

# THE ECA REPORTER

A Publication of the Environmental Contractors Association of New York City

Winter 2006

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2006 has gotten off to a great start for the Environmental Contractors Association of New York City (ECA). The organization will host its first general membership meeting of the year on March 16, 2006 and the agenda will highlight

the association's new collective insurance program designed to provide cost reductions for ECA contractor members. AIG, one of the nation's leading insurance providers will present this special insurance program at our March meeting. In addition, the ECA is working closely with the Mason Tenders District Council Local 78 and the Heat and Frost Insulators Local 12A to support and enforce its historic Labor-Management Safety & Compliance Training Program, designed to protect the public and ensure worker safety and regulation compliance during the abatement of hazardous materials. As you may already know, the ECA is working hard with organized labor to implement this special Program as well as to provide state-of-the-art training for our workforce—both labor and management professionals.

Also in this issue, you will find a special profile on Michael Gilson, Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Environmental Compliance City as well as personal comments by Patricia Jones of OSHA on training sessions provided by the Environmental Contractors Association and Laborers Local 78 as part of the Safety & Compliance Program.

Thank you to ECA members who continue to work hard to support our programs and we look forward to seeing you at our March 16, 2006 general meeting. Meeting details will follow.

Frank J. Garito  
President

## SPECIAL BULLETIN:

### ECA ANNOUNCES SPECIAL INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

The Environmental Contractors Association of New York City (ECA) is pleased to announce a special insurance program designed to provide cost savings to all contractor members of the association. The program, stewarded by AIG Insurance, will allow contractors to maintain relationships with their current insurance brokers, however, AIG will now offer coverage for contractors including worker's compensation and general liability insurance at significant savings for members in good standing of the ECA. All members will be eligible for this program and questions concerning this program will be answered at our upcoming March 2006 general meeting.



*ECA Board Member, Bill McKenzie, Abatement International/Advatex Assoc., Inc.*



*Board members discuss the ECA's new insurance initiative*

*Continued on back page*

# PROGRAM UPDATE: HISTORIC SAFETY & COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

## JOINT MANAGEMENT-LABOR SAFETY BOARD HOLDS FIRST HEARINGS

The Environmental Contractors Association (ECA), the Mason Tenders District Council and the Heat and Frost Insulators Local 12A continue to work together in support of its Management-Labor Safety & Compliance Training Program, and the Program's Joint Safety Board has already heard its first hearing as part of the program, successfully resolving five cases.



*Edison Severino, Business Manager, Local 78 with Sal DiLorenzo of P.A.L. Environmental Safety and Frank Garito, ECA President, Asbestos Corporation of America*

The program is designed to protect the public and ensure worker safety and regulation compliance during the abatement of toxic materials. Following the announcement of the industry's new Safety & Compliance Program (Program), the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) have both offered their assistance and participation.



*Participants of environmental industry safety and compliance training*

The Program elements include: 1) Safety 2) Compliance and 3) Cooperation. Training is underway for company supervisors, foremen and union shop stewards to ensure their full understanding of DEP regulations, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements and OSHA standards. Contractors will be expected to strive for state-of-the-art safety practices, and all foremen, shop stewards, and supervisors will consistently monitor all work practices within the work area. Those who ignore or evade their obligations will be sanctioned; and those who achieve full compliance will be rewarded.



*Training participants discuss safety and compliance issues*

For more information on the environmental industry's Safety & Compliance Training Program, please contact Frank J. Garito, President, Environmental Contractors Association at (212) 704-9745.

### ECA PRODUCES SPECIAL ASSOCIATION VIDEO PRESENTATION

As part of the ECA's ongoing marketing and public relations program, the association has recently produced a special video presentation to showcase the association, its programs and the Safety & Compliance Program. The video will be shown to major construction and real estate organizations and copies are available to association's members.

# SPECIAL PROFILE: MICHAEL GILSENAN

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Michael Gilsonan serves as Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Environmental Compliance. In this capacity, he is responsible for departmental policy planning and development and he works with senior DEP managers to coordinate the activities of

the Bureau to ensure that air and noise quality and emergency response concerns are taken into consideration.

