

MAY 2026



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

UPPER MIDWEST SECTION

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## A&WMA-UMS Member Spotlight



### SHANTAL PAI

Shantal is a senior associate in Fredrikson's Environmental and Energy Practice Groups and has been with the firm for 2 and a half years. Before starting at Fredrikson, she clerked for the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Federal District Court in Minnesota. Shantal leverages her experience working for state and federal judges to represent energy and environmental clients on regulatory and litigation matters in Minnesota.

Shantal is a "Double Gopher." She earned a B.S. in Plant Sciences and a J.D. from the University of Minnesota.

Shantal first became involved with the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) through Conference on the Environment in 2024. Since then, she's been a presenter at A&WMA events, and plans Young Professionals events (YP) as a co-chair of the YP Committee.

Away from work, Shantal enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time outside. She's especially fond of taking her dog, Phoebe, for long walks.

## Safety Moment: Spring into Garden Safety

Most people wouldn't think of a garden as a dangerous place, but did you know that there are multiple hazards most people do not even think of? See below for some tips to enjoy the garden and outdoors while staying safe:

- Particulate Matter: dry garden soil, potting mix, and even peat moss can be a particulate breathing hazard. Wear a dust mask when handling dry materials, and do not reuse disposable face masks.
- Sharps: gardening shears, scissors, powered tools (lawn mowers, weed whackers, etc.) and even some shovels pose a puncture/cut wound risk. Wear cut resistant gloves and do not rush.
- Biohazard: When getting back to your garden, be aware of molds and seasonal allergens. Avoid touching face and eyes until you can wash your hands. Wash hand tools before use to avoid spreading bacteria.
- Ticks/Poisonous Plants: If your gardening or landscaping involves your legs touching tall grass or wooded areas, you may be at risk for tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme's disease or allergic reactions to some plants like poison ivy and oak. Wear pants and long sleeves in these situations to avoid direct contact and check body for ticks when going inside. Do not touch eyes or face, especially if you suspect contact with poisonous plants.
- Heat Stress: Did you know that a heat stress emergency includes having a body temperature of 104 deg. Fahrenheit? Even if you are working in the shade, you might suffer from heat stress symptoms such as rashes, dehydration, muscle cramps, and even confusion. Stay hydrated, reduce caffeine consumption, and have breaks in the shade (or even better, AC).

### Additional Resources:

- 1: CDC's Tick Illness Prevention Guidance: [Preventing Tick Bites | Ticks | CDC](#)
- 2: Potting Soil/Mix Safe Handling from Better Homes and Gardens: [Potting Soil Can Infect You with Legionnaires' Disease](#)
- 3: OSHA Heat Stress Guide: [Heat Stress Guide | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)



# A&WMA-UMS News & Announcements

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

What are ways I can get involved in the Air & Waste Management - Upper Midwest Section? We are always looking for new involvement in any of the committee at any time of the year! Elections are held on an annual basis. We are also looking for a chair for the Young Professionals Committee as well as committee members to assist with the Conference on the Environment. Please see below for more information and feel free to reach out to the A&WMA-UMS Chair, Jess Keller, at [Jess.R.Keller@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Jess.R.Keller@xcelenergy.com) for with any questions or to get further information!



1. **Join a Committee.** Committees are a great first step to get involved in the A&WMA-UMS. Committees allow for members to interact in a smaller group, take ownership of specific events or tasks, and give their opinion on the direction of the organization. Committees typically meet once a month for an hour, with additional time needed for events or committee task completion. Please reference our website for more details on the committees by clicking the link at the bottom of the page.

2. **Run for an Officer position.** There are four Officers of the A&WMA-UMS - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each position is a two-year term. Nominations for Officer positions will be posted to members in October and will rotate between Chair/Vice-Chair and Treasurer/Secretary each year. Officers are expected to attend monthly board meetings (one hour/month), as well as complete required tasks for their position.

3. **Run for a Director position.** There are three Directors of the A&WMA-UMS. Directors are voting members who participate in each Board meeting. They also are the sole members of the Nominating Committee, who are in charge of annual Board elections. Each director position is a three-year term. Nominations for one Director position will be posted to members in October of each year. Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings (one hour/month) and lead the election process in the fall.

