

THE ECA REPORTER

A Publication of the Environmental Contractors Association of New York City

Spring 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you to all ECA members who attended our March 2007 general meeting, featuring special guest speakers from the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. A presentation by Chris D'Andrea, an Industrial

Hygienist in the Occupational Disease Environmental Unit, focused on Mold Remediation and Worker Health. For those of you who are not yet aware, the Department is currently reviewing mold certification standards, and discussed the possibility of adding environmental contractors to the review panel. I will forward more information on this review panel when it becomes available.

As you may also know, the ECA recently signed a Partnership Agreement with OSHA, a historic moment as a result of our landmark Management-Labor Safety & Compliance Training Program. ECA member contractors have been recognized for promoting state-of-the-art safety practices, and for our commitment to developing the most qualified labor workforce through safety innovation and superior training.

Thank you to ECA members who continue to work hard to support the Safety & Compliance program. We also thank you for your contributions as we work together to negotiate new contracts with the Mason Tenders District Council (Local 78) and Local 12A. We look forward to seeing you on June 21 for our next meeting.

We would like to feature company news in upcoming newsletter publications, and we invite you to send news and information about your organization, new technology or other innovations to Joyce Nastasi at joyeca@earthlink.net.

Frank J. Garito
President

ECA AND OSHA SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



The Environmental Contractors Association and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) came together in January 2007 for the signing of a historic partnership agreement which oversees the cooperation between the association and OSHA in ensuring safe work practices to protect workers and the general public. Richard Mendelson, New York City Area Director, made opening remarks followed by a presentation of the agreement which was signed by ECA board members as well as Edison Severino, President of Local 78, and Francisco "Paco" Vega, President of Heat & Frost Insulators Asbestos Workers Local Union No.12A. Richard Mendelson provided special remarks at the landmark signing:

Thank you to the Environmental Contractors Association (ECA), BTEA and Building and Construction Trades Council (BCTC) for inviting us here to sign an alliance between industry, labor and government. This is a perfect example of a joint initiative of companies and workers going beyond the minimum standard, in furtherance of a shared goal. That goal, of course, is safety and health.

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2007 ECA MEMBER COMPANIES

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Topline Contracting

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Trio Asbestos Removal Corp.

United States Environmental Universal Services, Inc.

Wing Environmental, Inc.

JOIN THE ECA TODAY!

Strong Relationships

Membership in the ECA provides contractors with a strong professional network of like-minded environmental contractors. ECA members participate in the larger unionized construction industry through membership in the BTEA and have strong relationships with numerous City, State and Federal public agencies.

Support for Our Members

The ECA provides support for contractors in a number of critical areas including legislative advocacy, insurance and safety. The ECA has launched its groundbreaking Management-Labor Safety & Compliance Training Program designed to raise standards throughout the environmental construction industry. In addition, the Association has recently announced a special insurance program designed to provide cost savings to all contractor members of the Association. The program, stewarded by AIG Insurance, allows 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. For more information or to join the ECA, please contact Joyce Nastasi at (212) 704-9745 or joyeca@earthlink.net.

Announcing Our New Website

The Environmental Contractors Association of New York City (ECA) is proud to announce our new website found at:

www.ecanyc.org

Please visit our website for important news and updates, including information on our Safety & Compliance program or previous copies of our ECA newsletter.

Send Us Your News

To contribute news on your organization, including executive changes, construction innovations, technological advancements or project updates, please email Joyce Nastasi at joyeca@earthlink.net.

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1430 Broadway, 8th Floor New York, NY 10018
Telephone: (212) 704-9745 • Facsimile: (212) 704-4367
Email: info@ecanyc.org • www.ecanyc.org

When OSHA gets involved with environmental remediation projects, it is usually based on a complaint or referral, and it's almost always after the fact. That means that, if in fact violations have occurred, then the potential exposure to hazards has already happened. OSHA works with its regulatory partners, such as EPA, NYS DEC, NYC DEP, NYC Sanitation and with criminal law enforcement. Today's Alliance helps elevate those companies who are doing the right thing, and lets us focus our limited resources on those who are not.

Recently, we have investigated several cases of real estate management companies exposing maintenance and housekeeping employees to asbestos. [Note: on 4/30/07, the OSHA Queens District Office issued a significant enforcement action against Parkway Village Equities Corp., alleging multiple serious and willful asbestos violations.]