Mr. Gilsonan is the individual responsible for the City's air and noise permit and enforcement program—a major component of the City's air and noise pollution prevention program. He must ensure that permits for industrial process equipment and boilers are properly issued (in accordance with code) and that surveillance and compliance monitoring are conducted on a regular, rational basis, including monitoring for compliance with the Noise Code. He is also responsible for overseeing the direction of the Asbestos Emissions Control Program mandated under Local Law 76/85, the development and implementation of regulations to control emissions of asbestos during building alteration and demolition in New York City as well as enforcement of these regulations. Mr. Gilsonan is also responsible for the direction of the development and implementation of all policies, programs and issues concerning the certification of asbestos handlers and asbestos investigators.

As Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Gilsonan provides oversight for emergency response units that identify and develop clean-up plans, remediate or oversee the remediation of hazardous chemicals (including asbestos) releases/spills. These units are available 24 hour/7 days year-round and coordinate their actions with the Fire Department, EMS and Police Department under Mayoral Executive Order 82-2. He is also responsible for coordination of the Division of Emergency Response & Technical Assessment's (DERTA) involvement in the

development, coordination and implementation of NYPD's Counter Terrorism and Emergency Services Unit response and identification of WMD materials. Finally, Mr. Gilsonan stewards the development, coordination and enforcement of New York City's Right to Know Law (S24-715 of Local Law 26). He oversees the Environmental Economic Development Assistance Unit's business community outreach program as well as coordination with Federal, State and City agencies in the Residential Clean-Up Program for Lower Manhattan.

A veteran public servant, Mr. Gilsonan served as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Commissioner prior to his current position and he also served as Chief of Staff for the First Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the New York Sheriff and the New York and the New York City Department of Transportation. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pennsylvania State University in general arts and sciences.

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) protects the environmental health, welfare and natural resources for the City and its residents. The Department manages the City's water supply, which provides over one billion gallons of quality drinking water daily, serving over half the population of New York State, and manages 14 in-City wastewater treatment plants, as well as nine treatment plants upstate. DEP also carries out federal Clean Water Act rules and regulations, handles hazardous materials emergencies and toxic site remediation, oversees asbestos monitoring and removal, enforces the City's air and noise codes bills and collects on almost one million water and sewer accounts and manages citywide water conservation programs.

## 2006 ECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## 2006 ECA MEMBER COMPANIES

Abatement International-Advatex  
Abatement Unlimited, Inc.  
ABAX Incorporated  
ABC Construction Contracting Inc.  
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Affiliated Environmental Services of NJ  
Air Tech Lab, Inc.  
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Asbestos Corp. of America  
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D & S Restorations Inc.  
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JVN Restoration Inc.  
Kiss Construction, Inc.  
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Northern Valley Contracting Co.  
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Safeway Environmental Corp.  
Seasons Industrial Contracting Corp.  
Topline Contracting  
Trade Winds Env. Restoration  
Trio Asbestos Removal Corp.  
United States Environmental Universal Services, Inc.

## OSHA COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST PROVIDES COMMENTS ON TRAINING SESSIONS

by Patricia Jones, Occupational Safety & Health  
Administration (OSHA)



I attended the first training day and was truly impressed with the number of participants and their enthusiasm during the session. The idea of having the regulatory agencies present was excellent since it showed early on your commitment to this endeavor. You should include some data on asbestos-related injury and

illness so that the employees will understand that unsafe procedures will affect their long-term health. It is important to personalize this information and let them know that they should reach out to their co-workers about this issue because in the long run everyone could be negatively affected by someone with a lackadaisical attitude about safety and health practices, especially due to the nature of the work involved.

It is also pertinent to let the workers know that there are no penalties for going above and beyond regulatory requirements and to add to this point, you may want to consider some type of incentive program for safe work practices by employees and supervisors. Some ideas could be "Safe Supervisor of the Year Award" or "Safe Handler Incentive Program." I would also encourage supervisors to include some aspects of safety and health into the daily log book requirements of the NYCDEP regulations such as a daily pre-containment entry meeting to address both workplace safety and health and environmental health.

It would be beneficial to all involved to have a direct and easy means for communicating feedback on any issues that may evolve as a result of the training such as a comments telephone line or a written comment slip. Thank you for your sincere interest in workplace safety and health and the OSHA Manhattan Area Office will continue to work with you on this issue.

*Patricia Jones served as Assistance Specialist for the Manhattan Area Office of OSHA until January 2006. She has recently become the Area Director for the OSHA Long Island Area Office.*

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c/o The Building Trades Employers' Association

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