Please take a look at our website for more details and information if you are interested in getting involved contact Jess Keller at the link above!



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
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# Publishing Young Professionals!



The Young Professionals Advisory Council (YPAC) invites you to **submit an article for the A&WMA EM Magazine!** Be featured in the Annual YP Issue or add to the YP Perspectives column.



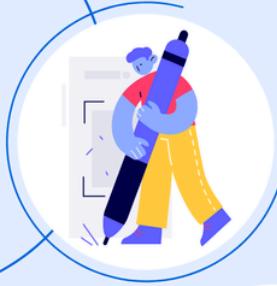
## 1. Who is eligible?

Young Professionals (YPs) and students 35 years old and under can submit articles. No A&WMA membership required! Write anything from technical to soft skills in the environmental industry.



## 2. Contact us

Feel free to email the **YPAC Publications Committee** through our main page [www.awma.org/ypac](http://www.awma.org/ypac). We can provide you with further details, links, and gladly answer any questions you have.



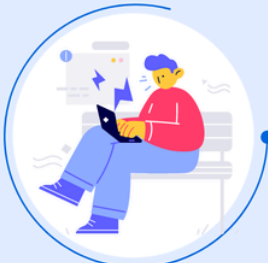
## 3. Get writing!

Write a maximum of 1500 words for the Annual YP Issue or 1000 words for YP Perspectives column. Make sure to follow the general **A&WMA Author Guidelines**.



## 4. Submission

Submit your article and attachments to the YPAC Publications Committee and A&WMA Managing Editor. Deadlines are posted on the **EM Editorial Calendar**.



## 5. Review process

Your article will be reviewed by **EM's Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC)**. After approval, there will be two rounds of edits with provided timelines and due dates.



## 6. Published!

EM Magazine publishes final issues online and provides all authors with a high resolution PDF copy. Hard copies are available for order through Blurb.



Don't be shy, reach out to us!



Interested in volunteering for YPAC?

[www.awma.org/ypac](http://www.awma.org/ypac)

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## A&WMA-UMS Past Event Highlights

### A&WMA-UMS ND Regional Conference

The A&WMA-UMS 5th Annual North Dakota Regional Environmental Conference was held October 15, 2025, and featured a series of presentations and discussions including a keynote panel from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ), technical sessions on general stormwater permitting, remediation of hydrocarbons and various other environmental topics. Anne Stav, Stantec, served as Planning Committee Chair. David Stroh, NDDEQ, helped line up technical speakers. Amanda Gravseth, Barr, ran the NDDEQ panel discussion and helped with logistics of the conference. Adam Driscoll, Barr, gave a regulatory update on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Deb Eslinger provided our post-lunch non-technical topic on navigating conflict. Craig Bashore, Stantec, presented on Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans. Hanna Warlick, Trinity Consultants, presented on multi-media environmental auditing. The all-day event brought together professionals from industry, government, consulting, and academia to explore environmental topics. The planning committee encourages you to attend the next conference in the fall of 2026.



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## A&WMA-UMS Past Event Highlights

### 2025 Arrowhead Environmental Conference

On September 30, 2025, AWMA's Upper Midwest Section in conjunction with the Minnesota Chapter of SWANA sponsored the Arrowhead Environmental conference in Duluth Minnesota. In 2025, the total number of attendees was around 50. This conference distinguishes itself from other environmental conferences by focusing on environmental topics that are of particular interest to environmental professionals located in Minnesota's Arrowhead Region. Several presentations are available for viewing on [AWMA-UMS' website](#).

### 2026 Solid Waste Operators Conference

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 AWMA's Upper Midwest Section in conjunction with the Minnesota Chapter of SWANA sponsored the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Solid Waste Operators Conference. This event was held in St. Cloud Minnesota. The total attendances was just over 60. This annual conference provides attendees with 6 hours of content focusing upon the safe, efficient and compliance operation of solid waste facilities. Attendees are provided 6 Continuing Education Units to apply towards the reissuance of their Minnesota solid waste operator's licenses.



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## **A&WMA-UMS Past Event Highlights**

### **2025 Conference on the Environment**

AWMA-UMS and the Minnesota Section of the Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA) held the 40th Annual Conference on the Environment (COE). This event featured keynote speaker Bill Keegan, President - Dem-Con Companies. Topics covered included wastewater treatment, air permitting, air quality monitoring and dispersion modeling, industrial wastewater management, and air legal issues.

