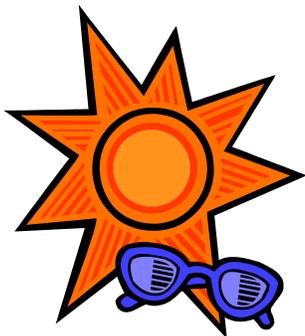


# AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION Nevada Section



**What's In The News:**

- EPA Coal Regs
- 4th of July Waste
- Yucca Mountain



*Hello Summer!*

**Inside this issue:**

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**New Board of Directors for 2011!**

By: David Lam

Greetings A&WMA Section Members and Friends! Election results are in and your new Board is excited about their new roles. Over the course of the year, I will introduce two Board members each quarter to tell us more about why they decided to run for a leadership position, what they love about A&WMA, and what their vision is for the future of the Section.

Please welcome this quarter's guests: Rob Cromwell and Shawna DeSart.

Rob is this year's Programming Director and Shawna will serve as the Section Treasurer.

Why did you join the NV Section/Board?

[Rob] I was looking for an organization that I could get involved with. I pursued AWMA because of the benefit of staying connected in the community of my peers. I enjoy AWMA because of the diversity of its membership and educational presentations, and field trips.

[Shawna] First and foremost I enjoy the people who attend the luncheons. In addition the topics/speakers are interesting.

What's your favorite AWMA memory/event in the past year?

[Rob] My favorite memory was our trip to City Center. I not only enjoyed learning more about its sustainable building operation, but also met a lot of great people.

[Shawna] I liked the "Pig Farm" presentation. It was very informative to see their recycling process and how they've grown through innovation and creativity.

What's the one thing you hope to accomplish during your term on the Board?

[Rob] I believe in the value our organization brings to environmental professionals throughout our community. In my role of bringing interesting speakers to our meetings, I hope to contribute to the expansion of our organization, diversify its membership further, and somehow participate in the professional growth of my peers.

[Shawna] I would like to keep "the good thing" going. Because I am a new member and new to the board, it will take me a few months to be comfortable in my new position. After that I hope to be able to bring new and creative ideas to the board and organization.

**Nevada Section Board (New!)**

- Chairperson:** Jon Bell  
jbell@broadbentinc.com
- Vice-Chairman:** Victoria Hansen  
geoknightv@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Sarah Hoffman  
sarah.hoffman@hdrinc.com
- Treasurer:** Shawna DeSart  
Shawna.DeSart@gesnevada.com
- Programming Director:** Robert Cromwell  
blackmercedes2010@yahoo.com
- Media Director:** David Lam  
david.lam@tronox.com
- Membership Director:** Brian Loffman  
BrianL@beenv.com
- Eastern Sierra Chapter Chairperson  
(ESC Representative):** Dan Inouye  
dinouye@washocounty.us
- Chair Emeritus:** Kyle Hansen  
k56hansen@hotmail.com

## Celebrate Flash Flood Awareness Month

### ***By Recognizing the Dangers***

*By: David Lam*

July is Flash Flood Month at the Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD) for a good reason. Sudden thunderstorms can dump enough rain to flood roadways and create hazardous swift moving currents that can sweep a person off his or her feet. It's no wonder that the CCRFCD aggressively advertises its safety campaign on television, radio, billboards and home mailings.

#### **Recognize the Dangers:**

- Intense rainfall, flash flood watch/warning
- Low lying areas where water collects or flows
- Flowing water and flooded roadways—it may be deeper than it appears!
- Darkness may impair your ability to judge hazards. Be especially cautious.

