Ph.D. University Director, Environmental, Health, Safety & Risk Mgmt, CUNY

10:15 AM: Break/Vendor (Exhibit Hall)

11:00 AM: “Reoccurring Safety Issues on Remediation Projects”

Andrey Vishev, Chief of NYCDOB BEST Squad

Christopher Alonge, PE, DOSH Associate Safety & Health Engineer - NYSDOL

12:00 Noon: Lunch

“IHS Professional as Expert Witness: Challenges of Indoor Microbial Contamination”

Chris Spicer, CIH, CHMM, Principal, WCD Consultants LLC, Pennington, NJ

1:00 PM: “MOLD issues – what is regulated?”

Todd R. Crawford, NYSDOH

2:00 PM: Break/Vendors (Exhibit Hall)

2:30 PM: “Beyond the Classroom:

Training, a Component of an Effective Safety and Health Management System”

Mitchel Konca, OSHA Manhattan Area Office and

Amy E. Wilson, CIH, Industrial Hygienist, OSHA Region II Office

3:30 PM: “Is there a benefit in a LEED® Green Building Rating”

Kate Aglitsky, LEED® AP, Director of ISO14001 EMS, NYCT CPM

4:00 PM: “The New Reality of Testing for Asbestos, Lead and PCB's”

Joe Cantone, Program Manager, Colden Corp., East Syracuse, NY

4:30 PM: Door Prize Drawings /Adjournment



Speaker Biographies

Aaron K. Tripler, Director of Government Affairs, AIHA National

Aaron Tripler is Director of Government Affairs for the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). Mr. Tripler directs government affairs for more than 70 local sections and is chief liaison with Congress and federal agencies. He has served in this capacity since 1992, when he developed the AIHA government affairs program. In directing federal affairs, Aaron is responsible for following all federal legislation and regulations, as well as drafting AIHA Congressional testimony and working with numerous federal agencies on the public policy issues of AIHA. Aaron also directs state government affairs for AIHA, annually reviewing nearly 2,500 pieces of state legislation and regulations affecting the profession of industrial hygiene and testifying when needed. Aaron has nearly 30 years experience in federal and state government affairs, and has developed government affairs programs for three national associations. He holds a BS degree in Business Administration.

Mark Drozdov, President, AIHA Metro New York

Mark Drozdov has more than 24 years of successful performance of myriad of environmental engineering & remediation projects for private and public clients. Mr. Drozdov's extensive experience includes Environmental Health & Safety, Hazards Surveys and Controls, Remediation Management, HazMat Testing and Compliance Training. Mr. Drozdov has developed state-of-the-art training programs that received NIOSH grants and approvals under CDC, OSHA, States of NJ & NY and NYC. He has translated and published EPA, DOH and DEP approved Training Curricula. As a Director in the Polytechnic University's Graduate Center, Mark has developed new educational initiatives and programs. He is a graduate of New York University and CUNY. Mark is an OSHA-authorized instructor and DOB/DOH/EPA-approved trainer, a licensed Site Safety Manager, Asbestos Investigator, and Lead & HAZWOPER Certified. In addition, Mr. Drozdov has provided emergency services and support on many challenging projects for City & State agencies, including NYCDEP, NYCSCA, NYCDDC, MTA, NYCT, TBTA and DASNY/ BMCC, where post 9-11 WTC Disaster, Mr. Drozdov was one of the "first responders" personally managing the 24/7 remediation at "Ground Zero".

R. Christopher Spicer, CIH, CHMM, Principle, WCD Group, Pennington, New Jersey

Chris Spicer is certified in comprehensive practice and has been an industrial hygiene/indoor air quality consultant since 1982. His practice has specialized in mold contamination assessment and evaluation since 1995. He has previously published on the subject of bioaerosol sampling, analysis, and data evaluation with co-author Harry J. Gangloff in the *American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal*, *Applied Industrial Hygiene*, *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, *Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association*, and the *Environmental Claims Journal*. In addition to being a member AIHA and ACGIH, Chris is also a member of ASTM Committee D22.08, Mold Sampling and Analysis. Currently, Chris is a principal and managing partner in WCD Group, a comprehensive environmental management and consulting firm with offices in Pennington, New Jersey, High Point, North Carolina, and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Todd R. Crawford, NYSDOH

Todd Crawford is a Research Scientist in the Indoor Health Assessment Section of New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Mr. Crawford responds to public concerns about indoor air quality issues including mold, odors, fuel spills, mercury spills, temperature and ventilation. He developed a mold training course for NYSDOH to address some problems with the absence of specific mold regulations in New York State. In addition to the mold training course, Mr. Crawford has drafted a resource manual for local health departments responding to mercury spills and fact sheets on cleaning up mercury spills and broken fluorescent lamps. He has a BA in Chemistry from the University of Washington and is studying for his MPH at SUNY Albany School of Public Health.