The air presentations are available on A&WMA-UMS' website [HERE](#).

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## A&WMA-UMS Upcoming Events



This conference will cover a wide array of odor topics, including odor science, odor chemical forensics and source identification, field assessment methods, electronic sensing, odor sampling methods, odor policy and regulation, odor modeling, odor controls and mitigation, community impacts, and best practices. The conference builds off momentum gathered by the well-attended May 2024 Odor Management Conference in Toronto and previous A&WMA odor webinars.

The program will feature discussions on international perspectives in the field of odor management, as well as a pre-conference webinar, technical tour, tabletop exhibition, and networking reception.

Register for the conference [HERE](#).

## A&WMA-UMS Upcoming Conferences

### **6th Annual North Dakota Regional Conference**

Save the date for the 6th Annual North Dakota Regional Conference on September 24, 2026 at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence!

### **41st Annual Conference on the Environment**

Save the date for the 41st Annual Conference on the Environment on November 4, 2026 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

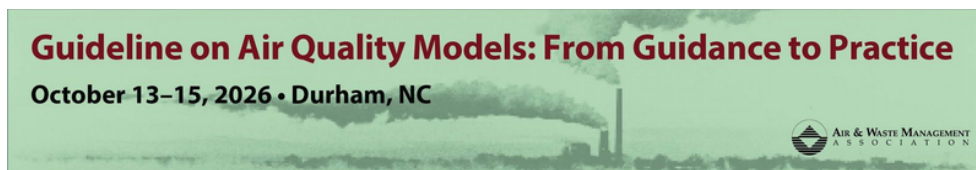
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## Upcoming A&WMA National Events



Each year, we learn more about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) through research, testing, and collaboration from all sectors working together to find answers and develop solutions. A&WMA is pleased to continue this premier conference to build on past experience, share new information, and bring together scientists, researchers, academics, practitioners, regulators, and the regulated community to further the conversation on the current state of PFAS science and solutions for the future.

With a focus on data-driven insights and cross-disciplinary collaboration, the Science of PFAS Conference provides a platform to accelerate scientific understanding, inform regulatory and policy frameworks, and support the development of reliable, scalable solutions to PFAS contamination. The conference will feature a high level opening keynote, focused sessions with evidence-based presentations, vendor displays, and plenty of networking time to connect with speakers, sponsors, and attendees. For more information, click [HERE](#).



Following the adoption of the November 2024 revisions to the Guideline, members of the air quality modeling field will share their latest research, experience, and thoughts on the state of air quality modeling, as well as ideas for future development and advancements in the field. It will also provide in-person opportunities for stakeholders and regulators to discuss the challenges and techniques needed to model ever-tightening air quality standards.

The technical program will include an opening plenary session devoted to invited presentations by EPA's Office Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) Air Quality Modeling Group. Multiple sessions will cover key modeling topics and the popular Town Hall Meeting will include an interactive Q & A format with high level regulators and stakeholders.

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Now in its 42nd year, the International Conference on Thermal Treatment Technologies & Hazardous Waste Combustors (IT3/HWC) provides a forum for the discussion of state-of-the-art technical information, regulations, and public policy on thermal treatment technologies and their relationship to air emissions, greenhouse gases, and sustainability. Panels and presentations will address various aspects of waste management using thermal treatment processes and provide useful insight into associated costs, risks, and impacts.

New topics added for 2026 include waste-to-energy pyrolysis, AI implementation in manufacturing, and biocarbon/biogas applications production.

Call for Abstracts open! Submit your work by May 12, 2026. For more information, click [HERE](#).

## Upcoming A&WMA National Webinars



### **Applying Satellite Data to Air Pollution Measurement and Management in Latin America**

- Thursday, May 21, 1pm ET

# State Permitting/Rule Updates/Form Updates

## Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

### Animal Feedlots Rule

The MPCA is proposing to amend existing Minnesota Rules Chapter 7020 governing animal feedlots. The main purpose of this rulemaking is to amend existing feedlot rules to improve land application of manure practices to address nitrate and fish kills, establish additional technical standards to protect water quality and avoid fish kills. This rulemaking also updates the rule to address changes in livestock and poultry operation/business practices, account for new agency data services, and modernize outdated rule language. In January 2026, the MPCA released the scope of its feedlot rulemaking, establishing the boundaries, and extent of topics. The recording is available [HERE](#).