#### **What to Do:**

- Keep alert for any flash flood watch or flash flood warning broadcasts
- Avoid unnecessary travel
- Move to higher ground if possible
- Avoid any dips, bridges and low areas that are prone to flooding
- **DO NOT** attempt to drive through flooded roadways

### **Remember: Turn around, don't drown!**

#### **Resources:**

**Local flood authority—Clark County Regional Flood Control District Homepage:**

<http://www.ccrfcd.org/>

**Federal flood authority—Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):**

[http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/fl\\_before.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/fl_before.shtm)

**About the CCRFCD:**

[http://acequia.ccrfcd.org/pdf\\_arch1/Public%20Information/District%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20June%202009.pdf](http://acequia.ccrfcd.org/pdf_arch1/Public%20Information/District%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20June%202009.pdf)

**Flood Dangers Brochure (CCRFCD):**

[http://acequia.ccrfcd.org/pdf\\_arch1/Public%20Information/Hidden%20Dangers%20Brochure.pdf](http://acequia.ccrfcd.org/pdf_arch1/Public%20Information/Hidden%20Dangers%20Brochure.pdf)

**Good tips on flood safety (CCRFCD):**

[http://acequia.ccrfcd.org/pdf\\_arch1/Public%20Information/Flood%20Safety%20Tips%20December%202009.pdf](http://acequia.ccrfcd.org/pdf_arch1/Public%20Information/Flood%20Safety%20Tips%20December%202009.pdf)

**National Weather Service (Las Vegas):**

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/vef/>

**Additional Links from the CCRFCD:**

<http://www.ccrfcd.org/03-links.htm>

## Eastern Sierra Chapter—Peppermill Resort Tour

Eastern Sierra Chapter members were able to enjoy a nice outing at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno on April 28th, 2011. The day included a presentation and a technical tour of Peppermill's geothermal operations. We look forward to seeing you at our next outing! Stay tuned and keep an eye on our website for more info!



**Blue Ribbon Membership  
Performance Award**



<http://www.awma-easternsierra.org/>

## Monthly Section Luncheons

The Nevada Section conducts monthly luncheon meetings on the **second Wednesday of every month**. During each luncheon, a presentation is given on various topics related to environmental issues and impacts facing Southern Nevada.

Luncheons are held at the **The Platinum Hotel** @ 211 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

**Check-in:** 11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Lunch Begins:** 11:30 a.m. **Presentation:** 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Members: \$20.00 Non-Members: \$30.00 Full Time Students: \$10.00

There are no dress code restrictions. Parking is valet only. AWMA will cover the cost of valet parking, so please do not tip the attendants. Alternative parking is available nearby if you choose to forego valet service.

For more information, or to RSVP please contact **Victoria Hansen** no later than noon on Monday the week of the luncheon by email at **geoknightv@gmail.com**. All interested parties are welcome.

## Upcoming Speakers



**July 13th, 2011** - Thomas E. Piechota, Ph.D, P.E., Associate Vice President for Interdisciplinary Research, UNLV – “Renewable Energy Education Programs at UNLV”

\*Speakers and topics are subject to change. Please contact our Programming Director, Rob Cromwell, if you have a suggestion for future speakers or topics.

## Membership Drive!

Members and friends, please spread the words to your friends and colleagues about this great opportunity to become a part of the Air and Waste Management Association.

For a limited time, NEW MEMBERS join for the introductory discount price of **\$135**.

That's an instant savings of 25% if you sign up now!

Please contact Brian Loffman, Membership Director, with any membership questions.

## EPA Tips to Be Cool and Safe this Summer

### Limit the heat and the sun, but not the fun



News release — 6/30/2011

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing tips to protect people from the dangers of overexposure to the sun and heat while still enjoying summer activities. Excessive heat and ultraviolet (UV) radiation are dangerous to people's health. Each year, more people on average die in the U.S. from heat waves than from any other natural disaster. And every hour, one American dies from skin cancer, which is the most common cancer in the U.S.

During the summer months, days are longer and more people are outside for longer periods of time, increasing the health risks from heat exhaustion and overexposure to the sun. Cities and suburbs are particularly vulnerable to higher temperatures during the summer. Many cities and suburbs have air temperatures that can be up to 22 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the surrounding countryside. Buildings and roads intensify heat and UV dangers as they absorb the sun's rays and radiate the heat back throughout the day and night, known as the heat island effect. Heat islands can intensify heat waves. To help reduce the heat island effect, plant trees, shrubs, and vines, which create shade and protect people from UV radiation.