Thomas Abdallah, PE, LEED® AP, Chief Environmental Engineer, NYCT /MTA -CPM

Tom is an avid promoter of Green Design and Practical Sustainability with appearances on DISCOVERY and SUNDANCE channels, as well as International Exchanges and National Conferences, e.g. TRB, APTA, SSPC, MNH. He is the Chief Environmental Engineer for the Capital Program Management Department (CPM) of MTA New York City Transit. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Rutgers University in New Jersey, and he is both a Professional Engineer and a LEED® Accredited Professional. Mr. Abdallah has been with NYCT for 21 years, and has been in the Environmental Engineering Division of NYCT since he started as an Assistant Engineer in 1987. Thomas Abdallah has also been both a Principal Engineer and Construction Manager, and has extensive experience with all areas of the environmental disciplines including the National Environmental Policy Act, Waste Management, Air & Water Pollution Prevention, and Green Design. He is also directly responsible for CPM's ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System which includes commitments to prevent pollution, minimize waste, save natural resources and continually improve NYCT's environmental performance.

Kate Aglitsky, LEED®AP, Director of ISO14001 EMS, NYCT CPM

From her environmental activism as a student to becoming a Director of ISO14001 Certified Environmental Management System (EMS) and a LEED® Accredited Professional, Kate carries her passion for the environment. She spent more than a dozen years in the fields of "reactive" environmentalism: asbestos, lead, radon, radiation, subsurface investigation, Phase I/II, mold, SEQRA, EAs, EISs, industrial hygiene, compliance work and hazard abatement in both private and public sectors. In 2006 she accepted the challenge of bringing "proactive" environmentalism into the design and construction work in support of the public transportation operations of the City of New York through continual improvement of the EMS, participation in EPA PerformanceTrack®, LEED® study program and Capital Benchmarking Cooperative. As a technical expert she participates in the work MTA Blue Ribbon Commission on Sustainability, as well as drafting of various "green transit" studies and guidelines, in cooperation with national and international entities as TRB, APTA, UITP, NOVA and CoMet.

Joe Cantone, Program Manager, Colden Corp., East Syracuse, NY

Joe Cantone is a Program Manager for Colden Corporation, with primary duties to conduct building surveys-investigations for the presence of asbestos, lead, and PCB's, preparing work plans and designs for hazardous material abatement projects, and managing the oversight of abatement projects. Prior to joining Colden Corporation, he spent over a decade working as an EPA certified building inspector and was the lead instructor for an environmental health and safety training provider. The classes he instructed included the EPA asbestos building inspector, management planner and project designer.

Mitchel Konca, Compliance Assistance Specialist, OSHA Manhattan Area Office

Working for the US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) since 1999. Compliance Assistance Specialist for 2006-present – providing assistance to public and employers, conduct training, develop and encourage Cooperative Programs (VPP, Alliances and Partnerships). Safety Engineer/Compliance Officer for 1999-2006 years – doing investigations of workplace accidents, fatalities and inspections of workplace conditions. Mitch performed over 400 Inspections, approximately 50 fatality/catastrophe investigations, e.g. Tropicana Garage Collapse (2003), Scaffold Collapse Manhattan (2001), Chelsea explosion (2002). Member of the OSHA National Specialized Response Team –Structural Collapse Team and World Trade Center Emergency Response activities. His specialized training includes: Weapons of Mass Destruction, Structural Collapse and Rescue Shoring, Incident Command System, Response to Terrorist Bombings, Response to New Orleans – Hurricane Katrina (2005). Mitch also had dealing with numerous projects for Fortune 100 and Federal Government clients and several small businesses for 11 years. He managed the installation, startup and equipment verification for turnkey projects as well as Instrumentation and equipment controls for industrial and pharmaceutical equipment. Mr. Konca is graduate of Manhattan College Electrical Engineering.