Unfortunately, too many employers – and owners – are willing to take the low road, cut corners and save costs at the risk of the safety and health of workers, the public and the environment. The delayed onset of many health effects

may cause many to downplay the hazard. This creates the potential for a later “timebomb,” which though it might catch some by surprise, is really not unpredictable at all. By the time the symptoms of some diseases are observed, it may be too late to reverse the course. Prudence dictates compliance with established safety and health standards. The signers of this Alliance have indicated such prudence. Here we see a cooperative effort to raise the bar, play by the rules and help keep workers – and companies – healthy and out of harm's way.





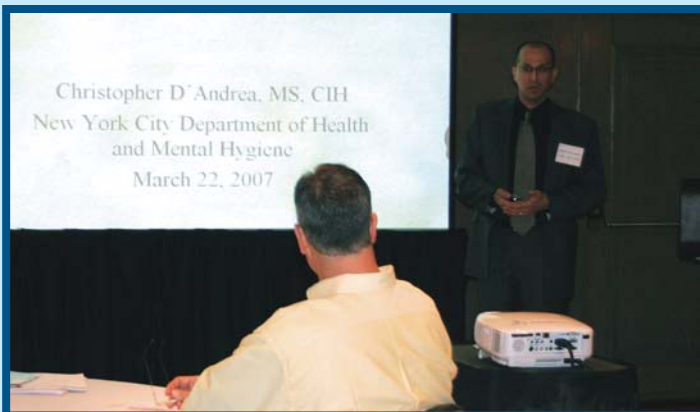
ECA WELCOMES SPECIAL GUESTS FROM NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE

On March 22, 2007 the Environmental Contractors Association held a meeting that featured two special guest speakers from the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene: Nancy Clark, Assistant Commissioner in Environmental Disease Prevention and Chris D'Andrea, an Industrial Hygienist in the Occupational Disease Environmental Unit.

Nancy Clark commended the members of the ECA for doing the safe environmental work that supports her organization's mission. The NYC Department of Health is tasked with responding to complaints and trying to eliminate safety hazards such as lead paint exposures for children. Many ECA contractors perform quality lead abatement work that is critical to the safety of our children.

Chris D'Andrea spoke about Mold Remediation and Worker Health. The Department of Health is currently reviewing mold certification standards. The goals of remediation are to remove or clean contaminated material, contain contaminants to the work area and protect workers from exposure. Mr. D'Andrea described the potential changes to the NYC guidelines, including mold-specific training for remediators, half-face respirators, elimination of post-remediation sampling and adding environmental contractors to the review panel.

Potential health impacts to workers are hypersensitivity diseases, toxic effects, impacts from the application of biocides and infectious agents, such as histoplasmosis/ cryptococcosis and aspergillosis. Mr. D'Andrea discussed worker exposure and protection methods, and he also discussed having ECA officials review proposed new guidelines with Department officials in the future.



ECA MEMBER PROFILE: PAUL G. O'BRIEN

PRESIDENT, PINNACLE ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION



Paul O'Brien is one of the founders of Pinnacle Environmental Corporation, which is among the most successful environmental abatement and demolition firms in the industry today. Mr. O'Brien brings to bear many years of experience with the tri-state area's top environmental companies.

As President of Pinnacle, he is actively involved in every aspect of the firm's day-to-day operations. He oversees all project estimating, planning and implementation. And he plays a key role in maintaining Pinnacle's position as a leading force in the industry by enabling the company to take maximum advantage of new business opportunities as they arise.

ECA HOSTS SPECIAL DINNER AT CIP CONFERENCE

The ECA hosted a special end-of-conference dinner at the 10th Annual Construction Industry Partnership Labor-Management Conference in Hollywood, Florida. The event included construction manager and general contractor representatives from the Building Contractors Association and the Contractors' Association of Greater New York and featured two special awards presented to Louis J. Coletti, BTEA President & CEO, and Joyce

Nastasi, BTEA Vice President, Member Services, who provide administrative support for the Environmental Contractors Association throughout the year. The awards were presented by ECA Board members and served as a special tribute to both Lou and Joyce, who have made significant contributions to the ECA's success over the past several years.