To avoid heat exhaustion and overexposure to the sun, follow these steps to stay cool and safe this summer:

1. **Stay hydrated.**
2. **Wear lightweight clothing.** To keep your body temperature down and stay protected from UV radiation, wear lightweight, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing.
3. **Apply sunscreen.** Approximately 30 minutes before heading outside, apply SPF 15 or higher sunscreen, and reapply every two hours.
4. **Protect your eyes and face.** Wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses to protect your eyes from sun damage and the development of cataracts.

5. **Seek shade.** Find shade during the sun's peak hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to reduce the risk of too much sun exposure

6. **Teach sun and heat safety.** Keep an eye on others, particularly the elderly, remind them to be safe in the sun and the heat. Watch for signs of heat illnesses, which can include hot and dry skin, confusion, hallucinations, and aggression.

7. **Check the UV Index.** When planning outdoor activities check the UV Index to identify the times that pose the greatest risk for overexposure to the sun.

8. **Check the Air Quality Index.** On hot summer days, ozone levels can rise making the air unhealthy to breathe so be sure to check the air quality index before heading outside.

More information on how to reduce the heat island effect: <http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/>

More information on extreme heat events: <http://www.epa.gov/naturalevents/extremeheat.html>

More information on sun safety tips: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise>.

Check the UV index: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html>

Check the Air Quality Index: <http://www.airnow.gov>



Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceeeac8525735900400c27/4a8d4d9960b17903852578bf00544362!OpenDocument>

## EPA Issues New Standards For Coal-Burning Plants

### NPR News

By Elizabeth Shogren



Photo: AP

The Environmental Protection Agency sent a strong message Thursday to power plants that burn coal. It's time to clean up dirty exhausts that travel long distances, and 75 percent of Americans will breathe healthier air as a result.

The new EPA transport rule is designed to clean up the pollution that blows from power plants into other states. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson says it's about fairness.

"This is EPA, the federal government, doing what the federal government should and has a responsibility to all Americans to do. And that's leveling the playing field, ensuring that one community doesn't put out smog and soot at the expense of the residents downwind," she says.

The new rule replaces a similar Bush administration regulation that was struck down by a court that deemed it too lenient. The new rule will cut almost 2 million more tons of pollution per year than the Bush administration program.

States from Texas to New York will have to slash 70 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions and 50 percent of nitrogen oxides from power plants, compared with 2005 pollution levels.

Scientists say the fine particles and ozone from these plants contribute to deadly heart and lung failures.

The agency estimates the rule will be so potent that within three years, it will prevent as many as 34,000 premature deaths each year.

It's also expected to reduce hundreds of thousands of

asthma attacks per year. That really resonates with Jackson, whose sons both had asthma when they were small. Her younger son still carries a rescue inhaler.

Jackson says she wants every parent with an asthmatic child to have "as close to a normal experience in childhood as possible."

She says less power plant pollution will mean fewer days when parents have to tell their kids they can't play outside because the air is bad.

"When you talk about asthma attacks, every single one can mean hours — if not days — of caring for a sick child or family member. It can mean hospitalization," she says.

That adds up to lots of costs for families and society. Jackson says that's part of why the new rule is projected to provide billions of dollars in public health benefits.

Some power companies complain the deadlines are too tough to allow them time to install pollution control equipment. So, they will have no choice but to shut down some older coal-fired power plants.

Pat Hemlepp represents American Electric Power, which is one of the country's biggest power companies, with plants in 11 states from Texas to Michigan.

"Taking power plants out of service like this pulls tax dollars out of the communities, pulls jobs out of communities, in addition to increasing electricity costs," Hemlepp says. "This is a region of the country that's struggling to recover from the economic downturn, and doing this on such a short timeline is an economic hit that could be avoided."

But overall, Harvard Economist Robert Stavins says, the new regulation is a real winner for the economy.

"It doesn't mean that there are no costs, but the benefits of the transport rule in terms of human health protection tremendously outweigh the costs of this," he says.

Stavins says even in parts of the country where electricity costs will increase a little bit, health care savings in those same communities will more than compensate.