Amy E. Wilson, CIH, Industrial Hygienist, OSHA Region II Office

Amy has been an Industrial Hygienist with OSHA since early 2000, beginning as a Compliance Officer in the Manhattan Area Office before taking a position with the Regional Office in the Federal Enforcement Operations section. As a Compliance Officer, she has conducted enforcement inspections in a wide variety of industrial facilities and construction sites. She is also a member of OSHA's Special Response Team and has represented the agency in several emergency responses, including the recovery and cleanup of the World Trade Center site following the events of 9/11/01, as well as the Hurricane Katrina response in New Orleans. Amy has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Rutgers University and is currently enrolled in the MPH program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Howard Apsan, Ph.D. University Director, Environmental, Health, Safety & Risk Mgmt, CUNY

Howard Apsan serves as the University Director of Environmental, Health, Safety, and Risk Management (EHSRM) for The City University of New York, the third largest university system in the United States. CUNY has 23 colleges, graduate schools and professional schools; approximately 460,000 matriculated and non-matriculated students; 35,000 faculty members and other employees; and more than 23 million square feet of space in almost 300 buildings located throughout New York City's five boroughs. The University Director of EHSRM is responsible for environmental health and safety (EH&S) management and compliance throughout the university; serves as the University's chief risk officer, tasked with assessing liabilities and designing systems for minimizing CUNY's operational and reputational risks; and is the chair of the University's Emergency Preparedness Task Force.

Before joining CUNY, Howard worked as an analyst, manager and consultant for most of his career: several years in New York City government at the Mayor's Office, the Board of Education, and the Sanitation Department; and seventeen years in private consulting, including eight years as a Principal, and ultimately National Director, of a nation-wide consulting firm. He has also been president of his own firm, Apsan Consulting, Inc., since 2001. He has served clients throughout the United States and has extensive international experience.

In addition to his management and consulting activities, he has been a member of the faculty at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs since 1986. He has also served on the United States Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) for ISO 14000, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Environmental Committee (E-50), the Springfield (New Jersey) Environmental Commission, and chaired the New York Chamber of Commerce Environment and Energy Committee and the New York Chapter of the Environmental Auditing Roundtable. He is a LEED Accredited Professional, a member of the Editorial Board of Environmental Quality Management, and writes and lectures regularly.

Christopher Alonge, PE, DOSH Associate Safety & Health Engineer - NYSDOL

Christopher Alonge is an Associate Safety and Health Engineer with the Engineering Services Unit in the Division of Safety and Health, New York State Department of Labor. He is responsible for supervision of engineering staff, and technical review and approval of plans and applications to ensure compliance with New York State Department of Labor safety and health requirements. His current duties include review and approval of site-specific variance petitions and updating existing New York State Industrial Code Rules, including Industrial Code Rule 56 Asbestos. His previous experience includes four years as an environmental engineer for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation where he specialized in investigation and remediation of superfund sites, voluntary cleanup program sites and Brownfield Sites. Prior to state service, Mr. Alonge worked ten years in environmental consulting, primarily working as a designer for asbestos and lead abatement projects. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Science, an Associate in Science degree in Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a New York State Licensed Professional Engineer, as well as a Certified Code Enforcement Official in New York State.



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Andrey Vishev, Chief Inspector, Buildings Enforcement Safety Team (B.E.S.T.) NYCDOB

Andrey Vishev is New York City Department of Buildings (NYCDOB) Chief Inspector with over 15 years of construction experience in both private and public service. Vishev was appointed Chief Inspector of the B.E.S.T. squad by Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster in 2006. In this position he has been responsible for overseeing site-safety projects, demolition inspections and residential sweeps throughout all of New York City's five boroughs. Prior to joining the Department of Buildings, Vishev worked as a Project Manager for Long & Delosa Construction Corp., where he supervised construction projects, including hospital emergency suites and medical centers, restaurants and multi-dwelling buildings. Vishev's experience also includes pre-cast construction and HVAC technology. Vishev received his Civil Engineering degree from the Vitebsk's Technological University (1991) and his Associate of Applied Science degree in HVAC Technology from Technical Career Institute (1995).



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Some Abstracts

“The New Reality of Testing for Asbestos, Lead and PCB's”

Testing for asbestos, lead and PCB's is not only prudent to protect workers and building occupants, but it is also required by regulatory agencies. Key for building owners and management is an understanding of what the requirements are, and when to implement sampling. This process is what ultimately prevents illnesses, lawsuits, and major clean-up costs. But what are the requirements? Do we need comprehensive surveys or may we do limited sampling? What materials need to be sampled? Who may do the sampling? This session will provide an over view of suspect materials, different types of surveys, and what might happen if you choose not to sample these materials including the severe penalties.

“MOLD issues – what is regulated?”

Mold is not a regulated environmental contaminant, but many of the water problems which cause mold growth are regulated by the building codes. New York State Department of Health provides a mold training course for building code officials who respond to mold calls. Code Enforcement officials are being trained to respond to mold complaints as symptoms of water damage, and to provide a regulatory response to the moisture problems. The mold course is accredited for continuing education for code enforcement officials, professional engineers and registered architects; approximately 1000 people attended training classes in 2008. The course is being developed into an on-line webinar training program and additional accreditations will be sought to expand it's applicability to other professions, including industrial hygiene.