### MPCA Air Toxics Emissions Reporting Rulemaking

The MPCA published the final rule for air toxics emission reporting in October 2025, which is available [HERE](#).

### MPCA Air Toxics Rulemaking

The MPCA is planning to publish notice of intent and proposed draft of amendment in the State Register for new rules to implement and govern regulation of facilities that emit air toxics on May 18, 2026. More information is available on the MPCA's website [HERE](#).

### MPCA Air Quality Permitting Guidance

The MPCA offers extensive permitting guidance on their website at the following link: [MN Permitting Guidance](#)



### MPCA Form Updates

The following MPCA air permit application forms have been updated from October 1st, 2025 through today ([Link to MPCA Forms](#)):

- All application checklists were updated on 3/23/26
- SCP-01: Submittal cover page (aq-f1-scp01) (4/1/2026)
- CH-19: Permit action emissions screening (aq-f2-ch19) (10/31/2025)
- CH-20: Evaluation of ambient air quality impacts (aq-f2-ch20) (10/31/2025)
- CD-01: Compliance plan (aq-f1-cd01) (10/31/2025)
- CH-11: Crossing permit thresholds (aq-f2-ch11) (10/31/2025)

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# Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## MPCA Quarterly Air Mail Newsletter

MPCA publishes a quarterly Air Mail newsletter with all of their latest news and information. If you are interested in receiving the quarterly via email, sign up here: [MPCA Communications Link](#)

### EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Grants for innovations in food systems
- MnDOT hosts Bike+ Plan webinars for government and Tribal partners

### GENERAL

- MPCA has completed its latest statewide survey about wood-burning practices of MN residents. The full report will be uploaded on the MPCA's [wood smoke webpage](#).
- The MPCA has [published a new report](#) on community air monitoring pilot grants progress and has launched [an air sensors webpage](#), which covers how the agency uses sensors, how sensors compare to regulatory monitors, and supported community-driven air sensor projects. The site also has a new tool to access Minnesota air sensor data.
- The [point source emissions inventory data explorer](#) has been updated with 2024 data.
- The MPCA has released the results from their [4<sup>th</sup> Survey of Local and Tribal Planning Efforts for Local resilience and Climate Adaptation](#).

### REGULATORY

- The MPCA will publish a Notice of Intent to Adopt the Cumulative Impacts rule on May 18, which starts at 60-day public comment period that ends July 17.
- The [first draft of the cumulative impacts mapping and analysis platform](#) is now available, which is designed to support the cumulative impacts analysis rule.
- The MPCA's Air Quality permitting section is planning to make changes to the emergency generator part of form CH-19.
- The [air toxics pollutant reporting list is now available](#) after the MPCA adopted new air toxics emissions reporting rules.

# State Permitting/Rule Updates/Form Updates

## Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

### Wisconsin Updates

#### Wisconsin DNR Air Quality Permitting Guidance

Have you ever wondered how the permitting process in Wisconsin works? The eleven-step process is detailed on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' webpage. See the following link for more details: [Eleven-step air permit process](#)

#### Wisconsin DNR Current Air Quality Permitting Forms

The latest forms for air applications can be found here: [Link to Forms](#)

## North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

### CERIS

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) utilizes CERIS (Combined Environmental Regulatory Information System) in order to submit, revise and management air quality applications, registrations or permits, pay environmental fees and submit and view documentation. Access the CERIS here: [Home - CERIS-ND](#)

#### ND DEQ Air Quality Permitting Guidance

The North Dakota DEQ offers extensive permitting guidance on their website at the following link: [ND Permitting Guidance](#)



## South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

#### South Dakota DANR Air Quality Permitting Guidance

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) outlines current forms on their website at the following link: [Link to Forms](#). Additionally, SD DANR offers permitting guidance on their website at the following link: [SD Permitting Guidance](#).



## In the News

### **EPA Finalizes Rescission of the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding**

In February 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule rescinding the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, which had served as the legal foundation for federal regulation of GHG emissions from motor vehicles. The Endangerment Finding concluded that emissions of six well-mixed greenhouse gases contribute to air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health and welfare—a determination upheld by courts for more than a decade.