Source: <http://www.npr.org/2011/07/07/137681222/epa-issues-new-standards-for-coal-burning-plants>

## 4th of July Parades, Fireworks, and Waste

By Tim Faulkner/ecoRI News staff

It's not the Fourth of July without a parade and fireworks — plus lots of trash and some not-so-healthy toxins and pollutants.

Parades generate trash.

Rhode Island prides itself on hosting the oldest parade in the nation. The Bristol tradition draws some 100,000 spectators, who leave behind about 64 tons of trash, according to the Department of Public Works.



Progress has been made in recent years to control waste by requiring vendors to haul out their own garbage. Stapling paper yard-waste bags to trees and telephone poles along the parade route also has encouraged spectators to help with the clean up of bottles, cups, balloons and other debris.

"We flood the parade route with those bags and it's a huge help," said Jim Sylvester of Bristol's DPW.

None of the waste, however, is sorted for recyclables.

It's not well known, or at least not well publicized, that fireworks — from sparklers to professional displays — leave behind a fair amount of waste, while releasing noxious gases and heavy metals.

The large displays emit a fog of chemicals and toxins with various levels of health risks. Perchlorate is a widely used rocket propellant with a history of finding its way into groundwater. The toxin has been linked to thyroid irregularities, particularly in women, infants and children younger than 12.

Five years ago, Massachusetts became the first state to set protective standards for perchlorate in drinking water. And in 2008, at least three perchlorate firework displays around Cape Cod were identified as

possible sources of drinking water contamination. In May, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued environmental recommendations "to minimize potential problems" with perchlorate, such as buying no- or low-perchlorate fireworks.

Rhode Island has yet to consider issuing similar guidelines on the health risks of fireworks, even though a 2010 law officially permits the backyard use of sparklers, smoke bombs and ground-based sparking devices. These over-the-counter fireworks emit many of the same pollutants, toxins and dioxins as the big shows and can be just as harmful to people, pets and the environment.

A 2006 report published in Atmospheric Environment concluded that fireworks displays create potent air pollution. "Although firework-related recreational pollution episodes are transient in nature, they are highly concentrated, contribute significantly to total annual metal emissions, and are on average fine enough to be easily inhaled and a health risk to susceptible individuals," wrote Roberta Vecchi, author of the study.

Photo shows a pop-up store in East Providence capitalizing on fireworks that whistle, smoke and erupt with glittery and potentially hazardous chemicals.



Source: <http://www.enn.com/pollution/article/42880>

Photo credit: Tim Faulkner/ecoRI News staff

## Appeals Court Dismisses Yucca Mountain Lawsuit

By Steve Tetreault — July 1st, 2011

WASHINGTON -- A federal court on Friday dismissed a lawsuit that sought to keep alive the blueprint for burying nuclear waste in Nevada.

But while the ruling was a victory for the termination efforts of the state and the Obama administration, it focused attention -- yet again -- on the small federal agency that has become the center of controversy over the Yucca Mountain plan.



A three-judge panel said in a unanimous decision the lawsuit by the states of Washington and South Carolina and others challenging the shutdown of the Yucca project was premature until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission takes final actions that could bring it to an end.

The five-member NRC began considering last summer whether to allow the Department of Energy to take a final step to withdraw a 3-year-old license application. No final affirmation vote has been scheduled although commissioners cast initial votes in August.

"When we have an order to issue, we will issue an order," commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko said after a Capitol Hill appearance on June 16.

The passage of time has increased the focus on the agency, which has been put under a microscope for its handling of the Yucca issue.

The ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia might provide only a reprieve in the legal battle over Yucca Mountain, as judges hinted that continued delays could make the NRC vulnerable to new legal challenges.

Writing the court's opinion, Chief Judge David Sentelle noted federal law gave the NRC three years to decide on a repository application. Some set that deadline at June 28, three years from the date when the Department of Energy submitted a license application in 2008. Others contend the clock started ticking on Sept. 15, 2008, when the NRC formally accepted the application for

docketing.