“Is there a benefit in a LEED® Green Building Rating“

United States Green Building Council (USGBC) has developed Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) rating systems for certifying the greenest performing buildings in the world with the core purpose to transform the way buildings are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy and prosperous built environment that improves the quality of life in communities. It aspires to advance market transformation, offer expertise, provide tools as well as forum for industry dialog, and educate industry and the public in the benefits of looking for a triple bottom line: People+Planet+Profit. So far buildings that achieved various LEED® certification levels proved to have reduced environmental impact of their optimized performance at peak efficiency, lower operational costs, decreased churn costs, increased net operating income and asset values, increased tenant occupancy and satisfaction, also supported by improved productivity and reduced absenteeism, and improved communities. LEED® certification of a building assures the world that no “greenwash” claims can be made without substantiation via rigorous review by a party only interested in making our built environment a better place. Certification can't be simply bought; it is earned by a diverse group of passionate professionals working together in unprecedented holistic manner, learning from each other and complementing each other's concerns and synergistic solutions. There are different ways to look at the “value” of LEED® process, none of which include its dismissal. Public entities from Federal GSA to City of New York adopted LEED® as a requirement and a validation of the fact that taxpayers' money are being used in the most economically and environmentally sustainable way, because the separation of the two is no longer possible.



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“Educating Sustainability”

As Chief Environmental Engineer of MTA New York City Transit I have seen from the beginning how far NYCT has progressed in the field of sustainability. While mass transit is itself a solution to the current climate crisis by keeping as many automobiles off the road, numerous sustainability elements have been incorporated into NYCT construction projects to reduce energy, prevent pollution and save natural resources. NYCT has positioned itself as a leader in sustainability worldwide. Those environmental sustainable features that NYCT have featured become larger in the overall picture because of NYCT’s standing in the world of transportation. NYCT is an icon and worldwide leader in mass transportation in both size and history. NYCT reaches an infinite audience, through its ridership, its Transit Museum, its website and the numerous outreach programs, including many conferences and seminars. I have been fortunate to appear in numerous television programs outlining NYCT’s sustainability efforts, including NYCT’s own Transit television program, Sundance Channel’s Big Ideas for a Small Planet. Recently I taped a pilot episode for Discovery Channel that will air sometime next year, all promoting sustainability and a healthier world. In the future, green roofs that absorb pollution and rainwater, may be included in transit facilities, and may be the focus of upcoming awareness efforts. In May 2008 I attended a European International Studies knowledge exchange program and learned a great deal from the European Countries that I visited, including Germany, Italy, Spain and Ireland and I hope that they also learned a lot from me, NYCT’s Chief Environmental Engineer.


“IHS Professional as Expert Witness: Challenges of Indoor Microbial Contamination”

IHS professionals practicing in the area of environmental fungi (mold) are frequently subjected to legal scrutiny due to the lack of fixed numerical standards. While most building assessment for suspect mold problems can be accomplished through diligent inspection, sampling data often becomes a focus, as it is a “test” of the environment. Thus, professionals often are in a position to either defend and/or attack environmental mold data. Rules of Evidence that may be invoked prescribe that one follow “accepted practice” as may be reflected in industry guidelines and publications. While many of these are currently evolving due to the dynamic nature of the “mold issue”; there is virtual universal agreement that any environmental testing be conducted on a comparative basis (i.e., indoor air vs. outdoor air) and within the context of hypothesis testing. Hypothesis testing by definition involves statistical significance, while the same probability concept is cited in Rules of Evidence that stipulate a test methodology have a known error rate.

Bootstrap/Monte Carlo analysis (BMC) is a fundamental numerical technique which can be used to estimate the error rate of any criterion or methodology a practitioner may use to assess differences between indoor and outdoor mold test data. This analysis indicates that oft cited guideline criteria such as comparison of total spore levels, average spore levels, rank ordering, or ratios of “marker” fungi to “common” fungi are only accurate approximately 50% of the time.. Thus demonstrating “significant” differences (as required) is not possible by using numerical values from environmental mold data. By implication, subjective “interpretation” of data without a mathematical/statistical analysis is also subject to legal challenge as significance and error rate are indeterminable.


An alternative approach is to evaluate differences in detection frequency for each fungal type, irrespective of the numerical concentrations. Significance levels (error rates) can be calculated directly using the binomial random formula and correspond closely with BMC analysis.

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Directions to the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick

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From the North

Take the New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit 9. Proceed on Route 18 North 3 miles to Route 27 South. Travel 2 blocks to Nielson Street and turn left. Hotel is on left.

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Public Transportation

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