The final rule removes that finding and repeals associated GHG emission standards for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty motor vehicles and engines, with an effective date of April 20, 2026. EPA states that it lacks statutory authority under Section 202(a) to regulate GHGs for purposes of addressing global climate change and that the prior finding relied on interpretations of the Clean Air Act that the Agency no longer believes are permissible.

While the final action directly affects mobile source GHG standards, its implications extend beyond the transportation sector. The 2009 Endangerment Finding has historically underpinned a wide range of federal climate rules, including regulations affecting power plants, oil and gas operations, and other stationary sources. The rule is already the subject of litigation, and its long-term impact will depend on the outcome of court challenges and any subsequent federal or state-level actions.

Stakeholders should also expect continued uncertainty during this period, as some state climate programs and other federal statutes operate independently of the Clean Air Act authority addressed in this rule.

Learn more:

- EPA Final Rule: Rescission of the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding (Federal Register)
  - [Federal Register :: Rescission of the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding and Motor Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards Under the Clean Air Act](#)
- EPA Webpage for Proposed Rule
  - [Proposed Rule: Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards | US EPA](#)



## In the News

### **EPA Proposes Revisions to Coal Ash Disposal Regulations**

On April 9, 2026, EPA announced a proposal to amend federal regulations governing the disposal and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals (CCR), commonly known as coal ash. The proposal would revise portions of the 2015 Coal Ash Rule and its subsequent amendments, with an emphasis on increased state permitting flexibility and expanded pathways for beneficial use.

Key elements of the proposal include:

- New compliance pathways allowing CCR units to meet groundwater monitoring, corrective action, and closure requirements through approved state permit programs;
- Revised standards for CCR storage piles;
- Additional flexibility in monitoring well placement and closure options; and
- Policies intended to encourage beneficial reuse of coal ash materials.

In recent years coal ash has been one of the largest industrial waste streams in the United States. While a portion is reused in products such as concrete, large volumes remain stored in landfills and surface impoundments, some of which have been associated with groundwater contamination. Environmental organizations in particular have criticized the proposal as weakening federal protections and have signaled potential legal challenges if the rule is finalized in its current form. For utilities, environmental professionals, and regulators, the proposal raises important questions about future compliance strategies, the balance of federal versus state oversight, and how legacy and inactive CCR units will be addressed.

Learn more:

- EPA News Release: Proposed Amendments to Coal Combustion Residuals Requirements
  - [To Advance U.S. Energy Dominance, EPA Proposes Several Amendments to Coal Combustion Residuals \(CCR\) Requirements | US EPA](#)
- EPA Webpage for Proposed 2026 Amendment to the Coal Combustion Residuals Regulations
  - [2026 Proposed Amendments to the Coal Combustion Residuals Regulations | US EPA](#)

**MAY 2026**

**2026 BOARD MEMBERS**

Chair	Jess Keller	Xcel Energy
Vice-Chair	Kelsey Suddard	Xcel Energy
Past Chair	Kathryn Anderson	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Treasurer	Hannah Mathers	Xcel Energy
Secretary	Liam Mitchell	Braun Intertec
Director	Hassan Bouchareb	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Director	Shantal Pai	Fredrickson & Byron, P.A.
Director	Ryan Birkenholz	Burns & McDonnell

**2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Communications Committee Chair	John Ke	Trinity Consultants
Young Professionals Committee Chair	Jena DeRung	Trinity Consultants
	Shantal Pai	Fredrickson & Byron, P.A.
Program Planning Committee Chair	Kelsey Suddard	Xcel Energy
Education Committee Chair	Shelley Koehn	3M Company
Membership Committee Chair	Liam Mitchell	Braun Intertec
North Dakota Regional Environmental Conference Committee Chair	Amanda Gravseth	Barr Engineering Co.
Arrowhead Environmental Conference Committee Chair	Open	Open
Solid Waste Operators Conference Committee Chair	Jonathan Amos	Xcel Energy
Conference on the Environment Committee Chair	Jess Keller	Xcel Energy
	Ryan Birkenholz	Burns & McDonnell



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**UPPER MIDWEST SECTION**