Federal law allows the NRC to claim an additional year, but the agency is moving in the opposite direction to close out all its actions on high-level waste by this fall.

Sentelle suggested the states could revive their lawsuit if NRC fails to meet the deadline.

"Should the commission fail to act within the deadline specified" by the federal nuclear waste law, "petitioners would have a new cause for action," Sentelle wrote.

"We will not permit an agency to insulate itself from judicial review by refusing to act," he wrote.

Judge Janice Rogers Brown, in a short concurring opinion, said, "It is arguable the NRC has abdicated its statutory responsibility." She said plaintiffs missed an opportunity to press a stronger case against the NRC's failure to act.

The ruling brings to an end a case that was born after interests in states holding substantial caches of nuclear waste learned early in 2010 that the administration was shifting its decades-long focus away from the Yucca site, 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Officials in Aiken County, S.C., and three business leaders from near Hanford, Wash., with the attorneys general of the two states, filed lawsuits that were later incorporated. They argued that terminating the site would leave millions of gallons of radioactive waste stranded in their states.

They also said the Department of Energy did not have the authority to shut down the project and withdraw its license application from the NRC.

Washington state Attorney General Rob McKenna said plaintiffs will review the ruling and decide a course.

"This case is far from over," McKenna said. "The court of appeals today ruled only that our suit is premature because the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not issued a decision on the merits of the application to build the Yucca Mountain repository or on the Department of Energy's motion to withdraw that application."

*(Continued on page 9)*

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The Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan professional organization that offers individuals a wide array of resources and benefits embodied within the technical and scientific environmental community. Membership benefits include the opportunity for professional development, information exchange, networking opportunities, and public education and outreach. By helping to promote global environmental responsibility, A&WMA hopes to increase the effectiveness of organizations and individuals to make critical decisions that benefit their surrounding communities. These benefits are currently extended to over 8000 environmental professionals in 65 countries. In 2007 A&WMA celebrated its 100th year of providing service to environmental professionals.

For more information and to see how the A&WMA will benefit you, access the links to the following web sites.

<http://www.awma.org/about/index.html>

<http://www.awma.org/join/index.html>



**AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT**  
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## Appeals Court Dismisses Yucca Mountain Lawsuit (continued)

The court made clear the NRC needs to act soon, said Charles Gray, executive director of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, a group that monitors the Yucca project on behalf of utility ratepayers.

"While we are disappointed in this decision, the court makes it perfectly clear that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must act in this case," Gray said. "Consumers of nuclear power have contributed more than \$30 billion for the development of a nuclear-waste repository, and deserve prompt action by the NRC."

The lawsuit decided Friday was the only one pending against the Obama administration on Yucca Mountain, although lawyers say more will be filed whenever the Nuclear Regulatory Commission does issue an official decision on the project either way.

By erasing a legal challenge, the ruling gives a boost to

Nevada in its efforts to see the Yucca project brought to a final halt, said Marta Adams, senior deputy attorney general.

The plaintiffs "were trying to push the envelope rather than wait until the NRC has finally ruled," Adams said. "This case was never ripe. If you follow these types of cases, you always wait until the final administrative body rules. That is fairly standard jurisprudence."

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., called the decision "an important win in the long battle to put the ill-conceived Yucca Mountain project permanently to rest."

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/appeals-court-dismisses-yucca-mountain-lawsuit-124862704.html>

## A&WMA Nevada Section Sponsors

### Why Not Sponsor One of Our Luncheon Meetings?

Becoming a \$100 sponsor allows you to:

- Prominently display a poster, sign or banner at the sponsored luncheon
- Present your company and its services before the luncheon speaker's presentation
- Provide luncheon attendees with business cards, pens, information packets, etc.
- Display your company's logo on the Section's website and here in the newsletter!

**Promote your business by becoming a sponsor today!**

*Contact the Media Director for more information*

For questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact the Media Director:

David Lam  
Tronox  
P.O. Box 55  
Henderson, NV 89009

Phone: 702.651.2259

E-mail: [david.lam@tronox.com](mailto:david.lam@tronox.com)

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